

# IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS

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## ACCEPTANCE OF RESURVEY OPENS VALLEY LAND TO ENTRY

Plats of Fourteen Townships Sent From Washington and the Remainder Soon to Follow.—Formal Filing Set for Feb. 23 by Land Office.—Excess Strips Withheld from Entry Pending Legislation to Protect Bona Fide Occupants.

In fulfillment of the promise of advancement of the work on the plats of the Imperial Valley survey obtained by Senator Flint from the General Land Office, the plats of nine of the twenty resurveyed townships have been approved and sent to the Los Angeles Land Office and will be filed formally, in accordance with the land law, on February 23. Five other plats have been accepted and are on the way to Los Angeles, leaving six of the resurveyed townships under consideration in the General Land Office.

The nine plats now in Los Angeles, to be filed February 23, comprise the seven townships surveyed under the Vickery contract and two west of Brawley as follows: 13 south, 13 east; 13 south, 15 east; 13 south, 16 east, and the east half of township 13 south, 12 east; townships, 14 south, 15 east; 14 south, 16 east; 15 south, 15 east; 15 south, 16 east; 16 south, 16 east, all San Bernardino base and meridian.

Six of the townships are in District No. 5, one in No. 7, and two in No. 8. Identification of the plats in Los Angeles papers and in the Imperial Standard is confused and erroneous. The Times says:

"According to a special dispatch from Washington, fourteen additional plats have been forwarded to the Surveyor General of this State, and about twenty more townships are being surveyed. These probably will be sent on in small lots when approved."

That is all mixed up. The dispatch probably stated the facts that the resurvey covers twenty townships and that fourteen plats in all have been forwarded, including the nine already received at Los Angeles.

The Standard makes it appear that the plats of the entire survey have been received, giving the numbers as "13 to 16 south, 11 to 16 east; 17 south 15 to 16 east, all inclusive."

The law provides that notice of the filing of shall be given through the press and by posting at least thirty days before the filing takes effect, and the officials at Los Angeles have set the date at February 23 to give ample time for notification. On and after that date, the Register and Receiver at Los Angeles will receive applications for entry in the townships designated. Following is the official notice given by the Land Office.

United States Land Office,  
Los Angeles, Cal., Jan. 5, 1909.

Notice is hereby given that Townships 13 South, Range 13 East; 13 South, 15 East; 13 South 16 East; and the East half of Township 13 South, 12 East; Townships 14 South 15 East; 14 South, 16 East; 15 South, 15 East; 15 South, 16 East; 16 South, 16 East, all San Bernardino B and M have been resurveyed and that the plats of resurveys will be filed in the U. S. Land Office, Los Angeles, California, situate in Room 412, Chamber of Commerce Bldg., on Tuesday, February 23, 1909; and that on and after said day the Register and Receiver of said office will be prepared to receive applications for the entry of lands in said townships, subject to the provisions of letter "A" of the Honorable Commissioner of the General Land Office, dated May 27, 1908, given below:—

General Land Office,  
Washington, D. C. May 27, 1908.  
Register and Receiver,  
Los Angeles, Cal.

Sirs:  
It becomes apparent that the resurvey of the Imperial Valley townships now nearing completion will result in lotting narrow strips between

entered lands. Although these strips may have been claimed by entrymen as parts of the regular subdivisions established by the erroneous and unauthorized survey, they will be public lands of the United States subject to entry as soon as the plats of the survey have been filed.

These lands have doubtless, in many instances, been valuably improved and in some cases surveyed into town lots and sold by persons claiming them as parts of entered legal subdivisions, and the persons now in possession have such equities in the lands as calls for relief at the hands of the Government. These strips will, in all probability, be too narrow and too long to be inviting to bona fide homeseekers, and will more than likely in some cases be appropriated by persons whose principal object would be to speculate by selling them to the persons now claiming them.

There is no law under which the persons now claiming these strips, in connection with abutting lands, can be given a preferred right to acquire title, but congress will be asked to enact a law which will give them such a right, and in aid of this proposed law, and for the purpose of defeating speculative entries, the lands embraced in the strips referred to will be withdrawn from all forms of appropriation or entry until congress has had an opportunity to grant the relief mentioned, and this withdrawal will be made as soon as these strips can be identified from the plats of the survey.

You are directed to bring this announcement directly to the attention of all persons who, to your knowledge, contemplate settlement upon any of the lands mentioned, and advise them that any right gained by such settlement is likely to be defeated by such action as congress may take in the premises.

Very respectfully,

FRED DENNETT,  
Commissioner.

Approved May 28, 1908.

JAMES RUDOLPH GARFIELD,  
Secretary.

