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IMPERIAL COUNTY'S ANNUAL FAIR

EXHIBITION OF PRODUCTS AND STOCK AND FIVE DAYS OF INTERESTING RACING PROVIDED BY DIRECTORS

Lack of State Aid This Year Cuts Down Premium List for Exhibitors and Prevents Adequate Representation of Agricultural Interests. Cotton, Oranges and Small Fruits and Flowers Attract Attention. Large Attendance.

Imperial county's third annual fair, the first held under the management of the regularly organized District Association, opened in El Centro last Tuesday and will close tonight. No State aid was available this year and therefore the expense of putting the grounds in shape, erecting buildings and constructing the race track was met by private subscription and gate receipts and but little money was available for premiums. Next year the district will have State aid and a substantial premium fund.

The directors have put up an exhibition building and stock sheds, built a half mile track that is said to be one of the best in the Southwest and established the association upon a basis that should make the annual fair of Imperial county a big event in the future.

Judged by attendance, gate receipts and interest in the races, this year's fair is a success. The receipts on the opening day were about \$200; on the second day \$500, and on Thursday \$750, and a much larger attendance is expected today. Because of the lack of funds for attractive premiums for general exhibits, the show of farm products does not do full justice to Imperial county and the race feature of the fair seems to be over-emphasized, but the races have attracted horsemen from all parts of the Southwest and have been very interesting. An excellent program of harness and running races has been carried out every afternoon, and a baseball game and automobile and motorcycle races have added to the attractions of the fair.

Excursions from Los Angeles, San Diego, San Bernardino and other cities of Southern California were promised, but no organized parties arrived, although there were many visitors from the Coast and from Arizona.

THE EXHIBITS.

While the citrus fruit exhibit is not extensive, it shows high quality. Washington navel, highly colored and with clear thin skins are shown from various valley ranches. One fine exhibit is shown from two-year-old trees. Villa Franca and Eureka lemons, as fine as can be found in the old citrus fruit districts have a prominent place, and mammoth lemons, grown on El Centro townsite by Earl Hartzler, attract much attention. Smooth-skinned and deeply colored tangerines also make a fine display.

Fine ripe strawberries grown on the town property of Mrs. Mary Bower are shown, and strawberry plants with berries on them form a novel feature of this exhibit. Mrs. Bower is also exhibiting fine specimens of Luther Burbank's wonderberry.

In the floral department chrysanthemums of gorgeous coloring and roses of many varieties show what the valley can do in floriculture. Earl Hartzler, El Centro, has kept a daily supply of almost perfect roses on exhibit and chrysanthemums have come from various valley towns.

Imperial county cereals present a goodly array. Some genius has created a mammoth head of Milo maize that would scarcely go into a half-bushel measure, and around it are grouped fine displays of maize, Egyptian and Kaffir corn.

The place of honor in the main exhibition hall is accorded to a cotton display. The booth has a base of the cotton lint, crowned by a frieze of cotton blossoms, bolls and foliage. Within the booth are displayed manufactured products from Imperial Valley cotton and views of the California Cotton Mills, which plan to use the valley product almost exclusively hereafter.

Cotton varieties are also exhibited at the east end of the exhibition hall, where fine specimens of the Egyptian

varieties and the Georgia and Texas upland varieties show what this valley can produce under the best conditions.

Fourteen public schools of Imperial county have entered their school work for exhibition, and their displays attract much attention. They represent school work in all grades, from the primary department to the last year of high school. In this display the Brawley High School has added a novelty by introducing a hive of bees and illustrations of its practical work in apiculture.

The household exhibit has the usual array of fancy work, baking, preserves, canned fruits and jellies, and is under the auspices of the Women's Federated Clubs of Imperial valley.

Various business houses are making creditable exhibits in special booths, and the Simons Brick Company has a fine display of its products manufactured at El Centro.

At the stock pens, Poland-China and Duroc-Jersey hogs make a good showing; then there are prize goats and sheep, Shetland ponies, colts with their dams, some handsome stallions and jacks. The poultry exhibit, while not extensive, is fine, and includes geese, ducks, turkeys and chickens of several varieties.

The implement displays are better than any heretofore shown, and the valley implement firms deserve great credit for their enterprise. One of the most notable of these exhibits is that of Edgar Brothers, who have an immense circular tent covering a mass of farm and household machinery all run by gasoline engines. Even the baby's cradle is rocked by machinery, and the lady of the house announces that engines work at her house while she "sits around all day." Other implement displays are equally meritorious and constantly attract the attention of visitors.

