

FIRST TRAIN SINCE STORM—LOS ANGELES, Feb. 19: The first train since the storm of January 17 left for San Diego. There will be a train each way today and the regular service will be started tomorrow.

BRITISH ARE BEATEN OFF BY THE GERMANS—BERLIN, Feb. 19: The British have made a new attempt to retake a position in Southwest Ypres which was recently captured by the Germans but were beaten off with heavy losses is officially announced by the Berlin office.

HANS SCHMIDT ELECTROCUTED—Ossining, Feb. 19: Hans Schmidt was electrocuted at Sing Sing prison at dawn this morning for the murder of Anna Aumuller on Sept. 2, 1913. He went quietly to the death chamber and addressed himself to the witnesses asking for forgiveness for those he had injured. He seated himself in the death chair within a minute.

SENATOR LODGE MAKES SPEECH—WASHINGTON, Feb. 19: Senator Lodge, the ranking minority member on the Foreign Relations committee made a speech in the Senate declaring the abandonment by the United States of its principle of keeping its ports open, and allowing its citizens free travel on merchant ships of the belligerent nations which are armed solely for defense would be an unneutral act and a step toward war. He said it would make the United States an ally of the Teutons.

CHARGES AGAINST THE INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY—WASHINGTON, Feb. 19: Charges that the International Harvester Company furnished money for arms and ammunition for the Ortez-Argimedo revolution against the Carranza government in Yucatan have been made by Levy Mayer of Chicago in the Senate agricultural committees, and calls for an investigation of the alleged monopoly for the control of the sisal market.

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Arizona's Famed Prohibition Amendment Evidently Needs Mending

ANOTHER STEP TAKEN TO GET LANE TO PUT WATER ON MESA

(By B. F. Fly)

One more step forward has been taken in an effort to induce Secretary Lane to at once begin work on the first unit of the mesa.

In order to convince the Reclamation officials that those who own land on the mesa are anxious for work to begin at once, the appended petition has been already drawn up and is now being circulated. It speaks for itself, and speaks in no uncertain words, very, very plainly showing that those who sign it want these mesa lands irrigated as soon as possible.

Many of the owners live in places other than in Yuma. They are requested to sign their names to the petition as printed herewith and at once slip it out and send same to Secretary L. W. Alexander, of the Yuma County Commercial Club. No time is to be lost, for the committee that has been appointed to go to Washington will want to take this petition with them and have it ready to back of their request for the immediate opening of the first unit.

This first unit, of course, will be determined by the Reclamation officials—that is, as to the acreage to be embraced in the unit. Each individual will naturally have his individual opinion as to how large the unit then should be, and what lands it should embrace. This big question, however, is one for the engineers to settle.

When the first unit shall have been established, it will then be comparatively easy to get the second unit, and so on, until all the mesa lands shall have been put under water.

It is unnecessary to say that these mesa lands are the greatest asset of Yuma county. Planted to oranges and other citrus fruit, they will be a regular gold mine for Yuma. Left as they are—well, they are no better than millions of other acres of arid lands in Arizona and California that are not worth paying taxes on save and except for a few weeks in the year when they furnish fair grazing for live stock. They are now assessed at an average of about \$30 per acre, whereas, if they are planted to citrus fruit they at once are assessed at every much more than that, and enhance in value with each succeeding year. Here is the petition. Sign it at once and return it to Secretary Alexander of call at the Examiner Office and sign.

Hon. Franklin K. Lane, Yuma, Ariz., Feb. 17, 1916.
Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We, the undersigned owners of land on the so-called mesa, hereby most respectfully urge you to take immediate steps to extend the Yuma irrigation project to said mesa, taking in approximately Twelve Thousand acres as the first unit of said mesa lands, with the distinct assurance that we will willingly pay our share of the construction costs of said project, and in addition pay the further costs that may be incurred in extending the system of the mesa lands.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we hereby sign our names with the number of acres owned by us set opposite our respective names.

Owner Acres

Recent Supreme Court Decision Has Aroused Temperance Forces of the State and a Strenuous Time is Promised State Politicians

(By B. F. Fly)

"Search the prohibition amendment as you will, there is no suggestion or intimation in any form contained therein, prohibiting the possession or individual consumption of intoxicating liquors in Arizona," says the State Supreme Court in its final decision in the much talked-of case of the State of Arizona vs. Sturgeon, decided last Saturday in Phoenix, the certified copy of which decision reached Judge Frank Baxter yesterday, and, through his courtesy, is now before me, for perusal, digestion and comment.

From what I had read in the various papers of the state regarding this now celebrated decision, and after carefully reading Attorney General Jones' construction of the decision, I had about made up my mind that it was a lot of political buncombe—a mere mass of jumbled legal phraseology calculated to leave the question in doubt, and yet at the same time "point with pride" to the death blow that had been dealt the whiskey trust, as well as in the same breath make all the "old soaks" in the state feel that they had at last found a Moses who clearly pointed the way across the desert.

But, after a careful and painstaking reading of the exhaustive decision, I am constrained to the belief that it is one of the ablest decisions I have ever read emanating from a state supreme court, and, on this particular question is destined to take its place by the side of the most noted decisions of the United States Supreme Court on the same question.

The decision in full would take up two pages of this paper, and yet so careful was the court to cover every conceivable phase of the case at issue that not a word is out of place, not a word too much is said, not a word is missing—indeed the court even went a little bit out of its way to admonish citizens that they must not abuse their rights, as "described in the decision, but must remember that 'the way of the transgressor is hard.'"