FRANK C. PRESCOTT,  
Register.

O. R. W. ROBINSON,  
Receiver.

Some newspapers in Los Angeles have published wild statements of the effect of this action, announcing that "270,000 acres of land are thrown open to entry" and that a rush of land-seekers to Imperial Valley is imminent. That is all wrong. There is little if any vacant land subject to entry under the desert land law, the resurvey covering land already entered, settled and reclaimed or in process of reclamation. The act of July 1, 1902, providing for the resurvey, specifically declared that nothing therein would be "so construed as to impair the present bona fide claim of any actual occupant of any of said lands to the lands so occupied."

The act of March 28, 1908, treated the land being resurveyed as unsurveyed land, but provided that "any individual qualified to make entry of desert lands who has, prior to survey, taken possession of a tract of unsurveyed desert land not exceeding in area 320 acres in compact form, and has reclaimed or has in good faith commenced the work of reclaiming the same, shall have the preference of right to make entry of such tract under said acts, in conformity with the public lands survey, within ninety days after the filing of the approved plat of survey in the district land of-

file." The act also extended for a period not exceeding three years the time for making proof to entrymen who should be prevented by delay in construction of irrigating works from completing reclamation of land.

Squatters and homesteaders who have actually begun reclamation and cultivation of land in the resurveyed townships have ninety days from Feb. 23 in which to make application for entry under the desert land act. The bona fide occupant of land in an "excess strip" it appears from the Commissioner's letter, cannot make entry until such lands shall be reopened. All he can do is "sit tight" and hold down his claim.

## CAPITAL COMES TO VALLEY

Lombard Company Prepared to Lend Money on Farm Property.

Following the good news of the acceptance of surveys and the prospect of the immediate issuance of titles to Imperial Valley farmers comes the announcement that the Lombard Investment Company has opened loan offices in every town in the valley. The company offers to loan money at a reasonable rate of interest on all patented farms and on all farms on which final receipts have been issued. There is practically no limit to the amount of money available to the settlers through this source, as the Lombard Investment Co. is allied with one or more of the big life insurance companies of the East. The attention of the company was first called to the opportunity presented in the Valley for legitimate investment by the article on surveys and titles in the Imperial Valley Press of December 19, and upon further explanation by J. F. Jena of El Centro and W. E. Morton of the People's Abstract and Title Co. they decided to begin operations at once. The El Centro representative of the company is J. F. Jena in the office of Johnson, Duman and Co. and he is prepared to do business at once.

## ANOTHER BRICK BLOCK

Two Story Structure With Arcade Over Sidewalk, Constructed of Clinker Brick, to Adorn Main Street.

El Centro's building operations continue to show healthy growth and the indications are that the next few months will transform the appearance of Main street by the addition of several substantial buildings.

Good progress is being made on the excavation and foundations for the Bill-Miller block, directly west of the Hotel El Centro, on the north side of Main street, between Fifth and Sixth streets.

Now comes the news that within a short time H. H. Peterson will begin the construction of a two-story brick building directly west of the Bill-Miller block. Peterson's building will have a forty-foot frontage on Main street, and an arcade extending over the full sidewalk width. This arcade is to be of clinker brick, on lines similar to one erected the past season on the Zimmer block at Imperial.

The finishing touches were given to the first floor of the new Blackinton building this week and it is now occupied by the Delta Implement Company.

The Thomas Beach building at the northwest corner of Sixth and Main streets, has its first story walls almost completed and makes a fine showing. The body is in cream colored terra cotta, and the trimming is of pink blocks of the same material. The heavy pillars for the arcade, which is to extend over the sidewalk on both the Main and Sixth street sides, have been begun. The building will be one of the most imposing in the Imperial Valley.

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## VALLEY TEAMS ARE CLOSELY BUNCHED

Calexico Still Leads, But El Centro Has Now Forged Ahead—Two Victories

The race for the Desert League pennant was made more exciting the past week because of two victories for El Centro, two defeats for Imperial and one defeat for Calexico, the league leaders. The feature of the week was the improvement in the El Centro team, which in its two games demonstrated that it is as fast if not faster than any other team in the valley.

At Calexico on New Year's day El Centro won by a score of five to two. Jones, who was in the box for the home team, was hit freely at all times, while Trippet was effective in every inning. El Centro had the hardest kind of luck in the early part of the game. A mishandled ball in right field gave Calexico its only two runs and for five innings El Centro was unable to score. In the eighth with three men on bases McClellan came to bat with two men out. He hit a grounder so hard that it couldn't even be handled by the outfield. The bases were cleared and McClellan was able to make third base in spite of a crippled ankle. Harkins followed with another smashing drive, scoring McClellan. In the ninth two more good clean hits by McClellan and Harkins brought in another run, the final score being five to two in favor of El Centro. El Centro's entire team played with snap and clearly outclassed Calexico. McClellan's work on third was of the big league class. Two of his stops followed by accurate and fast throws were remarkably good.

