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SENATE COMMITTEE PROMISES RELIEF

Visiting Statesmen Discuss Problems of Reclamation With Valley Settlers

Senator Carter Applauds Protest Against Land Office Practices and Senator Jones Says Valley Does Not Need Reclamation Service—Director Newell Willing to Aid.

Senator Thomas H. Carter, of Montana; Senator F. E. Warren, of Wyoming, and Senator W. L. Jones, of Washington, have assured the settlers of Imperial Valley that they will do what they can to expedite the settlement of all questions of title and to procure such modifications of the land laws and practices of the Land Office as may be required to protect the bona fide reclaimer of desert land from harassment and blackmail. The assurance was given in public speeches and private conversation last Saturday night at a reception given to the visiting statesmen in the Oregon Hotel at El Centro. Senator Carter is chairman and the others are members of the Senate Committee on Irrigation, and they have the power to make their promises good.

Senator Carter took for a text the following declaration, printed upon a card and presented to each guest by the El Centro Chamber of Commerce:

"The settlers of Imperial Valley ask from the Government only clear title to the lands they have reclaimed from the desert, which connotes protection against frivolous and speculative contesters. They find that the existing land laws offer premiums on perjury, theft and blackmail. They think the cases affecting land titles and claims in this region should be tried by a court or a commissioner in this county, and not by a clerk in Los Angeles. They look to Congress for a square deal, and are confident that it will be given to them when the people's representatives in Washington become acquainted with existing conditions."

The senator began by saying what everybody says first,—that the Imperial Valley is a revelation of undreamed possibilities of reclamation—and he paid the usual compliments to the people on their energy and enterprise in tackling a region "dedicated to desolation through the ages." He left the impression, without definitely committing himself, that he regarded favorably the proposal that the government supplement the work already done by constructing a high line canal, and he put himself on record as opposed to the taxation of possessory rights that may be taken away from the settler on technicalities. The government, he said was "hypercritical, over-exacting and unjust in its treatment of settlers on the frontier" and he was glad to find the people of Imperial Valley willing and ready to protest against the injustice of being subjected to needless delays and hardships. The system of the land department, he asserted, was inherently wrong and was born of the theory that every man seeking to acquire a piece of land was a scoundrel per se. In conclusion, Senator Carter said: "Your people should have their titles, and that without delay."

Senator Warren also promised assistance in correcting defects in the land laws and said the people of the valley could appeal to him and his colleagues as to their own representatives. He said he had tried and would continue his efforts to procure modifications of land office practice and amendments to land laws compelling contestors of claims to give bonds for the costs of proceedings and the expenses of contestees.

There was nothing equivocal about Senator Jones' remarks on the proposal that the Reclamation Service take over the valley canal system. He said: "I find that in most places where the government has charge of reclamation work, the people wish it hadn't. There is no necessity for the government taking charge of irrigation here."

W. F. Holt told the senators that the valley may need some government aid in solving the problem of control of the Colorado river and irrigation of the whole delta. He quoted

ed eminent authorities on land values, who had estimated the future value of the delta, under a comprehensive system of irrigation, at \$350,000,000, and said he believed he could see even greater possibilities without overworking an optimistic temperament. The present actual value of \$30,000,000 had been created out of nothing in ten years, and this year the valley would send \$3,000,000 worth of products to market. It was plain to all that not one tenth of the productive capacity of the delta region had been developed.

Director Newell, of the Reclamation Service, said in part:

"There seems to be some fear that the government is going to ram the Laguna dam down your throats, but there is no ground for such a suspicion. The government is not a knight-errant, going about looking for someone to be aided in spite of himself. The Reclamation Service was asked to determine the possibility of building a canal from the dam into the valley. Such a canal is possible, but it will be expensive and you must decide whether or not you want to build it. Nobody is going to build it for you. If we can be of service and you want our aid, we shall be glad to cooperate. You are the judges and you pay the bill. The question of how the canal system shall pass into the hands of the people is one that remains to be solved. I hold that the land served must own the canals eventually."

The senators came into the valley by way of the heading over the line of the Inter-California railway and saw the main features of the irrigation system. Their special train ran from Calexico to Brawley and back to El Centro by daylight, and they went to Holtville by motor and saw where the cities of the valley get their light and power. At the Hotel Oregon they met many citizens of the county and pumped information out of them, and in the evening they were the guests of W. F. Holt at dinner. They intended to go to Imperial after dinner, and the speaking was cut short to enable them to start early, but their train could not be moved until after midnight and they were averse to facing a chill wind in automobiles. The senators said they were too tired to make the trip, and they turned in early and went on their way as soon as the law permitted the train crew to work.

