

# Imperial Valley Press

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## THE PHENOMENON OF MALOBSERVATION

The editors of Southern California were in Imperial Valley on Nov. 17, 18, and 19 last, and enjoyed the finest, most comfortable weather imaginable. But some of them had become so accustomed to thinking of the desert as a torrid region that the actual condition made no impression upon their minds and they wrote as if they had made their visit in the middle of August. One of them, for the sake of contrast no doubt, tells of a visit to a cold storage plant and says the temperature outside was 100 degrees.

Stepping from the tropic heat into a refrigerator in the desert sounds well in a story, but the fact of record is that the maximum temperature on Nov. 17 was 76 degrees, on Nov. 18 it was 73 degrees and on Nov. 19 it was 76 degrees. It is also a fact of record that the thermometer has not registered 100 in Imperial Valley since Sept. 23, and the mean maximum for the month of September, 1908, was a fraction less than 96 degrees. The mean for October was 79 degrees and for November 74 degrees. The humidity at the time of the visit of the editors was 16 per cent, which is very dry.

Hundred degree weather prevails in Imperial Valley during the latter part of June, all of July and August and three weeks in September. Last year the highest temperature recorded in El Centro was 112. But it is the fashion to talk of 120 and even 130 as the regular thing in the desert, and there are persons—those who think with their elbows and write with their feet—who would go through the valley wearing overcoats and shivering, and then prattle parrot-like of the torridity of the region. The concepts of desert and intense heat are so associated in their memories as to be inseparable by any effort of the mind, even when they try to think while writing.

Similarly Alaska connotes to most persons arctic cold, and they think of that territory only as a region of glaciers and icebergs, infested by polar bears and greasy with walrus oil. The fact that in some parts of Alaska snow seldom falls and grass is green all the year around makes no dent in their heads, much less penetrates to their think works.

The malobservation of persons who call themselves "trained observers"—every cub reporter imagines himself to be that sort of a scientist—is a curious phenomenon. Also it is so common as to be almost universal. And that is why history is mainly a detailed account of things that never happened.

## THE BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY.

A Massachusetts pulpiteer magnanimously exonerates the Almighty of all responsibility for the Sicilian disaster and points out the unreasonableness of expecting the Creator to rearrange his scheme and amend his laws for the benefit of men who persist in building cities on the slopes of volcanos. "If men build cities in known danger zones", he gravely says, "they must be held responsible for the results of their rashness."

It is to be hoped that the reverend gentleman has the happiness to mean something and to know what he means. The weight of responsibility added to a few tons of stone and rubbish upon the shoulders of the rash builders upon volcanos is of less import to them than the proverbial last straw to the camel. It matters less than nothing to 164,000 Sicilian deadsters who holds them responsible for their own deaths. Even the solemn rebuke of a Massachusetts "divine" is to them as the stamping of the wild ass upon the grave of Bahram; it cannot break their sleep.

Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are no mysterious visitations of Providence. They are the growing pains of the globe, the twitchings of her skin as it fits itself to her shape. If man sought for his dwelling places only the spots safe from seismic spasms, the habitable world would be but a few narrow streaks on the crust and its population would be only a handful of timorous wretches cowering in caves and afraid to move abroad. Man's splendid indifference to danger and persistence defiance of death have made him the conqueror of nature.

In the great scheme of things it is of no consequence how or when men die. It is no worse to die in an earthquake than in a fever. More human lives have been extinguished in avoidable war than in all the volcanic outbreaks known to history. There might be some sense in talking of responsibility for the slaughters of the battlefield; there is nothing but inane clatter of the tongue in preaching of the "responsibility" of those who build San Francisco and Messina and pay the cost of their daring with their lives.

Would the Sicilians have lived forever had they builded their houses in Massachusetts instead of upon the slopes of Mt. Aetna?

Because the Los Angeles Times opposes direct primaries, its correspondent in Sacramento says there is grave doubt that a direct primary law can be passed in any form. But the voters of California declared emphatically last fall that they want such a law, and the legislature is not likely to have the hardihood to ignore their mandate and take orders from the machine.

## SPANISH CLASS FIRST MEETING

The first meeting of the Spanish class will be held in the Methodist Church on Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. This is to be the first lesson, and all who wish to enter this class are requested to be present at this time.

## ENTERTAINMENT COURSE

The second number of the Imperial Valley Entertainment Course, provided by the Valley Ministerial Union, will be an interpolation and delivery of one of Sam Jones' famous lectures by Denton C. Crowl, the new Sam Jones," at the Opera House, Friday evening, January 22.

## WILL NOT PLANT CANTALOUPE

The Yuma Valley Cantaloupe Growers' Association held a meeting on December 29 and after hearing letters read from the Southern Pacific officials, refusing to lower the shipping rate, the the association members agreed not to plant cantaloupes next season for shipping purposes.

## VITAL RECORD.

Born—January 11, to Mr. and Mrs. Earle D. Hartshorn, near Imperial, a son.

Died—January 13, at El Centro, Mrs. Frank Barlage, aged 49 years. Interment was in Imperial cemetery.

Died—January 11, in El Centro, Mary Nelson, wife of L. R. Nelson. The body was shipped to Temecula, the family's former home.

## SUIT AGAINST SAN DIEGO.

By order of the Board of Supervisors of Imperial county, a suit has been instituted in the Superior Court of Los Angeles county on behalf of Imperial county against San Diego county to recover \$3,370 alleged to be due under the settlement or segregation of money collected for the year 1907, when Imperial county set up housekeeping on its own account.

## THE WEATHER.

Following is the record of weather in El Centro during the past week:

Date	Max.	Tem.	Min.	Hum.
9.....	70		47	24
10.....	72		42	29
11.....	72		42	28
12.....	71		42	18
13.....	74		50	34
14.....	78		56	32
15.....	76		51	30

## IMPERIAL VALLEY ORANGES

During the past two years the experiments conducted in orange growing in the Coachella and Imperial Valleys have been perhaps more closely watched by outside people than by those living in the valley. The results attained have been such that many people are getting ready to show that they are firmly convinced of both Coachella and Imperial Valleys being orange countries and have decided to back their faith by works—Fruit World.

## THE INNOCENT PURCHASER.

In the contest case of Louis N. Sanders against Orpha C. Johnson in the Los Angeles Land Office, decision has been rendered in favor of the contestant. According to the evidence, Johnson assigned to Gordon A. Dutcher, but prior to the assignment had not reclaimed the land. The contestee claimed he was an innocent purchaser. Gen. Prescott registers in his decision states that the department has been consistent in holding that the doctrine of bona fide purchasers is not applicable to one who purchases before patent is issued. It is held that such a purchaser must abide by the decision of the office and that he gets no better title than the vendor had originally.

## NUMBER EIGHT'S MEETING

The annual meeting of Water Company No. 8 took place at Brawley on Tuesday, and a board of directors for the ensuing year was elected as follows: D. S. Elder, president; H. B. Stewart, vice-president; E. J. Miller, Mr. Griner and Mr. Grinn. C. A. Frederick was re-elected secretary. Mr. Elder is the only member of last year's board re-elected. The stockholders voted on the proposition to amend the by-laws so that stockholders may hold one share for each irrigable acre of land held. The purpose of this amendment was to allow the service of water to persons who do not have water stock to cover their entire holdings. The amendment was defeated.

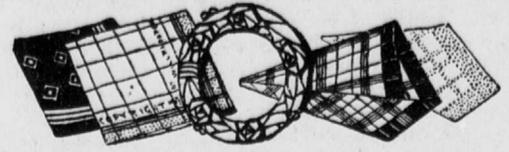


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