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NO. 29

STATUS OF DESERT LANDS

Important Letter From Land Office in Washington

TO GEN. PRESCOTT

Entries for Desert Lands Only Can
be Made. All Other Appli-
cations Rejected

The following letter which has been received by Register Prescott of Los Angeles from the land office in Washington explains specifically the status of desert lands and what entries will be accepted:

REGISTER AND RECEIVER
Los Angeles, Cal.

Gentlemen:—

I am in receipt of your letter of July 24, 1907, relative to the proper disposition by you of applications to make entry of lands within the territory known as the Imperial Valley.

The Act of July 1, 1902 (32 Stat., 728), directed a resurvey of townships 13, 14, 15 and 16 east, and fractional townships 17 south, ranges 15 and 16 east, S. B. M.

By telegram "E" of March 30, 1906, this office directed you to

Suspend entries in townships thirteen to sixteen, South, ranges eleven to sixteen, East and in townships 17, South, ranges fifteen to sixteen, E. S. B. M. after March 31, 1906.

Letter "G" of June 19, 1906, advised you that it was not intended, by said telegram, to suspend existing entries or to relieve entrymen from complying with the law during the period of suspension, but that it was intended to instruct you to receive and suspend all applications to enter presented after the said date, and you were directed

to receive and suspend, without further action all applications hereafter presented for entries in said townships; and you are further directed to at once notify all persons now holding entries of any character within said townships, upon which final proof has not yet been offered, that they will be expected to hereafter comply with the requirements of the law and make their proof within the prescribed time. You are also directed that when final proofs are offered under any of these entries, you will receive same, and if otherwise correct, you will at once transmit them to this office, and payment thereunder will not be required until after the surveys have been completed.

Under Letter "G" of May 24, 1907, the order of suspension of said lands from entry was modified so as "to permit desert land entry thereof the same as though the lands were unsurveyed".

In reply to a letter from Mr. F. W. Lake, of Oakland, California, asking if the lands in Imperial Valley "are with held at this time from ordinary entry applying to surveyed lands", and also, "if the said lands are

subject to State Selection", this office, under date of July 15, 1907, stated that

a resurvey of the lands in question is now in progress, and until such re-survey has been made and the plats thereof officially filed in the district land office entries or selections, authorized to be made for surveyed land only, should not be permitted.

A copy of this letter to Mr. Lake was sent you with letter "G" of July 19, 1907.

Your letter of July 24, 1907, states that you are

receiving and suspending all applications in that territory save desert entries which are received as though for unsurveyed lands,

and that you do not understand that the letter to Mr. Lake "changes the situation."

These lands occupy the status of unsurveyed lands, for which reason you have been authorized to accept desert land entries therefor. The lands will not be subject to ordinary entry or selection until resurveyed and the plats officially filed. (Gen. Cir. January 25, 1904, p. 77.) Rule 9 of the regulations of April 25, 1907 (35 L. D. 537), prescribes that where a list of state selections is received in the district office, by mail, prior to the day the lands applied for are open to settlement, entry or selection, such list will be rejected as prematurely filed. The same action should be taken if such list were so presented in person by an agent of the state, and I know of no reason why applications for entries to be made for surveyed land should not be treated the same way.

While you may have been justified, in view of the language used in the instructions "G" of June 19, 1906, in receiving and suspending applications to enter or select the lands in question pending resurvey, yet, by a careful re-reading of said letter, it will be observed that it was written in response to an inquiry as to desert land entries exclusively, and the instructions given were only intended to apply to such entries.

You are accordingly directed to reject all pending applications (other than for entries and locations authorized to be made for unsurveyed lands) to enter or select said lands, presented subsequent to March 31, 1906, and to take like action in the matter of applications hereafter presented.

Yours Respectfully,
FRED DENNETT,
Acting Commissioner
JOHN MCPHAUL

County Commissioners Meet in the Valley

The commissioners for the purpose of deciding financial affairs between San Diego and Imperial counties are again in the valley. They met Wednesday morning at Calexico and Thursday they met with the supervisors at El Centro. They went to Brawley Friday.

Their work is about completed and everything is progressing satisfactorily.

Season tickets of the remainder of the series of entertainments to be given here this winter can still be had. It is money well spent.

GROSHEN TO HAVE LAND

Judge Cole Decides in Favor of Original Settler

SQUATTERS LOSE

Land Case of Exceptional Importance and Interest Brought to
a Close

The case of Floren P. Groshen of Brawley brought to regain possession of a tract of land near Brawley which was tried last Saturday was decided this week by Judge Cole in favor of Mr. Groshen. An order to dispossess the defendants in the case was issued and a deputy sheriff served the writ of ejectment Wednesday.

