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NO. 33

COMPLETE PLANS FOR SPLENDID COLT SHOW

Fine Stock of Imperial Valley To Be Exhibited and Judged at El Centro on First Day of Farmers' Institute. Programme and Committees of the Institute.

General arrangements for the colt and stock show, to be held in El Centro on Friday, Dec. 6, preceding the sessions of the Farmers' Institute, have been completed by Messrs. Wilsie, Clark and VanHorn, the committee of the Imperial Valley Stock Breeders' Association in charge of the affair. Although the primary purpose of the Association is to bring out for exhibition the fine colts raised in the valley, the show will be open to all other live stock and all exhibits will be judged and placed by experts.

The show will be held in the forenoon and the opening of the Farmers' Institute has been postponed to 1:30 p. m. in order that all visitors may have opportunity to attend the live-stock exhibition. Raisers of stock have manifested so much interest in the show and have given the committee such encouragement that it is hoped the affair will result in the organization of an agricultural association which will conduct exhibitions regularly in the future.

The committee requests that all entries be made on or before the night of Saturday, Nov. 30, in order that adequate accommodations may be provided for stock. The place of exhibition will be the ground west of Blackinton's livery stable, where suitable pens for colts will be placed by the Association. Places and feed for colts will be furnished by the committee and will be ready on Thursday preceding the show. All other stock must be penned and cared for by owners, but there will be plenty of feed on the ground.

The classification of draft colts, driving animals and saddlers will be: Under 3 months, under 6 months, under 1 year, under 2 years, under 3 years, under 4 years; six classes in each division. Mules may be entered in three classes, viz: Under 3 mos., under 6 mos. and under 1 year.

Awards will be made for the best draft stallion, best driving stallion, best saddle stallion and best jack, each to be shown with five of his get. There will be also sweepstakes for the best colt of each breed within the maximum age limit. First, second and third ribbons will be given in all classes and the ribbons will show fully the class and placing. Competent judges from outside will award the ribbons.

There is no question that a splendid lot of animals will be shown, particularly in the driving and heavy draft classes. Some of the finest stock in the state is raised in Imperial Valley and the average grade has been raised greatly by the purchases of finely

bred stallions during the past three years. All conditions of climate and feed are favorable to the raising of first-class stock, and it will be seen that the ranchers of Imperial Valley have not failed to appreciate their advantages.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE

Programme of the Sessions to be Held Next Month in El Centro

The University of California Farmers' Institute will be held in El Centro Opera House on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 6 and 7, beginning at 1:30 p. m., and will be conducted by J. B. Neff, of Anaheim as University Representative. Farmers attending are advised to bring provisions, as the hotels probably will be unable to take care of so large a crowd as is expected. Coffee and bread will be supplied on the grounds, and places for spreading luncheons will be provided.

The objects of the Farmers' Institute are to promote agriculture and horticulture; to show where wear and tear can be diminished, labor saved, methods of cultivation and production improved, and the general welfare of the tiller of the soil advanced. All farmers should come and bring their families.

All subjects treated in the papers read are open to full discussion, and farmers are urged to take part and express their views. Following is the programme, each session being opened with music:

FRIDAY, 1.30 P. M.

Address of Welcome, J. Stanley Brown, El Centro,

Response, J. B. Neff, Anaheim.

Good Roads, D. A. Aplin, Imperial.

Cantalopes, J. F. Roth, Brawley.

FRIDAY EVENING, 7:30

Question Box, J. B. Neff.

Sanitary Milk Production, Dr. C. M. Haring, Berkeley.

Grape Growing, J. W. Mills, Riverside.

SATURDAY MORNING 10 O'CLOCK

Question Box, J. B. Neff.

Vegetable Culture, J. W. Mills, Riverside.

Teaching Agriculture in the Public Schools, L. E. Cooley, El Centro.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, 1:30

Question Box, J. B. Neff

Deciduous Fruits for Market, J. W. Mills, Riverside.

Citrus Fruit Growing, Ben F. Thorpe, Covina.

SATURDAY EVENING, 7:30

Question Box, J. B. Neff.

Common Troubles of Domestic Animals, Dr. C. M. Haring, Berkeley.

Eucalyptus and other Timber

Trees, J. W. Mills, Riverside.

Dr. Haring and probably some others will illustrate lectures with the stereopticon.

Committees are as follows:

Arrangements: W. E. Wilsie, A. W. Loffer, J. S. Bridenstine, Clyde Reynolds, J. S. McCullom, M. D. Johnson.

Music: R. H. Clark, Mrs. Lawrence, Miss Tout.

Exhibits and Decoration: Messrs. Lawrence, Meyer, Forrester, Kendle, Kloke; Mesdames Harding, Irvin, Perkiss and Havens.

Finance: A. W. Loffer, Ira Aten.

Publicity: Editors of Valley newspapers.

Reception: Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Reynolds, Mr. and Mrs. M. H. McCall, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Greer, Mr. and Mrs. J. Arthur McBride, Mrs. A. L. Loffer, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Banta, Miss Alice Chowning, Mr. and Mrs. P. O. Parsons, Mr. and Mrs. Bridenstine, Mr. and Mrs. E. Tomkins, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Bragg, Mr. and Mrs. Ira Aten, Mrs. W. E. Wilsie.