Took Brawley in Too.

The local team kept up its good work Sunday by defeating Brawley five to four. Griffin was in the box for Brawley and pitched a good game. His support was not first class however, and the El Centro hitters landed on him at critical times. Trippet went in the box for El Centro but was hit freely in the first three innings, Brawley getting four runs. This was because of a sore arm, and the plucky little pitcher retired to right field, Terry going to second and Harkins into the pitcher's box. Trippet was very much in evidence in the game later, catching two different flies and shutting off runs. One of the flies was far out toward the fence. A runner on second went to third on the play but was almost out on a magnificent throw on a line to McClellan on third base. It was one of the best outfield throws seen here this season.

Harkins went in to win the game in the fourth and made good. Not a score was made off him for the seven innings he pitched, although he was against the heaviest hitting team in the valley. It was a fine exhibition and deserved the victory which came in the ninth inning. It devolved on Stanley and Trippet to put the finishing touch on the game. Trippet opened up with a clean two base hit to left field and went to third on a put out. Goldwaite tried hard to bring him in but was put out at first. Stanley hit the first ball pitched for a smashing drive between third and short, one of the cleanest hits of the game, and Trippet came home with the winning run.

Imperial Loses Two.

Nagle and Scott had a splendid pitcher's battle at Imperial Saturday. No run was made until the last half of the ninth when Berry made a clean hit and went to second on a sacrifice. The next Calexico batter hit a hot grounder which the Imperial shortstop failed to handle and Calexico won.

At Holtville Sunday Browning had

the Imperial batters at his mercy and Holtville won easily by a score of 4 to 0.

Club.	played	Won	Tied	Pct
Calexico.....	13	7	1	583
Holtville.....	12	6	1	545
Imperial.....	14	6	1	461
El Centro.....	14	5	3	455
Brawley.....	12	4	2	400

## EL CENTRO'S PUBLIC LIBRARY

City Trustees Take Steps to Establish Institution and Make Provision for Next Year's Maintenance.

The City Trustees at their meeting on Tuesday night took the preliminary steps towards the establishment of a Public Library for El Centro, to be supported by a library tax.

At this meeting a resolution was presented from the Ten Thousand Club, asking that a special election be called to vote upon the question of making a tax levy for library support. Phil D. Swing, as a committee of one from the Ten Thousand Club on library matters, spoke of the need of official recognition of the public library in order to secure the desired donation from Andrew Carnegie of funds for a library building, and gave a report of the correspondence with Mr. Carnegie on this matter. He also urged the necessity of the appointment of a Library Commissioner by the City Trustees.

It was ascertained that the calling of a special election is not necessary for the establishment of a Public Library, and the Trustees adopted the following resolution:

"Resolved, that at the next tax levy for the city of El Centro there shall be included a levy of two mills on the for the establishment of a public library, and that the City Attorney be instructed to prepare an ordinance establishing a Public Library in El Centro."

This resolution was unanimously adopted. President H. B. Pearson was appointed Library Commissioner.

At this meeting all members of the board were present with the exception of J. Stanley Brown, who was in Los Angeles.

Ordinance No. 29 was amended so as to make the width of side-walks on Fifth street, from Broadway to State street, nine and a half feet instead of eleven and a half feet and the ordinance thus amended was adopted.

A similar amendment was made in Ordinance No. 33, providing for cement walks on Sixth street, from Broadway to State street, and this was then adopted.

Ordinances Nos. 29, 30, and 32 were given their final reading and adopted. They provided for side-walks as designated in The Press of last week, covering the central part of this city.

The City Clerk was authorized to advertise for bids for the construction of the El Centro sewer system, the bids to be opened on February 9. It was decided that the contractor is to be given three months time from the time of signing the contract for the completion of the work. The printing of 200 copies of the specifications for this work was authorized.

The Street Commissioner was authorized to employ men and teams to clean up Main street.

The time for opening bids for the construction of a fire house was advanced to January 12. The following resolution was offered by Trustees Pellet and seconded by Trustee Hamilton, and adopted.

"Resolved, That it is the sense of the Board of Trustees that the City Marshal be more diligent in his duties give more of his personal time to the same, and be more careful in appointing deputies, submitting the names of such deputies to the Board for approval before appointing them."

Ordinance No. 35 was introduced, read and laid over till the next meeting, February 12.