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ANGELENOS ASTOUNDED BY WHAT THEY SAW HERE

Filled Up With Facts and Figures by Valley Farmers, They Ride Home on Rainbows and Set Their Friends on Fire With Eagerness to Visit the Most Fertile Valley in the World.

There was no hesitation on the part of the Los Angeles men, who were in the valley last week, about declaring that El Centro was the liveliest town in the county. The proofs of active enterprise were so obvious that they could not refrain from comment. They saw brick buildings going up all along Main street, and every one rented in advance and a month's rent paid, and the manner in which they were greeted showed them that they were in a buoyant, busy community. They were received in the evening in an opera house that is better in every respect than many cities of a hundred thousand can show, and they were surprised to find the stage filled with cotton plants grown in El Centro.

The reception went with a swing and a spirit of fun and good fellowship that banished cold formality. "Pop" Pearson, the cantaloupe man, started it off right. He was the first speaker called after the brief formal speeches of Stanley Brown and George Stewart, and the subject given him was "Why I am here." Pearson denies being a platform speaker, and he said the subject should have been "Why am I here?"

Cantaloupe Facts.

Then he forgot he was making a speech and proceeded to talk cantaloupes, and in ten seconds he had the Los Angeles men taking notes. "I have covered all the United States in business travelling," said Pearson, "but always kept my residence and my family in Baltimore. Twelve months ago I came, and I hadn't been here 48 hours when I determined to settle here. The future of this region seemed to me greater than that of any other I have seen, and I have seen crops growing under all conditions. The land here produces 100 per cent more to the acre than any other; the returns for labor on the land are 100 per cent more than anywhere else. Last year the valley shipped 500 cars of cantaloupes, and the growers received \$250,000. This year there are about 9000 acres in melons. That means from 1500 to 2000 cars, and net returns anywhere from three quarters to a full million dollars.

"Besides melons, there are 250 acres in beans, 75 acres in cucumbers, 150 acres in tomatoes. That means another \$150,000 net returns to farmers. There are many experienced growers and many novices. They are all making good, and in five years this will be the most productive piece of ground in North America."

Pearson's Hit.

Here "Pop" started to compliment the settlers on the large capacity of their think tanks, and a word that he wanted got away from him. He tried to put salt on its tail, but missed, and then he broke into an honest laugh at his own confusion and said: "We'll cut that out. What I mean is that we don't take off our hats to any other Rubes on earth." And then the crowd laughed with him and cheered and got into the humor of having a good time with no frills on it.

Willis Booth, of Los Angeles, talked on "the spirit of making good." He said he saw it incarnated in Imperial Valley. Figures could give no idea of what the visitors had seen; orators could not tell the story of the reclaimed desert. The excursionists had seen and they were astonished. Mr. Booth cordially invited the valley people to return the call next April and help receive the naval heroes who are sailing thousands of miles in order

that the peace of the world may be preserved.

Running a Ranch.

The chairman asked Dr. R. P. Shepherd to talk about developing a ranch. The doctor pretended to comply, but the way he dodged his subject would have been a liberal education to a jackrabbit chased by a dog. He told funny stories and played jokes on the audience, but he wouldn't give any old farmer a chance to have fun with him on the ranch question. He called attention to the significant fact that the newest county in the United States, a frontier county, began its career by voting out the saloon. Other speakers had said something about the reciprocal needs of Los Angeles and the valley. "We don't need anything we haven't got," said Dr. Shepherd. "All we need is more of the same sort of men and women we have here now." Then he did mention the ranch business. "It's the easiest thing in the world to run a ranch. Try it."

Land of Cotton.

Ira Aten told about cotton, explained the labor factor in cotton growing, the reasons why Texans believe this valley to be the best cotton land in the world, and made the men from Los Angeles sit up and listen with keen attention. He too thought he couldn't make a speech. He didn't try to do any spellbinding, and so he made a hit. Facts were wanted, and he had them to give.

W. T. Hayhurst told about beet-sugar experiments and the prospects of the sugar industry in Imperial Valley. He said he believed this region would excel all others in tonnage and in quality of beets, and would produce all the year round. Mr. Hayhurst is the expert in charge of experimental work for the Imperial Valley Sugar Company, which will soon put up a factory near El Centro. If one fifth of the land is devoted to beets and cane, he said, the sugar industry will be the greatest in the valley. In his judgment, an investment of \$17,000,000 in factories could be based safely upon the product of twenty per cent of the farm land in this county.

What Forrester Raised.

