

# IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS

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## STATUS OF VALLEY LANDS

Elsewhere in this paper we publish a letter from the Commissioner of the General Land office at Washington addressed to the Register and Receiver of the Land Office at Los Angeles. In this letter the Commissioner recounts several of the instructions and rulings that have been issued in the past concerning lands in Imperial Valley and sums up the entire matter by stating that these lands occupy the status of unsurveyed lands, and are therefore not subject to such entry or selection as apply only to surveyed lands. This means that since March 31st, 1906, none of these lands have been open to entry as homesteads nor to purchase under the timber and Stone Act nor to selection under the lien land provisions of the Forest Reserve law of June 24th, 1897, or any other law for the selection or "scripping" of land. The only law therefore, under which entries of these lands may be made is the Desert Land Act of March 3d, 1897, as amended by the Act of March 3d, 1891.

In the instructions issued by the General Land Office to parties desiring to enter Desert Lands they are directed that "the affidavit filed by the applicant for such entries must contain a description of the lands applied for by legal subdivisions, if surveyed, or if unsurveyed, as nearly as possible without a survey by giving with as much clearness and precision as possible the locality of the tract with reference to the already established lines of survey or to known and conspicuous land marks, so as to admit of its being readily identified when the lines of survey come to be extended. Surveys of desert land claims by private parties cannot be made in advance of the regular progress of the public surveys. After a township has been surveyed the claims must be adjusted to the lines of the survey."

These directions apply in all their details to all filings made since March 31st, 1906, in the territory covered by the resurvey. All filings made previous to that time are entitled to be surveyed as they lay without reference to the lines of the resurvey.

However, we are informed by Mr. L. Friel who has a contact for the resurvey, that his instructions apply to all entries and occupancies of whatever kind or nature. That his procedure in making the survey will be as follows. Beginning at the Southeast corner of Section 36, which is the Southeast corner of the township according to the township line survey made by A. A. Henderson, he will run off the township into sections, working north and west. As he passes through the country, he notifies all the landowners to set up good solid stakes at the corners of the lands they claim. Having completed the sectioning of the township, he re-

turns to the point of beginning and takes up the work of surveying the private land claims; surveying each claim according to the stakes set up by the claimant, and describing it by metes and bounds with reference to the nearest government corner and giving it a serial number. Thus, a quarter section now described as E 1-2 of SW 1-4 and W 1-2 of SE 1-4 will be designated as the Peter Jones 160 acre tract, Private Land Claim No 44, or some other number. No claim in any township will have a smaller number than 36, otherwise there might be confusion arising from section numbers. Mr. Friel tells us he intends to make his private claim survey as complete as possible, and intends to map and report all claims, regardless of whether the owners have filed or what numbers they have used or whether they have used any at all. He says he hopes to make a correct map, truthfully showing the location of all the claims in the valley. When this map is completed and filed in the Land office at Los Angeles, each claimant will be required to file an affidavit, giving the numbers and description employed by him in making his entry, and the entry will then be corrected to correspond with the new description as given on the map. In case a claimant had no filing, he would have 30 days in which to make entry of his tract.

Final receipts and patents will be issued for these lands according to the descriptions given them on the maps made by Mr. Friel and the other surveyors, who make the resurvey.

This solution of the resurvey tangle will be altogether satisfactory, as it leaves no uncertainty or occasion for doubt concerning the rights of the bonafide occupants of any of these lands, to the lands so occupied.

An important meeting of the El Centro Chamber of Commerce will be held in the school house Saturday night of this week. In addition to the regular business of electing officers, etc. many matters affecting the future of the organization and the work to be done in booming El Centro will be taken up. No more important duty confronts the citizen of this town than that of supporting and aiding this organization. It is through the Chamber of Commerce that new industries, new settlers and new sources of wealth and growth must largely come. It is through the Chamber of Commerce, to a considerable extent, that information regarding the town and valley is disseminated to men who are now mildly interested but who, with a little persuasion, can be made to become enthusiastically so. So let every public spirited citizen become identified with the Chamber of Commerce. Let everyone put his shoulder to the wheel of progress and boost it along. And begin by attending the meeting Saturday night.

