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CITY OF PROGRESS IS COUNTY SEAT

El Centro Chamber of Commerce as Advance Agent of Prosperity

Working With Enthusiasm and Good Judgment For the General Good—Old Debts Wiped Out and Provision Made For Effective Promotion and Publicity.

About fifty members of El Centro's reorganized Chamber of Commerce attended the regular monthly meeting of that body in the Palm Roof Garden Monday night. Reports made showed that substantial progress had been made in working out plans for civic welfare, and new projects were undertaken with the same spirit of helpful enthusiasm which has thus far made the Chamber a successful organization. The meeting was continued until after eleven o'clock, nearly all present contributing to make it both interesting and helpful.

The report of the secretary, which also included the report of the treasurer, showed that on the old accounts about six hundred dollars had been paid and expended. Less than two hundred dollars now represents the town's civic debts and that amount will be taken care of from subscriptions which are certain to be paid. The Chamber has on hand, as a fund available only for new work, about \$200, and since the meeting the secretary reports that he has met with splendid success in collecting the current month's dues.

With the old debts practically wiped out, a working fund ample for a considerable amount of advertising and a working organization composed of able men and enthusiastic workers, El Centro has a Chamber of Commerce which is bound to be a powerful factor in stimulating the big growth which everybody believes El Centro is going to have this winter.

Mr. Noland reported for the advertising committee that a leaflet describing the advantages of El Centro had been published for circulation with 5000 copies of the Desert Farmer, which were sent to Seattle, and that the committee was prepared to go ahead with an illustrated booklet as soon as such action should be authorized by the finance committee.

Mr. Reading, for the Civic Welfare Committee, reported that it had presented to the Board of Supervisors the matter of improvement of roads and that the Board had approved the proposal of extending Main street east, appointing the Chamber of Commerce Committee viewers of the proposed road. The report of the committee recommends that the present Main street in El Centro be extended east about three and a half miles and then north about one-half mile along the north side of the Holtan Inter-Urban railroad and then east toward Holtville. The committee remains in force and will continue its work to secure good roads leading into El Centro from all directions.

J. W. Colson reported that he had collected \$78 to defray the cost of getting the copies of the Desert Farmer, donated by Mr. Baker, to Seattle, that the cost was \$60 and that the balance of \$18 had been turned into the general fund; through representations made by Mr. Swing the Board of Supervisors had refunded the \$60 and upon motion of Mr. Swing this \$60 was appropriated as a fund to defray a part of the cost of an illustrated booklet.

The secretary was instructed to request the Southern Pacific Railroad Company to have the train crews cease from blockading Main street and also to ask the City Trustees to

continue Broadway across the railroad track.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Griswold it was voted to ask the city trustees to pass an ordinance prohibiting the storing of hay in large quantities within certain limits.

After a friendly discussion, participated in by several of the members, it was unanimously voted to call a mass meeting for Thursday night to discuss the voting of the proposed water bonds, and the city trustees were requested to postpone definite action until after that meeting.

It was voted to contribute \$5 a month for four months toward the support of the baseball team. A motion was also carried that the president and secretary of the Chamber of Commerce be authorized to sign a memorial to the President of Mexico asking that certain nuisances at Mexicali be abated.

NEW PRESBYTERIAN PASTOR

Rev. A. H. Croco, who has been pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Brawley for the past three years, and who was instrumental in securing the erection of a Presbyterian Church in El Centro, has resigned his Brawley pastorate and will become general Presbyterian missionary for Imperial valley. Rev. J. W. Millar has come to Brawley to assume the Presbyterian pastorate there.

MRS. PROUTY CLEARED

Mrs. F. L. Prouty, who was tried before Justice Nice, at Brawley, on Tuesday, for taking three shots at C. R. Wores when he attempted to enter the premises held by the Proutys, was acquitted of the charge against her, Justice Nice holding that she was justified in using the weapon in attempting to protect the property from invasion.

EUCALYPTUS SCHOOLS OPENS

The Eucalyptus school, west of El Centro, began its new year's work last Monday with an enrollment of twenty pupils. Mrs. Grace Potter is the teacher.

PLANNING BIG BARBECUE

Texas Society at Second Meeting Appoints Finance Committee to Gather Funds For Coming Reunion.