This year the fair has a "Midway"—an innovation here. The usual round of refreshment stands, side shows, fakir's stands, etc., make up a street and give a lively air to that section of the grounds.

DATES DOING WELL

Arboriculturist Drummond, of Mecca and Indio Station, Well Pleased With Showing Made in Fruit Culture This Season.

Bruce Drummond, arboriculturist in charge of the United States experimental date gardens at Mecca and Indio, will visit Imperial valley during the ensuing week to make an inspection of some of the date plantations here and to introduce the government method of spraying date trees with carbon bisulphate solution to destroy the Marlat scale. This scale has been discovered on date trees of the Southwest during the past year, and steps will be taken at once to thoroughly eradicate it. At first a process of searing the affected parts of the trees with gasoline torch was used, but the solution spray has been found much more effective.

Mr. Drummond is well pleased with the progress made at the Mecca gardens this year. He has had many varieties of dates in bearing, and the general interest this has awakened is shown by the fact that since the first of September more than 700 visitors have inspected the Mecca gardens.

His experience has been that the Deglet Noor variety of dates matures better than any other in this climate; and he has been curing dates in an egg incubator with fine success. At present he is transferring all the well

matured fruit to the Indio station, where it will be cured and placed in boxes for exhibition. A box of this fruit will soon be on exhibition at the Imperial Valley Press office.

Mr. Drummond states that extensive date planting has taken place in the Coachella valley during the present year, and he believes that the industry eventually will grow to one of the large propositions, but he deprecates any attempt at the present stage of experimental work to exploit the enterprise on extensive commercial lines.

WATER ORGANIZATION

Attorneys Not Ready to Report On Legal Questions Involved.

The five attorneys engaged by the mutual water companies to examine the Bridgford Act and present opinions on the legal questions involved in the organization of an irrigation district or the formation of a company to take the place of the C. D. Co. and the mutuals in the management of canals in Imperial valley are not yet ready to report. They are expected to hold a consultation in El Centro some time next week and to come to an agreement.

John M. Eshleman is the only one who has prepared an opinion on the law points in the matter, and he has been ready for some weeks to present his opinion, in which Mr. Haines concurs. The others have prepared memoranda and "confidential" discussions of the various plans of organization proposed, but have not given the legal basis for such conclusions as they may have reached. Some of them appear to have assumed that they were employed to tell the water-users what to do and to determine the question of organization for the people of Imperial county, but unless they come to an agreement as to what the law is and what difficulties are to be encountered in the organization of a district or a stock company, their work will not go far toward solution of the problem of management of the canal system.

PLEA FOR LENIENCY

Petty's Attorney Circulates Petition for Probation of Shooter.

The attorney for Petty, the man who shot a stranger in the back and was convicted of assault with a deadly weapon and sentenced to 18 months imprisonment, has been circulating a petition asking Judge Cole to put Petty on probation. The evidence in the case showed that Petty was beating and kicking a man much smaller than himself, and when the stranger, named Wismer, expostulated with him, he took from the hands of his wife a revolver that she had brought from the section house and fired two shots at Wismer. Wismer was running away when the second shot hit him in the back and passed through his body. Petty's plea was self defense. Several citizens have been hard-hearted enough to decline to discredit the judgment of the court by signing the petition for leniency.

ELECTION CONTEST SUIT FILED.

Robert Wills has filed suit against Willis Beal to contest the declared result of the election of County Supervisor in the Fourth District. The Grand Jury has been in session this week, considering the alleged changes made in the tally sheet in the Brawley Outside Precinct, which on its face showed Wills ahead of Beal in the tally of ballots.

EPISCOPAL BAZAAR.

The Ladies' Guild of St. Paul's Episcopal Mission will hold a Christmas bazaar this Saturday afternoon and evening in the building occupied by the El Centro Transfer Company, on Main street, next to Solomon & Company's store. Many useful and fancy articles will be offered for sale and the ladies will serve sandwiches and coffee.

TEACHERS' INSTITUTE.

The Imperial County Teachers' Institute will be held in Los Angeles, in conjunction with the Southern California Teachers' Association, beginning next Monday and continuing one week. All county teachers must attend this institute.

UNION HIGH SCHOOL PLANS FOR BUILDINGS

Need For Better Accommodations Explained by Educators and Trustees

Submission of Proposal to Issue Bonds Urged As Early Step Toward Adequate Provision for Future. Expenditures On Old Building Would Meet Interest Charges On Bonds.

An interesting affair in educational circles was the reception given last Saturday evening at the Central High School building to parents and patrons of the Union High School district. The event attracted a considerable number of people, and the object was to bring them in closer touch with the work being done by this school.

