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BEET-SUGAR FACTORIES FOR IMPERIAL VALLEY

Soil and Climate Are Best In the World For Growing Sugar-Beets. Two or Three Crops a Year Insure Continuous Operation of Mills. Capital Ready For Establishment of Enterprise.

Beet sugar manufacturers are investigating Imperial Valley with a view to the establishment of factories and encouraging farmers to grow sugar beets. W. T. Hayhurst, of Los Angeles, has been in the valley for some time, studying soil and climatic conditions and talking with settlers about the prospects of introducing the new industry. Mr. Hayhurst says there would be no difficulty in securing the capital necessary to install a large factory if the people of the valley take sufficient interest in the project and agree to produce the raw material. He says there is no doubt of the perfect adaptability of Imperial Valley lands to beet growing.

BEST BEET LAND

It is Mr. Hayhurst's opinion, based upon long experience in beet culture and observations in this region extending over a period of about a year, that the valley is the best sugar beet land in the country, and judging from results obtained by farmers in cultivation of other vegetables, it is more than probable that the sugar beet can be made a continuous crop and the factories kept running all the year round. The production per acre should be from thirty to fifty per cent. greater than that of the Chino lands. A general average taking the failures with the successes, should be not less than twenty tons of beets to the acre.

Beets are like cantaloupes in that the yield per acre depends chiefly upon the man who plants and cultivates them. Intelligent care and diligent cultivation govern the results and produce the dividends. The soil is all right and will respond generously to proper treatment.

PROSPECTIVE RETURNS

The farmer receives \$5 a ton for beets delivered at the mill or at gathering points, and the maximum cost of planting, cultivating and delivering the crop, including the farmer's time and all incidental expenses, is \$30 an acre, leaving an average net profit of \$70 an acre. It is quite probable, says Mr. Hayhurst, that the yield from well cultivated land would be largely in excess of twenty tons per acre, but he figures on that basis to be well on the safe side.

The beet sugar mill at Oxnard, Ventura county, the second largest in the United States, represents an investment of about \$2,000,000. Mr. Hayhurst talks of a factory of at least equal capacity for Imperial Valley, and avers that the necessary capital will be ready when the people of the valley give assurance that they will support the project and enter into agreements to produce the beets required to keep the mill going.

Ninety per cent. of the sugar consumed in the United States is imported, and the rate of consumption increases ten per cent. per annum. More than 600 sugar factories could be operated profitably in this country, but only 60 are in existence. At least half a dozen could be maintained in Imperial Valley, giving steady employment to about 2,000 men in the mills alone.

CONTINUOUS CROPS

The prospective profits from

sugar beet culture may not seem large compared to some returns from cantaloupes heretofore obtained, but the whole Imperial Valley cannot be devoted to cantaloupe growing. Sugar beets will grow in land that is not suitable for other crops, and they give sure, steady returns.

It is the opinion of Mr. Hayhurst that at least two crops a year are certain and three are more than possible, and if that proves correct the returns per acre per year would equal if not exceed the returns from cantaloupes. Sugar beets are now grown successfully in small quantities by experimenting farmers in Imperial Valley, and the perfect adaptability of soil and climate has been demonstrated beyond question. Ira Aten has a patch of beets, planted last September, which shows unusually fine growth, and later plantings on the Myers ranch are equally successfully.

EXPERIMENTAL CULTURE

If the farmers of the valley encourage the project and the establishment of sugar factories is assured, experimental cultivation of beets will be necessary to ascertain the proper seasons of planting and cutting and to work out the theory that crops can be so regulated as to keep mills in continuous operation.

The promoters of the project, according to Mr. Hayhurst, will carry on experiments at their own cost, planting beets every ten days throughout the year and carefully observing results in growth, maturity and sugar-making qualities.

There is very little absolute waste from a beet sugar mill. The pulp is utilized as fattening food for cattle, and stock yards are maintained at the factories. Beet pulp is fed to stock as a mixture with alfalfa, and the stock yards furnish a market for hay. The pulp from a mill of the capacity contemplated would keep from 1,500 to 2,000 steers in the stockyards of the factory through the season, and an area of 160 acres would be required for the yards. The usual charge for pulp to feeders is about thirty cents a ton. Directly and indirectly, a sugar factory is of great industrial benefit to a community and a stimulant of development of its resources.