Accompanying the senators were: F. H. Newell, D. D. Henney and L. W. Hill, of the Reclamation Service; C. S. Fee, N. R. Martin and H. W. Smith, of the Southern Pacific; W. F. Holt, a reporter of the Chicago Record-Herald, an official reporter and an assistant sergeant-at-arms.

DEMONSTRATION TRAIN

Project Under Way For Sending Out Through Southern Cotton Belt Car of Valley Products.

One of the most interesting projects for publicity discussed at the meeting of the Imperial County Chamber of Commerce, last Wednesday, was that of sending out through the cotton belt of the South a car fitted up with a display of cotton and other Imperial Valley products, in charge of two attendants, who will be able to give interesting talks on the valley and its resources and opportunities.

It is believed that a campaign of this kind during the ensuing three months would bring a great tide of immigration to Imperial Valley, and especially would bring the experienced cotton planters of the South to engage in the new industry here.

It is said that the Southern Pacific Company has indicated its willingness to assume the burden of transportation if the valley Chamber of Commerce will fit up the car and furnish the proper attendants.

The project was considered so favorably by members of the Chamber of Commerce that George A. Carter its president, was made a committee to investigate and determine a definite plan of action.

HAND CRUSHED

Forest Frye, a brakebeam tourist, had his hand crushed between the bumpers of freight cars at a point on the main line of the Southern Pacific in Imperial county, the first of this week. He was taken to Yuma for surgical attention, and Imperial county will foot the bill.

GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA'S VISIT TO IMPERIAL VALLEY

Comes With Carloads of Capital and Conservative Energy to Aid in the Development of the American Nile and Recognizes Wondrous Possibilities of the State's Youngest County. Three Million Dollar Company to Begin Operations Below the Line Under W. F. Holt's Management.

A carload of capital and constructive energy came into Imperial Valley this week and got as busy as a dynamo in a power house. W. F. Holt brought the load in his private car "Francisca". There were really two carloads, an extra Pullman being coupled to the "Francisca" to carry the overflow. The cargo consisted of the Governor of California and stockholders of the Inter-California Land Company, representing a capital of \$3,200,000 invested in a project to develop and colonize 32,000 acres of rich delta land just over the Mexican boundary in the domain of the C-M Company.

The syndicate was organized by that human dynamo, Gen. M. H. Sherman of Los Angeles, and the members made it a condition of investment that the affairs of the company should be managed by the "Little Giant of Imperial Valley", W. F. Holt. Mr. Holt, therefore, is president and general manager of the company. It is the purpose of the company to establish a town on the line of the railroad, probably at or near Cocopah station, and to reclaim and put into cultivation the entire tract of 32,000 acres. The land is all under the main canal of the valley irrigation system and has water rights by virtue of the terms of the Mexican concession to the C. D. Co. The company probably will put in cotton, sugar cane and beets and other crops on a large scale and establish various industries, but the details of its operations have not been worked out yet.

The visitor arrived at the California-Mexico ranch near Calexico on Tuesday and were entertained hospitably by Manager Bowker. They inspected the lands below the line during the day and had a feast of the good things of the valley at the hacienda in the evening. Wednesday morning the party came to El Centro, and made a trip to Holtville, where the Governor was received by a large delegation of citizens and all the school children of the city at the station. Governor Gillett talked to the children and made friends of all the kids in Holtville. After inspection of the power plant, the visitors returned to El Centro where another delegation of school children and citizens met the Governor at the station. The Governor climbed upon a baggage truck and made another little speech to the youngsters, and then shook hands with all of them and talked with them as if he were the big, jolly uncle of every kid in the bunch.

An informal, free-for-all reception was held in the lobby of the Oregon, and at noon the visitors and a few El Centrians were the guests of Gen. Sherman at dinner. There was no formal speech-making at the dinner, but there was much talk about cotton, the visitors having an unquenchable thirst for information on that subject. After dinner the visitors were driven out to cotton plantations and to ranches where they could see the products of the valley.

At 2:30 a public reception to the Governor was held in the opera house; at 6 p. m. the party dined at the Oregon, and at 7:40 the carloads of capital, enterprise and good-fellowship were coupled to the northbound train and were whisked out of the valley.

J. Stanley Brown acted as chairman of the meeting at the Opera House and after some songs by the school children and music by the De-Legro Orchestra Governor Gillett was introduced by Mr. Brown and was enthusiastically received by the audience.

The Governor said:

Gov. Gillett's Speech

"I cannot convey to you the great pleasure I have experienced in the last two days, in going over this new section of the State and ob-

servating what the people are doing here in the way of development and improvement.