Members of the student body acted as a reception committee and showed visitors through the rooms, after which a musical program was rendered, including solos by Misses Inez Collier and Jessie Jones and selections by the school chorus. Addresses were made by M. W. Conkling, president of the board of trustees; R. H. Clark and Prof. B. C. Nichols, principal of the school.

These men urged the necessity of starting a movement toward securing a bond issue which will enable Central Union High School district to erect suitable buildings, as a matter of economy and a means for increasing the advantages of the school.

Prof. Nichols, who has given the matter much attention, stated that the growth of the elementary and high schools here demands that provision be made for new high school quarters that may be ready for use two years from this fall, and that it is none too soon to take the preliminary steps for this end. He stated that while the building now used by the high school has all its space occupied by the school work, it has been far from satisfactory; the use of porch rooms has been necessary and these are very hot during a portion of the term, further expansion of the course of study is impossible in these quarters, and the outlay of money on temporary equipment and repairs is sufficient to pay interest on a good-sized bond issue for a new building.

Last year an outlay of \$2500 was necessary; this year the expenditure will be fully \$3000, whereas \$3750 would pay five per cent interest on a bond issue of \$75,000, and the community would have the benefit of a first-class building and equipment.

Prof. Nichols last summer made a thorough investigation of high school architecture in Southern California, and he proposes that the Central Union High School district adopt a plan for a group of buildings on the mission type of architecture, to be connected with arcades and so planned that buildings may be added as needed without marring the symmetry of the whole design.

Mr. Clark also advocated the purchase of a tract of eight acres in addition to the nine-acre tract now held by the district as a school site. He urged this so that courses in practical agriculture might be introduced.

After the addresses there was a general discussion and a resolution was adopted to the effect that it was the sentiment of school patrons present that the matter of issuing \$75,000 bonds for high school purposes be submitted to a vote of the people early in the spring, so that the various steps might be taken and the contract for a building awarded next fall. This would prepare the way for the use of the new building one year from next fall.

CHANGE OF TRAIN TIME.

The through train from Los Angeles, which has been leaving Los Angeles at 7 p.m. and arriving at El Centro at 5:15 a.m., now leaves at 10 p.m. and arrives here at 7:25 a.m. Train No. 8 now runs through to New Orleans, passing Imperial Junction at 5:30 a.m. No. 2 leaves the junction at 9:08 p.m., eastbound, making close connection with the night train north on the valley branch. No. 9, westbound, now leaves Yuma at 4:05 a.m., passing the junction at 5:55 a.m. and making connection with the early morning train

southbound on the valley branch. The Golden State Limited passes the junction at 3:58 p.m. and No. 10 at 7:55 p.m.

JOCKEY'S LEGS BROKEN.

One of the running horses bolted from the track at the fair grounds Thursday morning and threw its rider, Ed. Morfor, against a fence. Both of the boy's legs were broken. Morfor was taken to the Central Hospital, where Dr. McCombs attended to him and found that he had sustained no other serious injuries. In the afternoon a collection for the benefit of the injured jockey was taken at the fair ground, and the visitors chipped in \$87. Morfor was riding for A. C. Dominguez.

COUNTY TAX COLLECTIONS.

The total amount of taxes collected in Imperial county during the period for paying the first installment was \$128,114.46. Tax Collector Cook has closed his books and they are now in the hands of the county auditor. Mr. Cook will spend three weeks visiting county seat towns of Southern California, to study the methods used in the various offices of the county clerks, and to familiarize himself with the best methods to be adopted when he takes his new position of county clerk for Imperial county next month.

COTTON CROP NEWS

Reports of Ginners and Shippers for the Week and Season.

Up to last Thursday night, 2,507 bales of cotton had been ginned by the Imperial Valley Oil and Cotton Company. Three carloads of fifty bales each were shipped this week by Mr. Chappell to the mills at Oakland, and two more carloads from Brawley and Holtville are to be shipped as soon as the cars are loaded.

The price this week has ranged from 13.60 to 13.75 for higher grades and from 13 to 13.50 for poorer grades.

The J. R. Loftus Company reports a sale of 100 bales of selected cotton to Mr. Kimura, a Japanese buyer at higher prices.

The picking season is about half over, and it may be assumed that almost half of the crop has been gathered, although all that has been picked has not been taken to the gins yet. The indications are that the total crop will not exceed 8,000 bales and may even fall to 7,000 bales. Acreage estimates have been too high.

DREDGE FOR THE ALAMO

Mutual Companies Contract for Building of Hydraulic Machine.