Hundreds of land owners throughout the valley had been watching this case with keen interest as it involved an important point and might establish a precedent for many other similar cases. During the trial the court room was crowded with interested listeners. The chief center of interest was the defendant who was on the stand for several hours. Simply and pathetically he told the story of his hardships in endeavoring to cultivate his land and get a living in the face of adversity. He filed upon the land, which was an excess strip, nearly four years ago, building a house, planting trees and in other ways improving the property. His troubles began when the flood of two years ago destroyed the ditches and cut off his water supply and culminated about three months ago when, during a visit to Colorado, he learned that two squatters had taken possession of his land and had built a tent house in which to live. The land, with the improvements which he had made represented practically all that he had in the world so he brought the suit against the squatters and by the decision rendered this week is again in possession.

SUPPLEMENTARY ENTERTAINMENT

Once a Month Entertainments to be
Given Here

Plans have been formed whereby a series of entertainments given entirely by valley talent will be held either in the opera house or Masonic hall once a month. These entertainments will be supplementary to those given under the auspices of the Ministerial Union. The programs are in the course of arrangement at the present time and will be ready for publication next week. It is understood that the main feature of the first evening will be a lecture by Attorney Vermell

Rapp, who has recently located at El Centro.

There are a great many talented musicians in the valley who will lend their aid and support for an evening of refined entertainment, and it is practically an assured thing this effort on the part of those who are interesting themselves will meet with decided success. Watch for the announcement next week.

A Splendid Entertainment

The Garber-Howe musical entertainment given at the Opera House last Thursday night was a splendid affair and was well patronized, showing conclusively that the people of the valley appreciate and will attend a high class entertainment. This musical was given under the auspices of the ministerial Union of the Imperial Valley, and much credit is due this association for the efforts they have put forth in securing a series of winter entertainments which, judged by the first, promise to be all that is promised. The door receipts were gratifying, while the number of season tickets sold have been large. The next entertainment will be some time next month.

BAND ORGANIZES

Officers Elected at Meeting Last
Wednesday Night

A meeting of the band boys was held last Wednesday evening in R. E. Jauman's office and the following officers were elected:

M. A. Stover, president.
R. P. Moore secretary.
R. E. Jauman, business manager.

F. A. Griswold, treasurer.
Prof. A. Scarpa, director.

Another meeting will be held next Tuesday evening and it is requested that all the boys bring their musical instruments for a rehearsal.



PROF. ANTONIO SCARPA

The organization of the El Centro band will be heralded with delight by the people, and that Prof. Antonio Scarpa will again be the director is a source of much gratification. Prof. Scarpa was the director last year and won a great many friends throughout the valley.

The list of officers chosen for this year means success from every point of view. They are all earnest workers and have the interest of a good band at heart.

Every business man in El Centro should support liberally the move to maintain a first-class band at this place.

J. H. Moynihan, of Los Angeles, brother-in-law of Mrs. P. O. Parsons, is in the valley for a week, looking over the prospects for profitable investments

REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES

Central Committeemen For Imperial Co. Chosen

FIRST VOTE A TIE

Between W. E. Wilsie and M. W.
Conkling at El Centro. In
Other Towns

Primary elections for the purpose of naming a Republican County Central committee for Imperial county were held in the various precincts of the county, Saturday afternoon. In most places there was no contest, the closest balloting being in El Centro, where a tie vote necessitated a second ballot. John M. Eshleman, Esq., was chosen on the first ballot, but for the second member to which El Centro is entitled M. W. Conkling and W. E. Wilsie were tied. The second vote was heavier than the first and resulted in a victory for Mr. Conkling by two votes.

Following are the members elected, so far as returns have been received.

El Centro, John M. Eshleman, M. W. Conkling.
Holtville, Major Patten, Major Cook.
Silsbee, Joseph N. Woodward.
Imperial, L. F. Farnsworth, R. H. Benton.
Imperial Outside district, J. B. Parazette.
Calexico, W. F. McCullom, Roy McPherrin.
Brawley, W. T. Dunn, Fred A. Stahl.

Laguna, George A. Trumbo.
Hanlon, W. H. Buck.

It is expected that a call will be issued in about two weeks for a meeting of the members elected and at that time the organization will be completed.

The Democrats of Imperial county will also elect a central committee in the near future but at the present time it is difficult to determine just what percentage of the voters of the new county will be controlled by either party.

Notice to Masons

All Master Masons are invited to be present at the public installation of officers of El Centro lodge F. and A. M. on Saturday evening, Nov. 2. There will be a banquet at Hotel El Centro.
Worshipful Master.

The dance given last Thursday night under the auspices of the Eagle lodge by Prof. Scarpa, was well attended. The music was new and good.

The next session of the superior court next week will convene Wednesday forenoon. Several cases are on the docket for next week and court will be in session the remainder of the week.