"When I was a school boy, studying geography of the United States, this section was marked on the map in large letters, 'THE GREAT AMERICAN DESERT,' and we were taught that life could not exist here below sea level. Everything that made life miserable was found here. My children and children's children, when they study their geographies, will find in place of the desert the great flower garden of America.

"I can look forward and see what this country is coming to. It is the most talked of region in the United States today. Everywhere people are talking of Imperial Valley. In Sacramento, San Francisco and Los Angeles, and in the smaller places, you will hear the question asked: 'Have you seen Imperial Valley?'

"This is a remarkable country, and it is certain that it is to be one of the best cotton-growing districts in American. Nature has given to you here the soil, perpetual sunshine and an abundance of water to raise the crops that are necessary for civilization. It has been said, and history teaches that it is true, that mud and civilization go together.

"There are a great many things, I think, that the State ought to do for you. It should help you to work out the problems of agriculture and I think that the State of California should come right down to the heart of this valley and establish an experimental station that will help all of you. We have one in Riverside, and they are established in a few other counties, and as soon as I get back to the northern part of the State I shall make it my business to go before the Regents of the State University, over which I have the honor to preside, and tell them to get busy in this section.

"I came here for the purpose of getting acquainted with you, and to see if I could learn something of this great section of the State. I did not expect to find a valley of this kind; I have been wonderfully surprised at its material advancement and development. I have been in all the valleys of California, and over most all of the United States, and I have never found a valley of the size of Imperial Valley that has so much fertile soil and such great possibilities for development.

"This is no longer the Great American Desert, but it is going to be, and is rapidly becoming one of the richest sections of the State of California.

"There is no other State in the Union that can compare with the State of California, and Imperial Valley will not stand second to any other section of this magnificent State."

Governor Gillett closed his address with a beautiful tribute to California, with its wonderfully varied stretch of seaboard and inland, its favorable climatic conditions and its wonderfully productive power, and to the high class of its citizenship.

General Chaffee Talks

Lieut. Gen. Adna R. Chaffee spoke briefly, telling of his surprise at the remarkable development of Imperial valley, although he has been more or less in touch with it for the past four years. He said:

"I was in this valley two years ago, and at that time I marveled at what had been accomplished within such a short stretch of years. My surprise has been heightened by this visit. Everywhere we have been we have found great progress since the former visit; wide stretches of land have been brought under a high state of cultivation, and material prosperity is to be seen on all sides. Your ranches have made wonderful development and your towns have grown in proportion. Here in El Centro two years ago I saw that the

foundation had been laid for a fine city. I note that you are fulfilling your destiny and that this young city is forging ahead with great strides.

"I believe that you have yet many avenues for advancement, and one of the chief of these at present is the cattle industry. The time should soon come when you will produce here a great stock industry, and the cotton industry, just established, is to be an important factor to this end. Like the Governor, I am deeply impressed with the future importance of this great valley, destined to become one of the richest parts of our State."

Members of the party were: Gov. J. N. Gillett, Lieut.-Gen. Adna R. Chaffee, member of the Los Angeles Aqueduct Commission; Gen. M. H. Sherman, of the Los Angeles-Pacific Railroad Company; Maj. John R. Norton, capitalist of Los Angeles; Alfred Holman, of the San Francisco Argonaut; Harry Chandler, business manager of the Los Angeles Times; W. W. Wilcox and Dan Johnstone, of Colton; W. F. Holt, George I. Cochran, of the Pacific Mutual Insurance Company; Wm. M. Bowen, former president of the Los Angeles City Council; H. J. Whitley, founder of Hollywood, and one of the most widely known town and colony promoters in the West; Ross Whitley, son of H. J. Whitley; O. T. Johnson, capitalist and owner of the Westminster Hotel, Los Angeles; R. P. Davie, sugar beet manufacturer; George W. Scott, capitalist, of San Francisco; W. H. Davis, C. L. Langmuir, Wm. McBean and J. R. McKinnie, of Los Angeles.

NOTABLE REALTY DEAL

Bothwell Ranch Passes Into Possession of D. A. Crawford—Big Portion to Be Planted to Cotton.

One of the most notable realty deals of the season was closed last week, when D. A. Crawford became the possessor of the 1200 acres heretofore held by George W. Bothwell. The land lies northeast of Brawley.

The consideration was \$90,000, part of which is taken in trade, the Bothwell interests taking in exchange for the valley land a sixty-acre tract near Ontario, set to oranges.