E. E. Forrester told the visitors what he was growing on his ranch and said he had been successful in raising everything except peaches. He had been particularly successful in raising cane. A whirlwind of laughter and applause interrupted the speaker, who is believed to be closely related to the Sphinx anyway, and he seized the opportunity to resume his habitual reticence.

E. P. Bosbyshell, of Los Angeles, said he was here five years ago and was very doubtful of the success of irrigation in Imperial Valley. What he had seen on this trip surprised him beyond measure, and he would not venture to predict the future of the region.

Big Little El Centro.

S. P. Mulford said he came with an impression that Imperial Valley was a district about five miles wide and twenty-five miles long. When he saw that it was forty miles wide and sixty miles long, with a vast outlying country yet to be developed, he was dumbfounded. He never had seen anything like it in his life and he could not comprehend the possibilities of the country. El Centro, he said, was the largest town of its size in the United States. He had not seen or known of any town having the push, enter-

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NOT RETROACTIVE.

Assignments Under Old Rule Held to Be Valid.

In accordance with the announcement that the General Land Office at Washington would not disturb existing titles acquired under duplicate assignments, although the rule now is that the settler exhausts his right by making one entry or assignment, Gen. F. C. Prescott, registrar of the Land Office, rendered an important decision last Wednesday in the case of F. E. Dunlap against Mabel and Helen Oakley and Fred Stamm, the assignor. On motion of the contestee, the case was dismissed.

The contestant claimed that the Oakleys had made an entry on 320 acres in the Imperial Valley, and then made it over to a third party. Later they acquired title to another tract originally taken up by Fred Stamm. The attorney for Dunlap asserted that this latter act was invalid.

Gen. Prescott ruled that at the time this was made it was the practice of the department to permit the taking of one or more assignments, providing the total amount of land thus acquired did not exceed 320 acres.

"At present the new ruling is that if one exercise his right to acquire government land, either by entry or assignment, that exhausts his rights," he said, "but the practice was permitted" at the time the Oakleys acquired their land."

LAND RECEIPTS.

Secretary Garfield Says They Will Be Issued in Near Future.

The following letter explains the purposes of the Interior Department concerning the issue of final receipts: "Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., Feb. 26, 1908.

"Hon. Sylvester C. Smith, House of Representatives:

"Sir:—In reply to your inquiry regarding the conditions in the Imperial Valley, California, I have to advise you that the matter of issuing conditional receipts has been considered and the conclusion reached that such a course is not necessary, and, under the circumstances, would be inadvisable.

"As has been indicated to you, the department is pushing the resurvey as rapidly as possible, and it is believed that in the near future it will be practicable to issue a formal receipt to those who are entitled to the same.

"Very respectfully,

"JAMES RUDOLPH GARFIELD,
Secretary."

BETWEEN THE VALLEYS.

Lying as it does between the mountains and the sea, and also between the Imperial and San Joaquin valleys, with a back country that stretches clear to the Rocky Mountains, and with the Pacific Ocean for a front yard, Los Angeles couldn't hold itself down if it wanted to.—The Times.

John L. Weinert and Albert Larson have been fussing over some hogs on a ranch near Imperial, and Larson alleges that Weinert took a shot at him last Wednesday. Larson caused the arrest of Weinert, who was held under \$2000 bonds for trial.

Final receipt has been issued to Edward Dool for S. 1/2 sec. 8, T. 17 S., R. 14 E.

Ohio Republican platform favors tariff revision at special session of next Congress.

Senator Proctor, of Vermont, died in Washington, March 4, at 77 years of age.

One hundred and seventy children burned to death and killed in panic in school house at North Collingwood, Ohio, last Wednesday.

Cholo railroad hands, discharged for insubordination, create riot at Colton and are subdued by officers.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WANTS MORE MEMBERS

IMPORTANT MEETING WILL BE HELD NEXT WEEK.

Proposed to Make Arrangements for Systematic Work in Promoting Progress of El Centro and Advertising Resources of Imperial Valley.

President J. Stanley Brown calls a meeting of the El Centro Chamber of Commerce for Friday, March 13, 7:30 p. m., at the school house and urges every member to attend and take part in business of importance. The purpose is to make the chamber an active, effective factor in the progress of the town and to arrange for systematic work in the direction of supplying information about Imperial Valley to all who are interested.

There will be frequent excursions to the valley from outside points, and it is necessary to make provision for entertaining the visitors and affording them opportunities to see what is being done in this region. Other matters of importance to El Centro require the attention of some organized body, and the Chamber of Commerce is expected to act for the public generally in promoting movements for improvement.

Since the chamber was organized, the population has increased largely, and there are now many business men and property owners who are not members. It is desirable that the membership be increased, and all citizens who are interested in the welfare of El Centro are invited to attend the meeting, become members and take active part in the work.

