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RECLAIMED LAND AND PRODUCTS

What the Homeseeker Wants to Know About the Colorado Desert That Was

IMPERIAL VALLEY STATISTICS

Questions Relating to Soil, Climate, Crops and Profits of Agriculture Answered in Booklet Issued by El Chamber of Commerce.

A booklet, giving concise and accurate information concerning Imperial Valley, its products and its development, has been issued by the El Centro Chamber of Commerce, the Ira Aten Land Co. and the Colby Real Estate Co. for general distribution. It is compact and of a size convenient for enclosure in letters, and it answers the questions asked by persons who contemplate investment in Imperial county lands or business enterprises.

Following a brief geographical description of the region is this general statement of conditions affecting agriculture:

RICHES INCOMPARABLE

Here, in this valley, the Sunshine Kingdom of the Southwest, lie a half-million acres of the most productive lands within the borders of any continent. Its riches are incomparably greater than can be shown by any other section; depending not upon the mining of metals, which has but a comparatively brief span of life nor upon the development of artificial industrial schemes, but based upon the safe and sure returns of intensive farming under ideal conditions. No similar area with like physical conditions exists elsewhere.

What irrigation will do may be seen here to the fullest. In the East the artificial fertilization of the farm soils is essential to their continued productiveness, and the farmer of the humid regions is saddled with the support of a great fertilizer industry. Here, in the Sunshine Kingdom, the fertilizer question answers itself, for the sediments brought by the mountain and desert streams to the Rio Colorado, the source of supply for the Imperial Valley, are constantly renewing and revivifying the soils to which they are applied.

Questions relating to use and cost of water, climatic conditions, range of temperature, rainfall, etc., are answered fully. Figures and facts showing the growth and profits of dairy farming and stock raising and the remarkable adaptability of the valley to those industries are given, followed by a section on intensive farming and the great returns derived from grapes and cantaloupes. Following are excerpts from the section:

GRAPES AND CANTALOUPE

From the first car of grapes shipped to New York on June 27th, 1907, through the El Centro Cantaloupe Growers' Association, of El Centro, net returns were received for the 800 crates of \$1,800. This was the first crop for the year; the second crop from the same vines was marketed in August and the third crop in November was placed in the local markets. Grapes have been picked in October from rooted vines planted the previous January and July from cuttings planted 18 months previously. On the Corwin vineyard where

the vines were less than two years old, seven distinct pickings or crops were received after the first of June, 1907. On the Mayor ranch near El Centro ten pounds of malaga grapes were picked from a vine which was planted as a cutting the previous February. The records of the El Centro Cantaloupe Growers' Association for the season of 1907, show, for example, that one grower marketed from 7 acres, attended by one man up to picking time, a total of 2240 crates, receiving therefor net returns of \$4,070.45, another with seven acres marketed 2120 crates, receiving as net returns \$3,309.28. The total output of cantaloupes for the valley for the season of 1907 was 505 cars and the markets will readily take three times this number without affecting prices.

Bee and poultry ranching, growing of vegetables and the results of various agricultural experiments are dealt with, and the last chapter treats the land question in this succinct manner:

LAND AT LOW PRICES

Last but most important of all, is the query relating to land; the possibility of filing on government land, or purchasing improved or unimproved holdings. As concerns government land it may be stated that there is none left within ten miles of the railroad towns of the valley and but very little still open to entry beyond that limit and within the irrigable boundaries of the valley.

There are, however, many entrymen who have availed themselves of the extensive liberality of the law and who are now willing to part with at least a portion of their holdings at fair prices; indeed, at low prices when the possibilities of intensive culture are soberly considered.

The booklet contains no extravagant statements and it is just the thing to send to homeseekers and investors who want facts.

COURT HOUSE PLANS

Contract Executed By Supervisors For All-Tile Building.

The Board of Supervisors was in session on Monday and Tuesday of this week, devoting most of its time to consultation with contractor Long over the contract and plans for a court house. The chairman and clerk of the board were authorized to execute a contract with Long and Newman at the bid price of \$12,190.

The plans of Thos. Fellows for an all tile wall building were changed in minor details, such as widening the front windows, substituting 2x6 for 2x4 ceiling joists and adding a light well on the second floor, and in consideration of the changes the Board voted to allow the contractors \$150 above the contract price. Samuel B. Zimmer was appointed Building Superintendent of the temporary court house at \$3.50 a day, employment to begin when erection of the building begins.

M. D. Johnson withdrew his application for appointment as tax collector, and F. G. Putman was appointed tax collector of Imperial county.

Supervisors Wade and Ferguson were delegated to act as an insurance committee for the purpose of insuring county property.

A communication was received from Judge Cole of the Superior Court requesting the selection of 200 petit jurors to be made in January.

NEW LAND POLICY

Holder of Assigned Desert Entry Cannot Make Original Filing

Revised Forms Issued by Land Office Indicate Radical Change. One Filing or Assignment Exhausts Desert Land Claimant's Right.

New forms for desert land entries prescribed by the Land Office indicate a very material change in policy. The entryman now must make oath that he not only never has filed a claim to desert land, but that no claim ever has been assigned to him. The effect is to limit a desert land claimant to one entry, no matter whether it be forty acres or 320, and to bar the holder of an assigned claim from making an original entry in his own name. The change is radical and may cause many complications of title if it be made applicable to pending unperfected claims.

In order to get the full legal allowance of desert land, the claimant must file on his 320 acres at one time. If he files on or takes only 40 acres under assignment, he exhausts his rights and never can acquire any more desert land except by purchase of patented land.