In a country, like Imperial valley, where so much depends on irrigation, extreme care should be taken to protect the water system and above all the ditches should be kept as free from filth and obstructions as possible. One of the problems of the future in the valley will be the care of the ditches and a satisfactory way of removing the sediment. This, no doubt, can be accomplished by the use of dredges designed for the purpose but in addition every man who owns land on or near a ditch should consider it his personal

duty to see that it is not rendered unfit for use.

Last week in Imperial District Attorney Eshleman successfully conducted a case against T. P. Banta who was charged with having permitted his hogs to get into a ditch. It was the principle rather than the specific case for which the District Attorney was fighting and his skill in handling the case secured a conviction. Banta was fined \$500 but the fine was suspended on condition that the offense should not occur again. Mr. Eshleman thereby secured just what he wanted for the people of the valley. He established the precedent that no man can defile or permit to be defiled any of the irrigating ditches without being liable to severe punishment.

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## Classified Liners

Liners under this heading will be inserted for 5 cents a line each insertion.

### FOR SALE OR RENT

FOR SALE—Good kitchen stove for sale; also good family cows to rent. Inquire of Jacob Dunnan, El Centro. 25tf

FOR SALE—26 head of hogs, 6 cows, 6 six-month old calves; 1-2 mile south of the Wilsie school house. L. L. Forrester. 29-1tx

FOR SALE—No. 1 water stock, in blocks from 5 to 40 shares. Call on L. E. Coaley, Imperial. 29-30

FOR SALE—About 100 head of stock hogs, ranging from 100 lbs down, at 7c R. H. Clark, El Centro. 29tf

FOR SALE—Duroc-Jersey boars from four months to one year old. Fuller Bros., Heber, Calif. Phone 13x2. 24

FOR SALE—Some heifers from 1 year up to 2 years old. W. E. Wilsie, El Centro. 23tf

FOR SALE—One Holstein cow, good family cow. Address A. S. Fell 4 NE of El Centro. 28tf

FOR SALE—Six Gilts; will farrow soon. A. I. Baker, 2 miles southwest of El Centro. 28tf

FOR SALE—Small shoats and brood sows; also short horn bull. R. H. Clark, El Centro. 28tf

FOR SALE OR TRADE—Will sell or trade for hogs 20 head of milch cows. Drue C. Harrington, one half mile south of Imperial. 24tf

BEES—I can sell 50 to 210 stands of good grade Italian bees. in Standard Lonshotte 8 framed Hives warranted strong colonies delivered to any R. R. Station in Imperial Co. for \$6.00 per hive. J. F. Tout, Hotel Franklin.

WANTED—Cattle and sheep pasture. Phone 13x2 or address Fuller Bros., Heber, Calif. 24tf

WANTED—To hire a good man and team to farm an 80 acre tract. Call at Press office. 28tf

WANTED—25 Brood sows. F. J. Eddy, El Centro. 29x

LOST—between El Centro and Heber a Gold Breast Pin with black and gold band around the edge and hair in center. Finder will be liberally rewarded by retiring same to Mrs. W. J. Drigger, at Heber or leaving it at this office.

WANTED—A Farm Hand one with Experience in Irrigating Here. Address J. W. Lindsay, El Centro. 29tf

WANTED—A ranch on shares, must have house on it or will take position on ranch where I can have house for wife and self. Address H. L. Hindmarch, El Centro. 29x

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We have made our contract for the season of 1908 with our present distributors, Messrs. Crutchfield and Woolfolk, of Pittsburg, Pa., and members who will plant cantaloupes next season are requested to sign their acreage at once. New members can get application for membership blanks from any of the above members of the Board of Directors.

Attend to this at once.

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We have received another lot of new shoes for Imperial Valley feet. Come in and try them on.

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