The entire valley ranch is under cultivation and well improved. It has been rented to T. W. Doddell and J. C. Milner, who next season will place five hundred acres of it in cotton. They will sow 1000 acres to barley this fall.

MUST NOT DIVERT WATER

Directors of Number Five Adopt Resolution Regarding Abuses of Rights in That District.

At the last meeting of the directors of Water Company No. 5, held at Holtville, a resolution was adopted which provides that it is a breach of duty by any stockholder to whom water is delivered through this company for use upon land on which water stock is located to willfully divert any part of this water upon other lands on which no water stock has been located.

The directors provided that such breach subjects the person committing it to summons for a hearing before the board, and if the board determines such a breach has been committed it shall assess the person so offending \$5 for the first offense and \$25 for each subsequent offense. The determination of the board of directors shall be conclusive upon the corporation and stockholders. Further deliveries of water to the offending stockholders are to be denied until the assessment is paid.

The board adopted the following resolution: "Resolved, That this company hereby agree to pay its proportional share of the cost of defending any suit brought by the California Development Company against Water Companies Nos. 1, 4, 5, 7 and 8, to collect the ten per cent allowance of gross deliveries agreed upon by said companies, and we endorse the employment of Judge Farr as a salary of \$100 per quarter as special counsel for seepage and evaporation commission."

W. T. Bill is down from Redlands this week, looking after property interests. He will remain in El Centro until Tuesday.

PRICE OF COTTON ADVANCES HALF CENT

Third Carload Ready for Shipment From El Centro to Oakland Mills

Prospects of at Least Twenty Thousand Acres of Cotton Plantation in the Valley Next Year—Companies Organized to Handle Large Tracts—Los Angeles Wants Cotton.

El Centro's particular show place these days is the gin and compress of the American Nile Cotton Company, located directly east of the Southern Pacific railroad, a short way from the passenger station. Not a day passes but that strangers in the valley find their way to this point of attraction, and to many the workings of a modern cotton gin are a revelation.

The wagons loaded with their fleecy burdens drive into the passageway between the gin house and the storage sheds, and over the load is swung a metal pipe fourteen inches in diameter. Suction carries the cotton from the wagon, into this pipe and delivers it to the gin, where the stands of saws pull the lint from the seed. The lint is elevated to the second floor, where it is delivered into the compress, while the seed falls from the gin into a trough with an endless screw and is carried to a chute that delivers it to the storage bins.

One hundred and twenty-three bales of cotton had been ginned at the El Centro mill up to noon yesterday. Two carloads had been sent out to the Oakland Cotton Mills, and another carload is about ready for shipment. Many bales have been hauled out for temporary storage at the ranches.

At the Meloland ranch Joseph R. Loftus has a gang of thirty-five cotton pickers in the fields. Two carloads of the seed cotton per week are sent in from this ranch to the gin, over the Holtton Inter-Urban Railroad.

At the Wilsie ranch, the McClanahan and Walsh fields are presenting busy scenes, and almost daily the loads of cotton from this ranch pass through the main street of El Centro on the way to the gin. Other ranchers in this vicinity are picking their crops as rapidly as possible.

L. E. Snack, secretary of the Imperial Valley Cotton Growers' Association, yesterday received from a Los Angeles firm and order for two carloads of cotton. The price offered was thirteen and a half cents per pound. This is the price offered at present by the Oakland Cotton Mills.

The prospect for next season's acreage continues to expand daily. It is now known that next season a large planting of cotton seed will be made in the lands south of the international border, which are held by a strong syndicate of Southern California capitalists. Brawley has organized a cotton company, and those interested therein state that fully 1000 acres of cotton will be planted in the immediate vicinity of that town. Calexico will have a large acreage. Holtville will doubtless stand next to El Centro in the area devoted to this crop, and from all parts of the valley come reports of land to be placed in cotton next spring. While there is no definite way to determine the exact acreage of the next season's crop at this stage, it now appears probable it will reach fully 20,000 acres.

TEST OF THE SPITE ORDINANCE

Arthur Lindley, driver for a local livery stable, was arrested by City Marshal Bradford, Thursday evening while hauling a load of four barrels, alleged to be beer, through the streets of El Centro, on the way for delivery at the Preston & Gibson pool hall. The hearing will be before City Recorder F. G. Havens Monday forenoon. The ordinance alleged to have been violated is notoriously invalid, having been passed by only two trustees to "get even" on the city for the breaking up of an illicit bar conducted by themselves and the then attorney for the city, and it remains to be seen whether the arrest was made for the purpose of getting the ordinance tested in court or in pursuance of another job of the disgruntled Buzzard's Roost statesmen.