

# IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS

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## GREAT CANTALOUPE CROP RIPENING RAPIDLY IN VALLEY

Small Express Shipments This Week, and Melons will go Out in Carloads Within a Few Days—Quality and Quantity Better than Predicted—Holtville Ready to Deal Vigorously with Labor Disturbers and Loafers.

The past week has been one of much advantage to the melon growers. The steady heat has been of benefit in rapidly ripening the cantaloupes, and reports from all portions of the El Centro district indicate that this season's crop will be of uniformly fine quality and that it will exceed the estimates made two weeks ago.

At the packing sheds all is in readiness for the rush which is expected within the ensuing week. At present small express shipments are going out. It is said that a half-carload lot could be gathered up by either association, but it is thought advisable to continue the small shipments at present. Before another issue of the Press, however, the first carloads will have been sent out from El Centro, and from that time onward there will be a rush in the shipping business.

Monday evening a party of 100 students from the Los Angeles Polytechnic and high schools will arrive in El Centro to start in as cantaloupe pick-

ers. The same evening it is expected that a body of forty Germans will arrive here. They will work together on the melon ranches near town in the Fancy Melon Growers' Association.

Association managers are endeavoring to impress upon the growers the necessity of making immediate requisition for the number of helpers they expect to need, and they say that if this is done there will be no difficulty in supplying first-class labor. The older association expects to employ Japanese pickers chiefly, having had unsatisfactory experience with white labor heretofore.

It is reported that emissaries of the I. W. W. have invaded Holtville and are proclaiming that they propose to boss the labor situation and dictate terms, but the Holtville people give notice that they will not tolerate interference or trouble-making, and that agitators, walking delegates and hobos will find Holtville the most uncomfortable place they ever got into.

## JURY IN McBRIDE CASE WAS EVENLY DIVIDED

MISTRIAL OF MAN WHO USED  
GUN TO QUIET TITLE.

Old-timer's Explanation of Irreconcilable Attitude of Two Members of the Jury—Animosities of Politics Keep Them Apart on Any and All Subjects of Debate.

Most of the present week has been occupied in the Superior Court with the trial of the case of the people against J. L. McBride, charged with assault with a deadly weapon upon Harry Hagerman and George T. Peacock, on lands near Holtville, the possession of which was in dispute. The shooting took place March 22.

District Attorney Eshleman and Deputy District Attorney Phil D. Swing conducted the prosecution and the defendant was represented by Shaw & Brewer. Hearing of the evidence occupied the major portion of two days, and the case went to the jury Wednesday evening at 6 o'clock.

Thursday forenoon the jury again appeared in court, stating that it stood six to six and asking that portions of the evidence be read. About two hours were taken to represent this evidence, pertaining to statements as to McBride's being armed when he first appeared and his subsequent actions.

The jury again retired, but about 6 o'clock Thursday evening the body was discharged by Judge Cole, as its members declared there was no possibility of reaching a verdict.

An old-timer—been here more than a year—who looked the jury over, said it was a cinch that it couldn't and wouldn't agree on any proposition put up to it. Two of the members were furious partisans in the county seat election, and they developed in that fight such profound disesteem for each other's opinion that if one should say it was noon the other would swear it was midnight. When one asked for reading of parts of the testimony, the other ostentatiously pretended to go to sleep, and when the foreman tried to get instructions on obscure points, they prompted him from opposite sides until he didn't know what he was asking for or what he was saying.

"Agree!" snorted the old-timer. "You couldn't make those two fellows agree with a club; they'd rot in the jury room first. It wasn't the case of the State versus McBride they were considering; it was the old county-seat fight over again."

## SPINELESS CACTUS.

Burbank's Forage Plant Making Fine Growth in El Centro.

Luther Burbank has made a hit with El Centro residents on his spineless-cactus. When he begins to talk about his forage plant bringing a crop of from eighty to two hundred tons to the acre, El Centro folk will nod their heads affirmatively. They judge by the sights to be seen in Paul Boman's cactus patch.

A few weeks ago Boman received from Luther Burbank a shipment of 300 pounds of spineless cactus of several varieties. The selection was left entirely to Burbank, as he knew the general conditions here. He notified Boman that the kinds sent he considered the best yet propagated.

They were planted on the lots at Seventh and State streets, and now these leaves, every one of them, have large new shoots, some of them as large as a man's hand. In several cases the growth already attained is much greater than the original plant.

## LAND IN DEMAND.

More Buyers Than Sellers in Imperial Valley—Owners Waiting for Higher Prices.