There should be a full attendance at the meeting next Friday night.

RAILROAD SURVEY

San Diego and Arizona Will Cross New River South of Imperial.

Engineer S. N. Witt and twenty-one assistants began yesterday the surveying of trial lines for the San Diego & Arizona railroad eastward from Dos Cabezas Springs through Imperial Valley to Yuma. The first line will keep on the American side, and the San Diego Tribune says the railroad will cross New River between Imperial and Calexico.

FARNSWORTH REELECTED.

Water Company No. 1 Retains Him As Superintendent.

The directors of Water Company No. 1 have reelected L. F. Farnsworth, superintendent, and granted him extra allowance for keeping a team. Directors Long, Edgar and Applin voted for Farnsworth. The organ of the Paulin crowd makes the foolish assertion that "certain El Centro people were determined to get his scalp for the sole reason that he was a resident of Imperial and was identified with the affairs of this town."

Mr. Farnsworth is the person who served notice on Imperial county to degrade itself instantly from the 36th to the 43rd class or take the consequences of incurring his everlasting displeasure. But nobody in El Centro blames the city of Imperial for breaks like that. The alleged animosity of El Centro to Imperial exists only in the disordered imaginations of a few pinhead politicians. It is not Imperial's fault that a few men in the town are sore and silly.

CHILDREN FIND RATTLER.

J. Mayfield brought into town yesterday from the Irvin ranch, south of El Centro, a four-foot diamond-back rattler. Children found the snake on the sunny side of a brush pile trying to get warm, but it was too torpid to strike. The creature had ten rattles. Large rattlesnakes are rare in the valley.

Charles C. Bowles has recorded a claim on 10,000 miners' inches of water in the Alamo river.

GRANDEST COUNTY IN CALIFORNIA

STATE CONTROLLER NYE SAYS THAT OF IMPERIAL.

Predicts That a City Equal to Fresno or Sacramento Will Be Built in the Valley—Surprised at the Development Already Achieved.

A despatch from Sacramento to the San Francisco Call gives State Controller Nye's views on the present and future of Imperial county. The Controller and the Board of Equalization were in El Centro a few days ago, on their tour of the Southern counties.

Of all the counties Nye declares that Imperial is in his estimation the grandest, for while only a new one, it is building up rapidly and he estimates that settlers are entering it at the rate of 1000 a week.

He states that he found the hotels all over the county crowded and that the towns of Brawley, Imperial, El Centro, Holtville and Calexico are the scenes of great activity. Nye feels confident that somewhere in that county an important city is bound to grow, which will be the equal of Fresno or Sacramento.

In speaking of the resources of the valley he remarked that when six years ago the beginning of cultivation by irrigation was started there was hardly any land being taken up. Now he says there are between 150,000 and 200,000 acres under cultivation.

In conclusion, he said: "Everybody has heard about the melon industry but I was surprised to see the extent of alfalfa land, and I find that the valley is full of cattle and hogs. It is estimated 50,000 acres are in alfalfa and in some instances this yields 10 crops per year. About 150,000 hogs are kept in the valley and the dairy industry also is becoming important. It is not known yet to what extent orchards can be grown, but experiments are being made with both trees and vines, which show promising indications."

DESTITUTE IMMIGRANTS.

Family From Colorado Cared For in Affliction by Settlers.

A case of indigence and suffering unusual in Imperial county was made known to the county authorities early this week. James Cox, an asthmatic sufferer, came here from Colorado a few weeks ago with a wife and nine children and nothing else in the world, not even the strength to earn a living for his family. The family was permitted to camp on the Morgan ranch, two miles east of El Centro, and the neighbors supplied food for some time. Cox became seriously ill a few days ago, and was removed, too late to save him, to Imperial, where he died on Tuesday.

Supervisor Clark and a committee of citizens are taking care of the woman and children and making arrangements to send them back to Colorado, where they have relatives able to look out for them.

HURT IN RUNAWAY.

Last Wednesday a horse, frightened by a dredger on the ditch near El Centro, ran away with a buggy in which were Misses Sadie Dean and May Roberts. Miss Dean jumped and was severely shaken, but not seriously injured, and both young ladies suffered from nervous shock. Miss Dean is a niece of Sheriff Meadows, residing in Calexico.

TACTLESS MR. BRYAN.

One learns from the financial column of the New York "Evening Sun" that "a disagreeable impression was created by the address delivered by the most conspicuous Democratic candidate for the Presidential nomination." The subject of Mr. Bryan's address was: "Thou Shalt Not Steal."—Collier's.