MISNTRELS HERE

Big Show in Opera House Wednesday, January 8

W. N. Miller of Dockstader's Troupe, Assisted by Best Valley Talent Good Music, Dancing and Jokes.

The Imperial Valley Minstrels, directed and aided by W. N. Miller, late of Dockstader's famous minstrel troupe, will give a minstrel show in the El Centro opera house Wednesday, Jan. 8.

Mr. Miller is said to be one of the best minstrel men ever on the Pacific coast and has been secured at a large cost to take charge of this performance. There will be 25 people in the show, which will consist of regulation first part with olio following. A fine quartette is practicing several new songs for the occasion and in addition there will be clever dancing, new songs, solos, local hits and witticisms.

The general admission will be 50 cents and reserved seats will be 75 cents and \$1.

New Realty Company

The Imperial Land Company with offices in El Centro and Brawley opened for business this week. The El Centro office is in the Blackinton building. The company is composed of T. H. Kellogg of El Centro, F. H. Stanley of Brawley and John B. Baker of El Centro and will do a general real estate business. The members of the company are no strangers to the people of Imperial Valley. Mr. Kellogg and Mr. Baker are county officers and in close touch with valley conditions. Mr. Stanley is a Brawley real estate man of long experience and ability. He was for some time associated with Mr. Kellogg in the real estate business in the county.

Union Christmas Tree

All the Sunday Schools of El Centro united in giving an entertainment in the opera house on Christmas eve. It was the children's night, and the little ones entertained the audience of grown ups with music, recitations and drills. The coming of Santa Claus was preceded by a pretty little allegory of the hours, in which the faces of children took the places of figures on a clock dial and were marshaled by a fairy. Albert Durham played Santa Claus and distributed candy, pop corn and jokes to the great delight of the youngsters.

W. E. Wilsie was Majordomo of the revels; Mrs. Geo. Irvin and Mrs. C. F. Buttress directed the singing, and Mrs. R. L. Greer managed the drills.

The Buttress boy broke away from the regular programme and had a better time and made more fun than anybody.

Christmas Suicide

E. J. Shaw, of Washington, D. C., a stranger in this part of the country, killed himself with a pistol at Calexico last Wednesday evening. He arrived in the town a day or two before and took a room at the Thacher house, but gave no information about himself. He appeared ill and depressed, and wandered about by himself, evading all inquiries as to his condition. Early in the evening he went to the depot, sought a dark place behind a car and put a bullet through his head. He had more than \$100 in his pockets.

Water Company Candidate

The Calexico stockholders of Water Co. No. 1 have nominated E. S. McCullom as their candidate for director at the election to be held in January. The proposed increase of capital stock is not viewed with unanimous approval by water users, and it is not certain that the plan will be adopted.

V. Rapp, secretary of the Imperial County Abstract Co., was in El Centro over Christmas and will return to Los Angeles Monday, where he will complete the work of transcribing the land records. This work is practically completed so that the company now has a complete record of all land office filings in Imperial Valley with daily revisions.

Frank Miller and James Burt, the hobo burglars who raided Calexico recently and looted rooms in the hotel, were examined before Justice McCullom last Tuesday and held to answer in the Superior Court.

A concrete building is being erected at Imperial by W. J. Mitchell. Gravel has been found near the town, and the concrete blocks are manufactured on the ground.

The Calexico townsite company offers to sell a block of land and give the proceeds to the town to invest in street improvements. The block is valued at \$3,000.

A hobo about 17 years old broke into a box car at Old Beach last Thursday and all he could find in the way of plunder was a sack of beans. He was caught and is now in jail.

ORANGE GROVES

SOON WILL GROW

Riverside Experts Quick to Recognize Opportunities Opened in Imperial Valley

WILL SET OUT ORCHARDS

Citrus Growers Convinced That Conditions Are All Favorable For Great Production of Early Fruit, and Unhesitatingly Take the Lead.

Recognition of the fact that Imperial Valley is especially adapted to the growing of citrus fruit is spreading, and while farmers who have had no experience with oranges are hesitating, orange growers from the citrus districts west of the mountains are preparing to set out groves, being confident that they are taking no chances. F. A. Tetley, formerly of Riverside, is preparing seven acres near Calexico for orange trees, and W. G. Record, another Riverside grower, will set out 40 acres next spring.

Dr. G. M. Dennis, who has been growing citrus fruit for a dozen years or more, has been looking over valley lands and studying conditions, and he is satisfied that Imperial Valley has distinct advantages over other portions of Southern California. Trees grow more rapidly here, bear a year earlier, produce better fruit, which ripens two months in advance of Riverside, and are not subject to scale because of the dry heat. Two months lead in getting ripe fruit to market is a great advantage, as is shown by the experience of the Arizona growers, who get very high prices for early oranges.

Dr. Dennis has found nothing indicative of danger to orange trees and has no doubt that this valley will become a great orange growing district in a very few years. He is negotiating for land, and when he secures a suitable tract he will put at least ten acres in oranges.

The citrus fruit industry will be established here by men like these Riverside growers, who have had long experience and do not need to make experiments in the cultivation and care of trees. With their aid and guidance, settlers who lack experience can avoid mistakes and go ahead in confidence. Five years from now Imperial Valley will be shipping ripe oranges by the carload early in November.

Stockmen Organize

The second preliminary meeting of stockmen, to consider plans for uniting the stock growers of the county in a protective association, was held at Imperial last Saturday.

The committee on constitution and by-laws presented a report, which was accepted subject to approval at the next meeting, to be held Jan. 18 for the election of officers and perfection of the organization. By united action, the stockmen hope to secure better transportation, shorter schedule for trains and a reduction of freight rates on stock.