

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Cotton | 16c |
| Milo Maze, ton | \$46.00 |
| Fetereta, ton | \$46.00 |
| Alfalfa hay, ton | \$21.50 |
| Barley, ton | \$50.00 |
| Wheat, ton | \$59.00 |

ARIZONA SENTINEL

FEARLESS CHAMPION OF CITY OF YUMA, YUMA PROJECT
AND YUMA COUNTY

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| Cattle | 7c to 10c |
| Hogs | 8c to 12c |
| Lambs | 15c |
| Turkeys | 24c |
| Chicks | 13c |
| Eggs | 25c |

VOLUME 47

YUMA, ARIZONA, THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1917.

NUMBER 11.

SOUTHERN PACIFIC R. R. UP TO ITS OLD GAME

Through the courtesy of Congressman Carl Hayden I have been furnished a copy of the proceedings before the committee on claims in congress, giving in detail the statements made before that august body on Congressman Kettner's bill to reimburse the Southern Pacific for moneys it is alleged were spent in closing the break in the Colorado river in 1906, at the time the Colorado broke through the "Rockwood gate" and went bounding on to the Salton Sea. With the printed report came a letter from "Our Carl," inclosing a letter from some one who took particular pains to write his name in such a manner that no body on earth could tell who the letter was from. Congressman Halden writes these significant words on the margin of this letter (asking "Our Carl" to support the measure):

"What about this?"

I have given the matter the most serious consideration. I have read every word of the testimony adduced before the committee, and every word of the very remarkable statement of my personal friend Isadore Dockweiler speaking on behalf of the Southern Pacific, and I must confess that the claims set forth by my friend are amazing in the extreme, particularly so to one who has taken the pains and trouble to investigate the actual facts in the case. I have always known that the great Southern Pacific Railroad would do anything once, and then do it again if it thought it could get away with it, but I never for once suspected that it would engage the services of a reputable attorney, such as I have personal reasons to know my friend Dockweiler to be, to appear before a regularly constituted congressional committee and adroitly try to pull the wool over the people's eyes as is plainly evidenced by the printed proceedings of the committee sent me by Congressman Hayden. However, Congressman Hayden has asked me the direct question—"What about this?" and I shall answer briefly.

So far as the public is concerned let us concede that Engineer Rockwood was the first man on earth to begin exploiting Imperial Valley. He kept at his task until the first irrigating water was turned into the Alamo channel in 1902. One year after that date, 1903, the first intake was so congested with silt that "intake No. 2" had to be constructed. In 1904, the first year after this second intake was built it was so congested with silt that the Imperial Valley suffered with a "water shortage" just as the year before. Then they constructed what was known at that time, and will always be known as "the Rockwood gate," about four and a half miles below the first, or Hanlon Heading intake. The result of this was that just as soon as it was constructed the whole damn shooting match went out, and the Colorado river, instead of meandering down to the Gulf of Lower California was sent direct into the Salton Sea, through the "Rockwood gate." And thereby hangs this Southern Pacific tale.

In each of the other blowouts, or silting up of the intakes, the Southern Pacific had been "touched" by the Imperial Valley Irrigation district to the tune of several hundred thousand dollars. However, at that time the beneficent Southern Pacific owned 61,098 acres of the best portion of Imperial Valley, and held government patents for the land. It was deeply interested in keeping the waters from submerging Imperial Valley, and rather than see it all go to waste it kept on "digging" to keep the irrigation district out of bankruptcy. When the big break came, and the entire state of California was distressed, President Roosevelt was appealed to, and he promptly wired Mr. E. H. Harriman that he expected the Southern Pacific to close the break without delay. The upshot was that the Southern Pacific got busy and actually did almost a piece of superhuman work—it closed the break within three weeks after work was begun, and Imperial Valley was saved.

And now what? Mr. Dockweiler stated before the committee that the overflow of "August or September" 1906 did the great damage. As a matter of fact the overflow did not occur until October 11, 1906.

Mr. Dockweiler made the broad statement that if the break had not been closed that within 85 days the river would have cavé its way back to the Colorado, and within a few days would have taken away the Southern Pacific railroad bridge, and a few days thereafter eaten up as far as the Laguna dam and undermined that great structure, causing the government to lose \$13,000,000, the estimated cost of Yuma Project.

As a matter of fact as late as December 28, 1907, no effort had been made to dam up the Colorado at Laguna dam. Nothing but the approaches on the Arizona and California sides of the river had been attempted to be constructed. However, the short space of time that Dr. Dockweiler estimates it would take the waters to eat their way back into the main channel of the river, and thence to our railroad bridge and then on up to Laguna dam, absolutely cinches the argument I have always made against putting in another "Rockwood gate" intake.