The contract for building and delivering at Andrade a hydraulic dredge for use in the Alamo channel has been awarded by a joint committee of the mutual water companies to the North American Dredge Co., of Los Angeles, on a bid of \$57,300. Other bidders were Rison Iron Works of San Francisco, \$63,000; United Iron Works of Oakland, \$64,770; Browning Manufacturing Company of Cleveland, \$59,000.

The machine will be leased to and operated by the receiver of the California Development Company, and will be used to clear the channel below the headgate to permit the free flow of as much water as the Alamo can carry. The old dredge, now at work above the gate, will be kept in operation to remove silt from the intake.

Restoration of the river to its old bed by the government work will prevent further lowering of the bottom of the channel opposite the intake by recession, and may raise the bottom at low-water stage. The dredges will keep the intake and the canal clear of bars, and so avert an acute shortage of water.

The Alamo can carry not more than 1,800 second feet, and that will be the limit of next season's supply. The delivery at Sharp's cannot be much more than the equivalent of 2,500 acre feet in twenty-four hours.

PRESBYTERIAN SERVICES.

Rev. A. W. Williams, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, will preach tomorrow at 11 o'clock on "Conscience, Its Nature and Power." His evening subject, at 7:30 o'clock, will be "Eli Jah's Test at Mount Carmel." The pastor, on next Wednesday afternoon, will entertain the ladies of the Church Guild and the congregation at the parsonage.

CONTRACTORS BEGIN WORK ON COLORADO

Bowker First to Move Outfit to Front in Mexico and Grading Progresses

Col. Ockerson Lets Contracts for Levee by Sections to Three Firms, and Dirt Is Being Moved All Along the Line. Thousands of Men Employed.

Formal notice was given last Friday by Col. Ockerson that the work of grading the railway from Andrade to the Abejos break of the Colorado had been assigned to W. K. Bowker on force account, and on Sunday morning Bowker had his outfit at work with 500 head of stock. Col. Ockerson is acting under power of attorney from the Colorado River Land Co., a Mexican corporation holding most of the land on the delta, which ostensibly is doing the work authorized by President Taft. The United States is not a party to any contract for work in Mexico, but of course there is a "gentlemen's agreement" between Uncle Sam and Harry Chandler.

An official communication from the office of the engineer at Yuma to the Press, under date of Dec. 12, stated that

"The following awards for levee work have been made by the Colorado River Land Company, S. A.

"J. A. Maxey, first nine miles, 425,000 cubic yards, at from 19c to 22½c.

"R. P. Marable and John Mulligan, Sections 8, 9 and 10, about six miles, 336,000 cubic yards, at 23c.

"J. C. Norton, Sections 11, 12 and 13, at lower end of work, 325,000 cubic yards, at 36c.

"A portion of the work near the Abejos river crossing, which will be occupied by the railway, and the grading required for five miles of track will be done by force account. This work has been assigned to W. K. Bowker of the C. M. Ranch Company, who already has 500 head of stock equipment of scrapers, wagons, tools, etc., on the ground.

"The work has been staked out for some time and actual construction will begin on Monday, December 12.

"Both Maxey and Marable & Mulligan begin their work on that date and Norton will soon follow.

"The clearing and grubbing is done by the contractors at rates ranging from \$25 to \$50 per acre for clearing, and \$50 to \$90 per acre for grubbing.

"Lumber for the main camp at Andrade will reach there on Monday, December 12, and a force of carpenters is already on the ground prepared to rush quarters to completion. An equipment of five boarding cars with supplies is on the siding at Andrade."

It is probable that in a week or two the wise men at Washington will find out what is going on out here. At last accounts they were solemnly getting ready to do something about obtaining Mexico's permission to go to work, and on Monday, after contracts had been awarded and dirt had begun to fly, they were quoted in dispatches as talking about the things that were preventing the beginning of work and about getting a bill through the Mexican Congress for the remission of duties.

The contractors, except Bowker, are making Yuma their headquarters. Maxey tells the Yuma Sun that he expects to have 600 men at work, and Marable expects to work 300 men, among them 150 Indians. Altogether about 2000 men may be employed, and Yuma is full of joy because they will spend all their money in that town.

TONIGHT'S BAND CONCERT.

The El Centro Concert Band's program for tonight's concert will include the following:

March, "Red Clover."
Waltz, "Arona."
Selection, "Erminie."
Idyll, "Glow-Worm."
March, "I'd Like to Be a Soldier."
Spanish Serenade, "La Paloma."
Intermezzo, "Fine and Dandy."
Cake Walk, "Coon Capers."
Waltz, "Ambrosia."
March, "Golden Rod."
"Star Spangled Banner."