At last Saturday's meeting of the Texas Society, held in the City Hall at El Centro, the temporary organization effected at the initial meeting was made permanent. Walter O. Hamilton, of El Centro, is president; Robert G. Goree, of Imperial, is secretary, and John Keith, of Imperial, is treasurer.

A finance committee was appointed, and is composed of W. O. Hamilton, Robert C. Goree, W. R. Waldrop, Chas. D. Stephens and Mr. Robinson. This committee is to make its report at a meeting to be held at the City Hall in El Centro at 2 o'clock on the afternoon of September 25.

The Texans propose to give a general invitation to residents of Imperial Valley to join them in a big public barbecue. If it is practicable, they desire to set the date for this affair at the time of the opening of the lands in the Yuma Indian Reservation, so as to offer some special attraction to bring to this valley people who have gone to Yuma to be present at the land drawing.

RIVER LANDS DRAINED

The levee on the Imperial county side of the Colorado river in the Yuma Indian Reservation has been cut in order to drain from the low lands the accumulation of stagnant waters from the recent summer rains. The Reclamation Service has a force of Indians at work clearing off brush along the canal laterals.

COTTON PLANTERS TELL EXPERIENCES

Accidental Dry Farming Proves Successful Treatment of the Weed

Growers Organize and Make Arrangements For Employment of Mexican Pickers—Meloland Crop Sold in Advance at Twelve Cents a Pound—Better Prices Expected.

The latest step in the development of the cotton industry in Imperial Valley was effected last Saturday when sixty growers and others directly interested met at the Holt Opera House in this city and organized the Imperial Valley Cotton Growers' Association.

Joseph R. Loftus, president of the American Nile Cotton Company, and one of the most extensive cotton growers in the valley, was made president; and L. E. Srack was made secretary and treasurer.

A general exchange of experiences took place, and from all sections came the most encouraging reports.

Mr. Srack gave an interesting account of his accidental experiments in "dry farming" of cotton. He had a tract of twenty acres which was planted to cotton, but because of a shortage of water and a poor stand he abandoned about half of this tract. Notwithstanding this, the weeds continued to grow and grow, and without any but the first irrigating the bolls have set freely and are maturing. The other parts of his cotton field which were cultivated and regularly watered have made a remarkable growth, and taking the field as a whole it will run from thirty-six to 205 bolls to the plant.

Numerous other interesting experiences were related and it was thought that this first year's knowledge of the crop will be of such benefit that it was decided to secure from each grower a written statement of his experiences, and later these will be published in the form of a symposium for the benefit of prospective growers next season.

Mr. Loftus announced that he had disposed of his cotton grown on the Meloland ranch to the Oakland Cotton Mills Company for twelve cents per pound f. o. b. El Centro, and urged that not less than this rate be accepted by the growers of the valley, while predicting that a considerably better rate may be secured.

Samples of picking bags were shown and some of the old-time Texas cotton pickers gave illustrations as to their use. These bags are about three feet wide and seven feet long. They are carried suspended from a strap across the shoulder, and drag along on the ground, protected from wearing out by a canvas "flopper." The bags are made of canvas.

A committee was appointed to send to each of the cotton exchanges samples of Imperial Valley cotton, so that it may be given grading and rating.

A committee on securing labor was appointed, and it was reported that there will be no difficulty in securing all the labor needed, as many Mexican families, some of them experienced are ready to undertake the work, and should there be further demand, other Mexicans can be brought in from Texas cotton belts at short notice.

It was decided that eighty cents per 100 pounds shall be the standard price to be paid for picking.

A committee to investigate the cotton markets was appointed. This committee is to collect all available information and disseminate it to the valley growers, but is not to have direct charge of the selling.

The prediction was made from present indications that the cotton industry will receive such an impetus this

year that next season will bring about the planting of probably 20,000 acres. Many inquiries are being made by Southern cotton growers as to the Imperial Valley situation, and it is believed that the valley will receive a large influx of such growers.

It is probable that the cotton association will affiliate with the farmers' union and add strength to that body.

The next meeting of the association was set for Saturday, October 2, at the El Centro cotton gin, at which time a demonstration of ginning and compressing home-grown cotton will be given.

GREAT ASPARAGUS FIELD

V. Phalanx & Company are preparing to plant 240 acres of land near Rockwood to asparagus this fall. This will be the largest asparagus field in Imperial Valley.

WATER COMPANY A BORROWER

Water Company No. 5, through the action of its board of directors, has decided to secure a loan of \$7000 from the Citizens' Bank, of Holtville to assist it in carrying on improvements in the water district.