Imperial Valley real estate men say that it is more difficult now to get land to sell than it is to sell the land. The demand for good farm property is as brisk as at any time this year and a large number of sales are being made, but many would-be buyers are prevented from doing business because of the small acreage on the market.

Owners of Imperial property are holding on, either for still better prices or because they have decided to remain here permanently.

A number of El Centro business lots were sold this week at slightly advanced prices.

## Beaumont Acres.

Transactions at Beaumont this week include the sale of forty-two acres of grape and fruit lands and fifteen residence and business lots for a total of \$5350, making the total sales for May

in excess of \$30,000. Since September 14 over \$220,000 worth of property has been sold.

Crop reports on the Beaumont district show that the oats will average about \$30 per acre and that the barley will be up to the standard of last year, while most of the hay has cut from a ton and a half to two tons to the acre. The peach crop will be larger than usual, apricots show about one-half of a normal crop, prunes are above the average of last year and the almonds are 50 per cent better than the past season. Over \$90,000 worth of grain is expected to be harvested this year, and the total crop of apples is estimated at \$70,000.

## HOLTON MACHINE SHOP DESTROYED BY FIRE

ADJACENT BUILDINGS SAVED BY  
ENERGETIC VOLUNTEERS.

Two Intrepid Citizens Take Risks to Prevent Explosion and Spread of Flames to Packing Sheds—Foreman of Shop Badly Burned About the Arms.

Shortly before noon yesterday fire broke out in the machine shops of the Holton Power Company, on Broadway, near the Southern Pacific Railroad tracks, and within a half hour's time the plant was destroyed. The loss is estimated at \$10,000 to \$15,000.

It is believed that the fire originated from sparks from the emory wheel flying into gasoline cans. Within a few moments after the first blaze was discovered, the entire interior of the building was a flaming furnace. The foreman tried to throw out a can of blazing oil and was burned severely on both arms.

Whistles at the other industrial plants gave the general alarm, and soon a large crowd gathered; but their efforts were exerted to save the buildings nearby, as it was recognized at once that the machine shop itself was doomed.

Immediately to the west of the shops is situated the Garren House, a long frame structure; and to the north stand the extensive sheds and packing house of the El Centro Fancy Melon Growers' Association, in which are stored carloads of dry and highly inflammable box shoo. For a time it appeared that both of these buildings would be certain to suffer from the flames, if they were not entirely destroyed.

One of the bravest acts of the whole affair was that of W. E. Wilsie and John McClave, who rushed to the corrugated iron storage house immedated from sparks from the emory which the flames were shooting, rolled from the place a sixty-gallon tank of gasoline, and worked it out of range of the flames, although there was danger every moment of an explosion.

Other men mounted the nearby roofs, and with wet blankets, carpets and sacks and playing streams from hose kept these roofs from catching fire. Numerous hand fire extinguishers were brought into use and did much towards saving the shed adjoining the shops on the east.

A locomotive of the Holton Interurban Railroad Company was in the shops for repairs when the flames were discovered, and as it was "dead" a half a hundred men started the heavy machine and ran it out of the shop by main force, propelling it several hundred feet from the flames.

## WANTED A GODDESS.

A Goddess of Liberty is wanted for the coming 4th of July celebration at Imperial, and it is proposed to throw open the contest to all of the valley towns. The lady receiving the highest number of votes at ten cents per vote, is to be Goddess of Liberty, and has the privilege of naming her maids of honor. She will be allowed \$25 for personal expenses. Votes are to be sent to J. B. Parazette, Imperial.

## REFRIGERATOR CAR SERVICE FOR VALLEY

FRUIT EXPRESS AND WELLS FARGO  
GO COMPETE FOR SHIPMENTS.

Five Cars a Week to Carry Perishable Products Safely to Coast Points—Pacific Company's Cars Iced at El Centro—New Service Proves Successful.

Shippers of perishable products from Imperial Valley will have better service this year than ever before. Two companies are offering their refrigerator car services to the public, and the first runs, made during the present week, indicate that the service is appreciated.

On Tuesdays and Fridays of each week the Pacific Fruit Express Company will send one of its standard refrigerator cars from Calexico northward to Los Angeles and other coast points. The car will be iced in El Centro the preceding afternoon by the Holton Power Company and will start out from Calexico on the early morning train. The first run was made last Tuesday, and the volume of business from the various valley towns was gratifying to the company's agents here.

The Wells Fargo Express Company has installed a tri-weekly service from El Centro to Los Angeles, running its refrigerator cars on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. The first run on this schedule was made this week.