The Southern Pacific claim sought to be inflicted upon the people amounts to \$1,663,000, whereas, a year after the expense was incurred the United States senate recommended the payment of \$773,647, while Engineer Grunsky, acting for the Reclamation Department, at that time recommended that \$1,000,000 would be ample, he having discovered the fact that the great and beneficent Southern Pa-

BARD UNIT HOLDERS TRADE IN FAVORED YUMA MESA NOW IN VALLEY LANDS

About one year ago Project Manager Lawson took up the matter with Washington authorities advocating swapping lands in certain portions of the Bard unit for government lands in Yuma Valley, and the change is just now being brought about.

For the past two weeks the project manager has had his hands full in trying to adjust these changes so every one would be satisfied. He even went so far as to try to get the government to clear the lands in Yuma Valley so the Bardites could raise a crop this fall, but it is now definitely stated that the government cannot see its way clear to do this improvement. The swapping process, therefore, will be that a man who owns forty acres in the badly seeped land of the Bard unit will be permitted to exchange his Bard lands for lands in Yuma Valley. Naturally he loses all his time spent on the Bard unit, but he will be permitted to remove all his improvements erected on the Bard lands.

The government evidently considers that the lands in Yuma Valley are so much more valuable from every standpoint, because of their being free from annual seepage, that the trade is about equal when raw lands are traded for the lands the Bardites have tried to make a living on for the past several years. At any rate it is up to the Bardites to make the change if they desire and as many of them can make the change as desire, so long as they are in the seeped area of Bard, and provided further that there is enough land in Yuma Valley to satisfy those who desire the change. It is known that there are at least a dozen places in the Bard unit, running along the levee front who are anxious to become citizens of Arizona. All of them will be doubly welcomed by the people in Yuma Valley, for as a general rule they are good, hardworking farmers, who are thoroughly imbued with the idea that this is the greatest section of country on earth. And all of them are deeply grateful to Project Manager Lawson for the very unselfish manner he has tried to serve them.

WATER USERS' ELECTION HARMONIOUS AND UNANIMOUS.

The returns of the recent election for officers of the Yuma County Water Users' Association were canvassed Monday morning and revealed a most remarkable situation throughout the project, so far as harmony and concert of action are concerned. Not an opposition vote was cast for any of the offices to be filled. Judge J. M. Thacker, president of the association for the last several years, and against whom a most vicious fight was waged one year ago, was re-elected by every vote that was cast. One or two candidates for other positions did not get the full vote, yet no other names were voted for than those who were regularly announced candidates. This speaks well for the farmers of the project. They fully appreciate the good work that has been done for them by the present set of officials and they were more than glad to let well enough alone, which is just as it should have been.

Following is the full set of officials elected:

President—J. M. Thacker, 3963 votes.
Vice president—A. H. Kent, 3917 votes.
Governor, first district—A. J. Griffin, 260 votes.
Council, first district (2)—H. Leonard and E. A. Freeman, 260 each.
Governor, second district—G. S. Marable, 864 votes.
Council, second district (2)—F. P. Huss, 738, H. H. Harmon, 864.
Governor, third district—Mulford Winsor, 523 votes.
Council, third district (2)—W. I. Harmon and James McLay, 523 each.
Governor, fourth district—M. A. Gilmer, 200 votes.
Council, fourth district (2)—R. W. Moss and A. P. Behan, 200 each.
Governor, fifth district—George W. Schutz, 1497 votes.
Council, fifth district (2)—R. H. Theilman, W. J. Trevarrow, 1497 each.
Governor, sixth district—George M. Thurman, 619 votes.
Council, sixth district (2)—J. E. Brazee and J. M. Williams, 619 each.
The appointive officers will be selected the first Monday in April.

cific had charged regular commercial rates for every pound of rock it had hauled to close the big break.

President Roosevelt was in favor of paying a just share of this work. President Taft was in favor of the same thing. President Wilson will be equally as generous. But no sane man on earth can expect the government to pay the outrageous bill presented by the Southern Pacific when it was equally interested in having the waters turned back into their natural channel. It cost \$600,000 or thereabouts to settle with the Salton Sea Salt Works, because the break put that concern out of business for all time to come. If damages for overflow are to be paid in Imperial Valley, why not pay our farmers for damages sustained last year when the Colorado left its channel and flooded Yuma Valley?

ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE WILL BE FOUND THE "IRRIGATION DISTRICT" LAW AS PASSED BY THE ARIZONA LEGISLATURE AND SIGNED BY GOVERNOR CAMPBELL. THE MEASURE SPEAKS FOR ITSELF, BUT IT IS ONLY PROPER TO STATE THAT IT MEANS MORE TO YUMA MESA THAN ANY OTHER PORTION OF ARIZONA, FOR IN ALL HUMAN PROBABILITY THE AUXILIARY PROJECT ABOUT TO BE CONSTRUCTED ON THE MESA WILL BE ORGANIZED AND CONDUCTED UNDER THE "IRRIGATION DISTRICT" PLAN RATHER THAN UNDER THE "WATER USERS' ASSOCIATION" PLAN UNDER WHICH YUMA PROJECT PROPER NOW OPERATES, AND IF A CHANGE IS EVER MADE FROM THE "ASSOCIATION" TO THE "DISTRICT" PLAN IN YUMA VALLEY IT WILL HAVE TO BE DONE BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE LAND OWNERS OF THE VALLEY.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found the "irrigation district" law as passed by the Arizona legislature and signed by Governor Campbell. The measure speaks for itself, but it is only proper to state that it means more to Yuma Mesa than any other portion of Arizona, for in all human probability the auxiliary project about to be constructed on the mesa will be organized and conducted under the "irrigation district" plan rather than under the "water users' association" plan under which Yuma Project proper now operates, and if a change is ever made from the "association" to the "district" plan in Yuma Valley it will have to be done by a majority vote of the land owners of the valley.

This measure, introduced by Senator Mulford Winsor, is regarded by the reclamation authorities as the last link in the long chain necessary to begin work on the Mesa AT ONCE. There is now no earthly reason for further delay. Congress gave us the law permitting the sale of the government land on the mesa. One of the pens with which the president signed the bill was sent me and I very promptly presented it to the Yuma County Commercial Club. Governor Campbell very kindly sent me the pen with which he signed the "irrigation district" bill. This will also be presented to the commercial club, that the two pens may be framed and kept for all time as the individual pens that gave Yuma the long prayed-for auxiliary project on the Yuma mesa.

Hon. C. J. Blanchard, statistician of the U. S. Reclamation Service is now in Yuma for the purpose of gathering all necessary data relating to the mesa so he can advertise the government auction sale to the best possible advantage throughout the United States and Canada. That he will do this work methodically I have every reason to know, and that the sale will be a tremendous success goes without saying. It is destined to be the greatest sale of public lands ever had in the United States.

To show how thoroughly Governor Campbell was imbued with the importance of the "irrigation district" measure I take the liberty of reproducing his telegram to me last Friday. It is as follows:

Phoenix, Ariz., March 9, 1917.

B. F. Fly,

Hollenbeck Hotel,
Los Angeles Cal.

I have just signed Senate Bill 60 and advised upper house of same. Pen and holder with which same was signed will be forwarded you. Was very happy to approve this important and much needed measure.

THOMAS E. CAMPBELL,
Governor.

11:12 p. m.

In response I telegraphed the governor: "God bless you. You have given Yuma a law that will make our mesa blossom like the rose. I thank you cordially for the pen and holder. It will be presented to the commercial club as a companion to the pen with which the president signed his name to the Yuma Mesa Land Bill."

So the tricks have now all been turned. There is no reason why every citizen should not be grateful to the president and the governor for affixing their names to these important measures. And our people should be doubly grateful to Senators Mark Smith and Henry F. Ashurst, to Congressman Hayden, to Senator Mulford Winsor and Representatives Edwards and Eddy for the part they played in this long drawn out game. We are now absolutely in the clear. There isn't a stumbling block in the way. One surveying corps started to work on the mesa Monday of this week, cutting the land up into 40 acre tracts. Another corps is to be put in the field at an early date. In fact nothing is to be left undone until the Yuma Mesa is really placed under water. This can't be done in a day, but it will be done as rapidly as circumstances will permit. There will be no let-up in the work. Of that my readers can rest assured. In this case at least I know what I am talking about.

Third Legislature State of Arizona

S. B. 60—In the state senate, introduced by Senator Winsor. An act to render liable to assessment for irrigation district purposes entered and unentered public lands of the United States within irrigation district boundaries to the extent authorized by an act of congress entitled: "An act to promote reclamation of arid lands," approved August 11, 1916, and to define the rights of entrymen within irrigation district boundaries; and to authorize the organization of irrigation districts under the laws of the state for the purpose of co-operation with the United States under federal reclamation laws for the purchase of a water supply, or for the construction, operation, or maintenance of works, including drainage works, or for the assumption by the district of indebtedness to the United States on account of district lands, and to provide the method of contracting to such end and the manner and method of payments to

the United States under such contract, and for the apportionment of assessments and levy thereof upon the lands of the district to secure revenue for such payments; and to provide for the judicial review and determination of the validity of the proceedings in connection with such organization and contract.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

Section 1. Public lands of the United States, both entered and unentered, within the boundaries of any irrigation district organized in this state shall be assessed for district purposes in the manner provided by law to the extent authorized by an act of congress entitled "An act to promote reclamation of arid lands," approved August 11, 1916, or any other law enacted by congress in the same relation. Resident entrymen of public lands shall be lawful petitioners for the organization of an irrigation district, and entrymen residing on lands included within any such district, the plans and maps of which have been approved by the secretary of the interior.

(Continued on Page Four)