ORANGES LOOK WELL

E. E. Forrester has oranges on trees in his house yard that are almost full grown and that are sweet enough to eat. He believes that by the first of October he will have oranges which would be fit to send to market. He has only a few trees that are bearing, but has 200 young trees which have made a fine growth this season.

MANUFACTURING PLANT

Simons Company Preparing to Make Tiles and Grind Alfalfa at El Centro.

Within ninety days the Simons Brick Company will have its new industrial plant in El Centro in full operation. It will manufacture hollow tile for building purposes, brick, cement pipe, headgates, etc., and will operate an alfalfa meal mill of the latest pattern, with a capacity of three tons per hour.

E. O. Simons was in El Centro Tuesday, closing details for the purchase of the site, and secured from I. A. Morgan a tract of fifteen acres of land, located along the east side of the Southern Pacific railroad, just south of the city limits.

A side track approximately one-half mile in length will be laid to give the new concern ample switching facilities.

Work on the new site is to begin immediately, and the machinery will arrive as speedily as possible. Several expert workmen with their families will remove to El Centro from Los Angeles, to take positions as heads of departments, and considerable local labor will be employed.

Mr. Simons brought to El Centro samples of hollow tile made at the Los Angeles plant from clay taken from the site selected here, and he pronounces it superior to the product turned out from the Los Angeles material, and of the best quality he has seen. A hole twenty feet in depth was sunk on the land, and from this the tile-making material was secured. It is inexhaustible.

Mr. Simons also brought samples of the tinted glazing, which can be applied to any of this material for outside finish. Any desired colors may be applied, thus giving a wide variety in the style of buildings which may be erected with the material.

It is the purpose of this concern to sell building material to ranchers and owners of town property on such terms as will allow almost anyone to erect a comfortable home, giving long time on payments, and this doubtless will be the means of bringing about a great increase in building.

VALLEY TOWNS UNITE TO HOLD COUNTY FAIR

Permanent Site for an Annual Show Will Be Secured During This Fall

Generous Offer By I. L. Wilson of Ten Acres Between Imperial and El Centro—Second Week in December the Time Fixed—County Meeting to Work Out Details.

The Imperial County Fair will be held at El Centro, December 8, 9, 10 and 11.

A meeting of directors of the Fair Association and several others representing various sections of the valley, was held at Imperial on Wednesday, to start the movement for this year's fair, and the results give promise of an affairs that will be of credit to the Imperial Valley.

Calexico, Heber, El Centro and Imperial were represented in this meeting. It was decided that permanent grounds must be secured, and while it is not likely that this can be accomplished in time for the winter's fair, by another season the permanent location will be improved. The grounds at El Centro, used last season, will be used again this year.

A committee composed of E. H. Sherman, George Reed and E. E. Forrester was appointed to investigate the matter of permanent fair grounds. I. L. Wilson offered to donate a tract of ten acres lying about midway between Imperial and El Centro, and reaching from Imperial avenue to the Date canal, and it is probable that this offer will be accepted.

Charles Fernald and E. H. Sherman were made a committee on the issuing of a premium list, and the second week in December was decided upon as the proper time for holding the fair.

Within a short time a county mass meeting will be called, to be held at Imperial, at which time further committees will be appointed and many details for the coming fair will be arranged.

VALLEY EXPERIMENT STATION

Mass Meeting in El Centro Next Saturday to Discuss Plans For Using State Appropriation.

Prof. E. J. Wickson, Dean of Agriculture of the University of California, will be in Imperial Valley Saturday, September 25th. It is his desire to meet the farmers of the valley for the purpose of talking over the most helpful ways of applying the appropriation made by the State Legislature for agricultural experiments in Imperial County. We, therefore, cordially invite all ranchers and others interested to meet at the city hall at El Centro, Saturday, September 25th, at 10 A. M.

Board of Trustees of Heber Collegiate Institute

PLAINTIFF GETS DECISION

In the case of Blodgett vs. Scott, the decision of the Superior Court of this county was affirmed by the district court of appeals, at Los Angeles. This was one of the first land contests to be tried in this county, and created considerable interest at the time. The jury gave a decision for the plaintiff in the lower court and the action of the court of appeals confirms the land to Blodgett. John M. Eshleman, of El Centro, and Geo. H. P. Shaw, were attorneys for the plaintiff.