

ONLY A MIRAGE OF THE DESERT

County-Seat Movers Think They See
Queer Things and Are Sadly
Disappointed

WEARY WATCHERS OF ROAD

Incomprehensible Failure of the
County Government to Obey Order
of the Three Tailors of Tooley
Street to Get Up and Hike.

At the southern limit of the city of Imperial three pathetically patient figures have been standing for a week, anxiously scanning the horizon. Upon the roof of the highest building appears at frequent intervals a melancholy man who sweeps the plain with a field glass and wig-wags despondently to the watchers of the road.

The Press wireless expert was sent out yesterday to investigate the mysterious signalling and ascertain the purposes of the patient pickets and the man on the roof, and while he was sizing up the situation from the cover of a bush he noted frantic wig-wagging by the three men at the city limits. He interpreted the signals thus: "Howe! Howe! Howe! [Man on the roof responds] Something coming from the south. Great cloud of dust. Must be Judge Cole and jury coming on a lope from El Centro to hold court in the only genuine bottled-in-bond county seat. Hooray!"

The man on the roof raised his glass—field glass of course—took a long look and wig-wagged back: "Court nothing. Dust cloud raised by coyote chasing jack rabbit down road. Judge Cole's refusal to obey our order incomprehensible. Keep your eyes peeled."

Half an hour later the pickets again became excited, and securing the attention of the man on the roof they signalled: "Eureka! Got 'em sure this time. Large object approaching. Looks like county jail on wheels. Make out driver to be Sheriff Meadows. Our sleuth riding ahead in triumph waving document. Document probably our peremptory order for county seat to get up and hike hither. Get out extra announcing glad tidings."

From the roof came back this message: "Good enough. Jail is what we need worst. Let El Centro keep the rest of the outfit. Jail looks small though. Will have to build large annex at once. Am preparing coupons entitling subscribers to ten days in

institution. Get in early and avoid the rush."

The three watchers at once began waving their arms frantically and pushing one another out of the way. Two of them clinched and rolled on the ground in a cloud of dust, while the other took advantage of the opportunity to wig-wag: "Put me down for first coupon at double rates. This is Clark. Aplin and Beck scrapping for second choice. 'Rah for Imperial and the jail! T'ell with El Centro and the county seat."

The man on the roof had his glass to his eye and paid no attention to the wireless message from the picket. In a moment he dropped the glass dejectedly and signalled: "Got another guess. Make out jail to be load of alfalfa. Driver not sheriff. Sleuth riding ahead only yellow dog. Document waving in air seems to be dog's tail. County seat movement from El Centro to Imperial nothing but mirage."

The Press wireless expert reports that the man on the roof threw his glass to the street, raised his hands above his head in a despairing gesture and collapsed, while the three men in the road fell upon one another's neck and wept so copiously that a slough hole was formed at their feet and they slowly sank in it out of sight.

ORDERED TO MOVE

County Officers Hear from "We The People"

Last Monday one of the gum shoe operators hired to move the county seat came down from Imperial and managed to keep a straight face while he handed to county officers a document signed by Wilbur Clark, D. G. Aplin and J. H. Beck, who appear to have assumed the role of the famous three tailors of Tooley street and "resolved" themselves to be the people of Imperial county, the county government of San Diego, the courts, the Attorney General and the whole legal and official shooting match.

The document was addressed to the Hon. F. J. Cole, Judge of the Superior Court; the Board of Supervisors, the Sheriff, Clerk, Recorder, Auditor and Treasurer of Imperial county. It recited that an election was held Aug. 6, 1907, and declared that "Imperial received the highest number of lawful votes and was chosen as the county seat," but "by sundry illegal and fraudulent conspiracies it was made to appear on the face of the returns that El Centro received the high-

est vote and the Supervisors of San Diego resolved and ordered that El Centro should be the county seat."

Wherefore the three tailors of Tooley street proclaimed that "Imperial is and El Centro is not the county seat" and demanded that the county officers move forthwith from El Centro to Imperial and transact all public business at the latter place. In conclusion they solemnly warned and threatened that, in case of refusal to comply instantly with their demand, they would "institute proceedings in the proper court to compel obedience."

Copies of the document may be found in pigeon holes in the county offices.

The Franklin Renovated

Hotel Franklin, the pioneer hostelry of El Centro, has been remodeled and added to so that it is now up-to-date in equipment and appointments. The work which is now on involves an outlay of about \$2500 and will be completed within a week. Manager Masten has installed new bath and toilet rooms, a cafe, commodious office and many additional rooms, including a number of well screened and well protected porch rooms. The Franklin has now rooming accommodations for 75 people, being in this respect one of the largest hotels in the valley. The hotel runs a free bus to and from the depot.

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