Investigations of the sugar beet possibilities of Imperial Valley are being made by others than Mr. Hayhurst. Major C. D. Carr, soil expert of the Oxnard company, and others interested in that factory, have been here recently, and there are indications that their survey of the ground is preliminary to the inauguration of a big enterprise.

President Brown, of the El Centro Chamber of Commerce, has called a special public meeting of the Chamber, to which all persons interested are invited, for this Saturday evening in the school house, to give Mr. Hayhurst an opportunity to present and explain his project to the people of the valley.

H. W. Brimmer, of Colton, has bought 160 acres of the Blair farm near Imperial and will plant orange trees. Expert citrus growers agree that this valley is the best orange land in the state.

SOMETHING DOING

Significant Visit to Imperial Valley of Men Who Do Things

Harry Chandler, business manager of the Los Angeles Times and one of the owners of the California-Mexico ranch, was in the valley early in the week with a party of men whose evident interest in this region is significant of "something doing" in the way of big enterprises. The members of the party were: E. G. Chaddock, of Los Angeles, the largest shipper of raisins in the world; Judge M. R. King, of Corcoran, vice-president of the Security Land & Loan Co.; Major C. D. Carr, sugar-beet and soil expert of the Oxnard sugar factory, who is putting in several thousand acres of beets in Ventura; George Hanna, general superintendent, Roy Milner and F. P. Newport, sales agents, of the Corcoran land company, and Mr. Lane, of Redlands.

The visitors went to the end of the Inter-California railroad, which runs through some of the best lands of the C. M. Co., and on Monday came to El Centro and spent the day driving about the country and studying conditions in the district. What plans they may have in mind for enterprises in Imperial Valley have not been disclosed, but they were not here to take the rest cure. Some members of the party are interested in a colonization project that is being organized by the California-Mexico company to bring into cultivation a large tract of fertile land on the Mexican side of the line.

HOLTVILLE WHITECAPS

Throw a Prodigious Scare into Mr. Phelps for Reasons Unknown

Constable Harris, of Holtville, was awakened Tuesday night by excited citizens, who reported that a man was being either held up by bandits or hanged from the railroad bridge by night-riders. Harris, never having seen a lynching and being naturally thirsty for knowledge, loped down to the bridge with only one shoe on to see how the thing was done. All was quiet at the bridge, nobody was dangling from the stringpiece and no sinister forms were lurking in the shadows.

Near the creamery Harris found the body of a man, and it seemed to be very dead. Men gathered about, and Harris looked them over to see if there were any murderers in the crowd. Hearing a feeble groan from the body, Harris examined it and found that it was alive but gagged and badly scared. He removed the gag and thereby uncorked a stream of frantic appeals to be taken away and saved.

The scared body belonged to a man named Phelps, who has been around Holtville for a year or two and has filed a claim on a school section of alfalfa owned by F. N. Chaplin. Phelps avers that the attack upon him was made by persons who fear that he will succeed in getting that alfalfa field, and that they were going to throw him into the Alamo river when they were frightened from their nefarious purpose. He says he recognized one of the vigilants as an employee of Chaplin and proposes to prosecute him.

There are other theories to account for the hazing of Phelps, and there are persons who scout at the notion that it had any relation to his land jumping operations. Phelps was not injured, except that his nose was slightly abraded, but the constable says he was scared prodigiously.

Water company number 7 has a mutual telephone system of its own, number 5 is preparing to put in a similar system, and number 1 is considering cooperation with number 5.

EL CENTRO'S BUILDING BOOM STARTS WITH A RUSH

Brick Blocks Going Up All Along Main Street. Contracts For Seven Business Structures Let By W. F. Holt. Corner Lot Sold at Highest Price Yet Paid in Valley.

Activity in building operations in El Centro continues with no prospect of a letup for many months to come. Brick and tile business structures are going up as rapidly as men and materials can be secured, and yet the demand for store buildings is far from being satisfied. This demand for new buildings becomes more and more insistent as the wonderful possibilities of the town and of the valley are developed. Business men of many cities are seeking opportunities here, and as rapidly as possible buildings will be provided for them. El Centro's growth in a few months is greater than that of most places of its size in years, and there is every prospect that the rate of growth will continue indefinitely.