This company will carry out of the valley on each of these runs fully a carload of butter and cream, and it is expected that the cantaloupe and vegetable shipments will fill the car each trip. A similar service has been installed for the Coachella Valley. These cars are iced in Los Angeles and brought down the day previous to their loading.

## MEMORIAL SERVICES IN EL CENTRO TODAY

VETERANS LIVING IN THE VALLEY  
HONOR THE DEAD.

None are Buried Here, and a Monument to the Unknown Heroes Will be Decorated With Flags and Flowers—Program of Observance of the Day at the Opera House.

Today, Memorial Day, the veterans of the Civil War throughout Imperial Valley will join with El Centro and Imperial in an observance of the day with proper memorial services in this city. It is expected that every town in the valley will be represented here today.

The program will be given in Holt's Opera House, and the exercises will begin at 10:30 o'clock, with William Kelly as chairman.

School children of El Centro will march to the stage, singing patriotic songs, and there they will decorate with flags and flowers a monument raised to the honor of the unknown dead.

Invocation will be given by Rev. S. I. Ward, and R. M. Clark will give as a solo "The Flag Without a Stain." This will be followed by a recitation given by Mrs. Morrison.

Rev. Mott Mitchell of Imperial will give a solo, and this will be followed by the reading of Lincoln's "Address at Gettysburg" by Rev. R. P. Shepherd. Comrade Rice will sing a solo, followed by selections from the Imperial Quartette, and the Memorial Day address will be given by V. Rapp, Esq. Rev. Mott Mitchell will sing "The Old Flag Never Touched The Grounds;" C. H. Bradshaw, Spanish War veteran, will speak, and there may be other short addresses. The program will close by the audience singing "America."

## COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE IS ASSURED AT HEBER

NEW SCHOOL WILL BE OPENED  
IN THE FALL.

Trustees Organize and Elect Officers and Committees—Money now Available for Temporary Building—Institution Will Have Support of Congregational Association and of Valley

The Imperial Valley Collegiate Institute is the name by which the new school to be opened at Heber in the fall will be known. It is to have the endorsement and support of the Congregational Association of Southern California, and it is possible that its claims to support will be presented in each of the Congregational pulpits of this part of the State.

The board of trustees has organized by the election of Rev. James M. Campbell, D.D. of Sierra Madre, as President and H. W. Moorehouse of Heber, as Secretary. Committees were appointed at last week's meeting of the board, as follows:

Executive—J. B. Hoffman, J. L. Maile, H. W. Moorehouse.

Building—J. L. Maile, J. F. Giles, J. R. Loftus.

Finance—C. H. Seccombe, R. L. Glasby, Fritz Kloke.

Educational—J. M. Campbell, C. H. Seccombe, R. P. Shepherd.

The statement was made that the sum of \$2500 is now available for college purposes from sales of Heber real estate by Loftus & Burnham, and it is possible that a temporary building will be erected, in order to give shelter to the school when it is opened in the fall, and that during the winter the permanent building will be erected. It is proposed to expend at least \$25,000 in college building and equipment during the first year.

## FATE STRUCK HARD.

Embezzler Gets News of Brother's  
Death Just as Court Sentences  
Him.

Sitting in the court room with a telegram twisted in his clenched hand, announcing the death of an only and a greatly beloved brother, John L. McDowell, recently a bookkeeper for the McCollum Hardware Store at Calexico, was called upon to arise for sentence. He was sentenced to four years in the Arizona penitentiary at Yuma by Chief Justice Edward Kent, and this week was taken to Yuma to begin his term as a prisoner.

McDowell had been receiving teller of the Union Bank & Trust Company, of Phoenix and his peculations extended through a period of two years. Finally he fled, and came to Calexico, where he soon obtained a position in one of the business houses, and where he won numerous friends. He is a man of education and refinement, and proved a highly capable employe. His arrest was a great surprise to Calexico residents.

He was taken by Arizona officers to Phoenix, where he was convicted of embezzlement. His only brother had spent much time and a great deal of money in endeavoring to get McDowell out of his troubles, and the news of his death, coming just at the time of the sentence, was a bitter blow to the man. McDowell says that for two years he has lived in torment, and that he was actually relieved when the officers of the law captured him.

## BUILDING ORDINANCE TROUBLES.

The case of the people against Mugford is set for a hearing in the Superior Court next Tuesday. This is a case which involves the constitutionality of the building ordinance adopted by the City of Imperial. Mugford, it appears, insists upon his right to erect a frame building within the district wherein such structures are prohibited by city ordinance.