Practically every lawyer in the state disagrees with Attorney General Jones who contends that the only manner in which liquor can be introduced in the state under the ruling of the

Supreme Court, is to bring it into the state yourself, either in your pocket or in a suit-case, and that express companies and railroads are prohibited from bringing it to you. The Supreme Court bears out no such contention, but, having been guided in its decision by Supreme Court decisions based on the Webb-Kenyon Act of Congress, it takes exactly the contrary view, which permits "the transportation or shipment of intoxicating liquors from one state into another state," if not "in violation of any law of such state." I apprehend this view will be taken by Judge Baxter, County Attorney Colman, Sheriff Greenleaf and Chief of Police Levy—not that they want to see liquor introduced into Yuma county, but because under the ruling of the Supreme Court they simply can't prevent it.

The bars have been thrown down because the constitutional amendment did not make it an offense to drink liquor or have liquor in your possession within the state of Arizona. Had that clause been inserted in the amendment then, and in that event, the introduction or importation of liquor into the state of Arizona would have been a crime, and the Webb-Kenyon Act would not have applied. However the amendment is faulty to that extent, and so long as the amendment stands, the individuals can send away, or, go away and bring all the liquor he wants for his "personal use."

The Supreme Court has said so in its last word, and that word is now the law of the land.

In its lengthy decision, among other things, the court says:

"The appellant was tried and convicted under an information that charged him with bringing and introducing into the State of Arizona from outside the limits of said State, intoxicating liquor, to-wit: One quart of wine. He demurred to the information on the ground that it did not negative that it was introduced for his personal use. The demurrer was overruled. On the trial he offered to prove that he brought the intoxicating liquor into the State for his personal use. This offer of proof was denied by the Court. From the judgment of conviction this appeal is prosecuted, the appellant assigning as errors the order overruling his demurrer and the refusal of his offer of evidence of intended personal use. The question then as to whether one may introduce into the State of Arizona intoxicating liquors for his personal

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LIVE NEWS NOTES FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD OF BARD, CAL.

The county librarian with headquarters at El Centro, makes the report as shown below. The showing made is excellent in view of the depleted funds allotted to this feature of the Imperial county budget. The system of libraries operated at present in this county consist of six county free libraries, seven deposit stations, thirty school districts to supply with service and more school districts are joining all the time. These branches have not received any of the new current books as, with the money allowed, none could be bought, and it has been only by changing the books very often at each place that the people have been given the books which they have not had before. The order of the branches in this report is arranged according to the highest circulation of books. Our readers' particular attention is called to the position the Bard branch has maintained. Mrs. Beeman, the county librarian, has now commented most favorably on this showing. Mrs. E. E. Braun, the custodian of the local branch, has managed her office most efficiently, and the enviable showing made by Bard can be attributed largely to her close attention to her duties. A box of books will be received here as soon as traffic is resumed on the Potholes line.

Librarian's Report		
Branch	No. books	Cir. Bor.
Holtville,	712	2174 328
Brawley,	873	1420 486
Bard,	120	611 126
Alama,	848	578 160
Calxico,	491	547 122
Seelye,	408	290 180
Eucalyptus,	124	203 65
Heber,	327	192 211
Jasper,	196	182 20
Niland,	203	149 75
Wideawake,	155	135 14
Eastside,	136	102 33
Calipatria,	172	101 133
Silsbee,	147	96 98
Florence,	83	94 11
North End,	49	93 18
Mt. Signal,	136	82 63
Maiberry,	130	64 3p
Date,	105	61 29
McCabe,	154	60 36
High Line,	98	59 39
Spruce,	79	58 29
Meloland,	325	42 94
Picacho,	109	46 11
La Verne,	93	31 14
Centinela,	104	30 56
Glamis,	25	25 14
Dixieland,	244	23 139
So. Fern,	87	20 11
Westside,	46	21 11
Trifolium,	139	14 40

dence again. His farm has been rented to T. H. Gibbs, who will make his home there.

H. A. Berryman made a business visit to Bard last week. He home is now in Long Beach. He is looking well and says he is enjoying life to the fullest.

Richard Anker, brother of S. J. Anker, principal of the Bard schools, has rented the Berryman ranch. He will reside here and do intensive farming on his ranch and others which he may rent.

O. N. and William Hendricks are back on the farm, where they will spend an indefinite period making further improvements to their place.

Dr. Geo. N. Robert writes from Teate that he is feeling fine, news his friends here will receive with great pleasure.

James Hogan, of Fresno, has leased the Chester Smith ranch. Mr. Hogan will specialize on chickens, in which business he is thoroughly experienced.

Many of the Bard farmers are going to try cotton growing again this year. The Durango variety is the most popular with us, and all are agreed to grow that particular type of staple.

C. O. Cartlich came from Los Angeles to look over his place here, returning home after spending several days.

Dr. D. D. Nice made a trip from his home in Los Angeles to Bard last week and spent several days with his folks here.

D. F. Brandt is home from an extended trip to Los Angeles.

The water users of the San Pascual valley held a called meeting at the school house last Saturday night to discuss the water charge assessed against the farmers. A vote authorizing the committee to deal with this matter as it saw fit was taken and passed.

Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Fisher, of Chandler, Okla., and their little boy, are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Guthrie. Mrs. Fisher is the niece of Mrs. Guthrie. They will remain here for some time.

Last Sunday, Roy O. Pyle, Harry Steele, W. H. Miller, Robt. Pirtle and Leslie Wright spent several hours doing gratis work on the Yuma-Bard road.

Mrs. Harry Guthrie entertained a number of ladies on Tuesday afternoon, in honor of her niece, Mrs. E. B. Fisher.

Geo. Ratcliffe is expected to be back home in a couple of weeks. He has been spending the last month with his people in Wichita, Kansas.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Peterson and little baby have left for their home in Mandan, North Dakota, where Mr. Peterson is in charge of an experiment station, operated by the Department of Agriculture.