SEVEN MORE BRICK STRUCTURES

The south side of Main street will soon present an unbroken front of brick buildings. On Thursday afternoon W. F. Holt made final arrangements for the immediate erection of five more brick buildings between the Rumsey and Goodrich buildings. Each will be 100 feet deep. Two have already been leased and it is certain that the other three will be spoken for long before they are completed. Mr. Holt will also have erected at once a brick building, 40 by 50 feet, on Sixth street, to be used as an uptown office by the Wells-Fargo Co. and the Western Union Telegraph Co. Temporarily while this building is being put up the Wells-Fargo office will be in the new Holton Power Co. building on Main street. Mr. Holt has also given the order for the erection of a brick warehouse in the rear of the Rumsey building.

This week a deal was closed whereby Thomas Wilkins of Los Angeles acquired the corner opposite the Valley State bank, the purchase price being the highest ever paid for a lot in Imperial county. Mr. and Mrs. Wilkins were in El Centro a few days ago and were favorably impressed with the prospects here. They propose to erect on the lot in the near future a three story rooming hotel.

A contract was made this week for the erection of a fifty foot brick addition to the building on Main street, owned by W. F. Holt and occupied by I. E. Casner. Work on this building will be begun in about two weeks.

Good progress has been made on the three brick buildings which are being erected on Main street by W. F. Holt. The Holton Power Co. building is almost ready for occupancy. The Rumsey building is so far advanced that Contractor Cooper expects to have it ready for Mr. Rumsey by February 15. Work on the superstructure of the building to be occupied by the W. H. Goodrich Furniture Co. is also well advanced and this building will be completed by March 1.

PROGRESS ON COURT HOUSE

Long and Newman have the foundation for the court house three fourths completed and expect to begin laying tile Monday. U. O. Long, who is personally superintending the work, states that the building will be entirely finished and ready to move into in sixty days. Two carloads of

tile and one carload of lumber are on the way and another carload of tile is being loaded in Los Angeles. The iron work is all here. Six laborers have been working on the foundation this week. Next week the force will be augmented by five tile layers and several carpenters. The front and rear walls are to be of cream enameled tile and will present an attractive appearance. The side walls are to be of plain fireproof tile.

J. L. Travers, El Centro's pioneer contractor, has the new wing of Hotel El Centro well under way and expects to have it completed next month. He has also fitted up the store in the hotel block for the Meserve Clothing Co.

Dwelling houses were started this week on Broadway for W. W. Masten and E. H. Sherman, and other houses are to be erected within a month or two, both in that section and south of Main street.

El Centro's New Depot

Superintendent H. V. Platt, of the Southern Pacific was in the valley this week taking observations of the march of progress and asking questions about things in general. He said he was ready to begin construction of the El Centro depot as soon as he should get the word from G. M. O., and he also said the depot would be the finest in the valley and an ornament to the county seat.

DOLEZAL-LEJA

Well Known Young People United in Marriage at Catholic Church

Henry Dolezal, a well known El Centro farmer, and Miss Marie Leja, a deservedly popular Imperial maiden, were united in marriage Saturday, January 11, at the Catholic church in El Centro in the presence of a number of their relatives and friends. The ceremony was performed by Rev. H. Eummelen, the witnesses being Mr. and Mrs. Donald, Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson and Albin Dolezal.

After the ceremony the wedding party proceeded to the ranch of Anton Panek, two and a half miles southwest of El Centro, where a bountiful dinner had been prepared by Mrs. W. V. Baker and Mrs. J. W. Laird. Mr. and Mrs. Dolezal were the recipients of many beautiful and useful gifts, among them being the following: Handsome rug by Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson; two bedspreads and two elaborately ornamented wedding cakes by Mr. and Mrs. Donald; bedspread and bureau scarf by Mr. and Mrs. Williams; \$20 cash by Albin Dolezal, brother of the groom; lace curtains, embroidered slippers and \$10 cash by Mrs. A. Panek, of San Diego, aunt of the groom; purse by Mr. and Mrs. Heiny, of Brawley. Mr. Anton Panek presented to the bride a handsome gold watch and chain.

The bride was becomingly attired in a white mull silk gown with an orange blossom wreath and white silk veil. Mr. and Mrs. Dolezal are now happily situated on their own ranch two miles southwest of El Centro.

J. T. Brown, alias Jack Templar, charged with an infamous crime, was acquitted by a jury yesterday.