SAN DIEGO AND EASTERN

Spreckels and Herrin in Conference Over New Railroad Plans

A close confab between John D. Spreckels and W. F. Herrin in Los Angeles and a trip to San Diego in the Spreckels private car lead the Examiner to believe that there is something in the report that the Southern Pacific is behind the San Diego and Eastern project. Both men were interviewed and as might be expected, were non-committal in their answers to the reporter. Mr. Spreckels said: "We have made no arrangements for eastern connections after reaching Yuma. This matter I shall take up two years hence. I do not deny, however, that we are contemplating connections with the Southern Pacific, M., K. & T., Rock Island, the Phelps-Dodge interests and other railways building towards El Paso. We have made no decision so far.

"We are progressing rapidly with the building of our line and hope to have it completed from San Diego to Yuma within the limit stated some time ago, that of two years. In the meantime we may arrange traffic connections with other roads."

Mr. Herrin was asked if the Southern Pacific would take over the new railroad being built by the Spreckels interests. His reply was: "I cannot say; that is out of my jurisdiction. I am going to San Diego with Mr. Spreckels as there are some important things we must talk over, but the consummation of any such deal as the absorption of the San Diego and Eastern Railway I cannot discuss. Other authorities than myself are alone in position to talk thereon."

Railroad builders are not shouting their purposes from the housetops, but all signs point to Southern Pacific control of the Spreckels project. The line will enter Imperial Valley by way of Carrizo pass, where tunnel work is already under way, and the shortest line of connection would bring the junction to El Centro.

COTTON GROWS GREATLY IN IMPERIAL VALLEY

Experiments Demonstrate That This Region Can Be Made The Dixie Land of California. Three Bales Per Acre an Average Yield. Estimated Profits of the Crop.

There are many Texans among the settlers of Imperial Valley and all of them who have had experience in growing cotton are convinced that the soil and climate of this region are peculiarly favorable to that crop.

Ira Aten is making various experiments on his ranch two miles north of El Centro and among them is the growing of cotton. In April, 1906, he planted six one-hundred yard rows of Myers cotton, a variety well known in Texas, and the plants made remarkable growth and bore an unusual number of bolls that year. The plants were left standing and this year they are in vigorous condition. A stalk brought in from the ranch a few days ago carries so many opened bolls that cotton experts estimate the yield of an acre of similar plants at eight bales.

The stalk doubtless was selected for its unusual fecundity and should not be considered an average sample. Mr. Aten, however, estimates the average of his small field at three bales to the acre, which is about treble the ordinary yield in Texas. The staple is three-fourths of an inch long and the bolls are larger and the proportion of seed less than in Texas.

Men of experience in cotton growing believe that cotton would add greatly to the resources of Imperial Valley. The plants, they explain, require but little irrigation and probably could be cultivated with less labor and less trouble by weed growth than in the Texas fields. Because of immunity from heavy rain and wind storms, the picking could be postponed without danger to the crop and that work could be done when there is little other farm work going on.

Picking could begin in September, but it could be prolonged up to March, and it would give continuous employment to labor in what would be otherwise an idle season. It would not be necessary to bring to the valley a new special class of laborers to handle the crop. At the close of the melon season the melon pickers could go to the cotton fields and keep busy through the winter. Planting would be done in April.

The owner of a small farm, it appears, could handle a few acres of cotton without increase of labor cost, employing to advantage his own time. One man can pick a bale of cotton in a week. It takes 1500 pounds of seed cotton to make a 500 pound bale of lint cotton, worth from \$50 to \$60 in ordinary seasons. The seed is a by-product to be taken into account, as it is worth \$15 to \$20 a

ton. Assuming that the yield would average only two bales to the acre, the value of cotton and seed would be from \$120 to \$140, of which one half would be net profit, the labor cost of the crop being reckoned at fifty per cent. If the plants grown by Mr. Aten can be regarded as fair samples of what Imperial Valley soil and climate are capable of producing, however, the acre-value would exceed that estimate considerably.

An indispensable factor in the production of cotton is the gin, and as it costs about \$5000 to put up a cotton gin, the small grower could not handle his product independently. A custom gin would be required and there are Texas cotton men in El Centro ready to put up such a plant when, assured of sufficient acreage to justify the investment. From 500 to 1000 acres planted in cotton would insure the establishment of a gin.

Mr. Aten intends to continue his experiments by planting a larger area next season and giving careful attention to cultivation in order to determine just what can be expected of the cotton crop in Imperial Valley, and it is probable that other Texans familiar with the industry will follow his lead.

Pertinent to the matter is the display of cotton plants in the Yuma exhibit at the Arizona fair, concerning which the Republican says:

"Cotton raising is destined to be a Yuma county industry and the best cotton in the world at that, the Egyptian cotton which demands the highest price in the market. The experiment station at Yuma sends a cotton plant of this variety eight feet high, heavily laden with the 'fruit.' From the same farm come plants also of Rogers Big Boll and Columbia varieties. It is claimed the Rogers produces three bales to the acre."

Early Imperial Oranges

Comparison made in San Bernardino recently showed that navel oranges grown in Imperial Valley are riper and in every way superior to the best fruit now on the trees in Highland groves and equal to the San Bernardino county product at its best. Imperial Valley can produce the earliest citrus fruit in the state.

Notice

The annual meeting of the stockholders of Central Creamery company for the election of officers for the ensuing year, will be held at the offices of the Aten Land Co., El Centro, California, on Saturday, November 30, 1907, at 2 o'clock p. m.

By order of the Directors.
F. S. Webster, President.
Ira Aten, Secretary. n16-23