

Imperial Press

AND FARMER.

"Water is King—Here is its Kingdom."

VOL. I.

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THE IMPERIAL FARMER.

For eight months prior to June, 1901, the Imperial Farmer was published monthly in the city of Los Angeles under the editorial management of the undersigned. With the May number, the publication of this monthly was temporarily suspended, and at a later date an arrangement was made to consolidate the Imperial Farmer with the Imperial Press, a weekly paper published at the new town of Imperial; the consolidation to take effect on the first of November, 1901.

This issue of the Imperial Press and Farmer is the first issue under the new management, with E. F. Howe in editorial control. Mr. Howe is today considered one of the ablest writers in Southern California on the resources of this country. It is proposed to make the Imperial Press and Farmer second to no other weekly newspaper in the State.

All persons who have paid subscriptions to the Farmer in advance, will be served with the Press weekly until they have received the amount due them at the rate of \$1.50 per year from the new publication in lieu of the old rate of \$1.00 a year for the former publication.

We congratulate our late readers on the change, believing that they will be more than satisfied with the new programme.

L. M. HOLT.

HOW TO GET A RANCH.

The land under the Imperial canal system belongs to the government, with the exception of the sixteenth and thirty-sixth sections of each township, which are school lands and belong to the State.

The government lands are obtainable either under the Desert Land Laws at a cost of \$1.25 per acre, of which amount 25 cents is paid at the time of filing on the land, and the remainder is payable at any time within four years when the settler proves up on his claim.

The water right is obtainable by purchasing stock in one of the Imperial water companies of which there are several, each having a particular territory to supply with water. All these companies get their water from the Imperial Canal System, which is the property of the California Development Company. The stock of all the companies is all sold at the same price and on the same terms. At the present time the stock is held at \$15 per share, on easy terms of payment. Interest on deferred payments is at the rate of five per cent. per annum.

The Imperial water companies are organized on the mutual plan, and get water from the Imperial Canal System delivered at the International boundary line, for which they pay the sum of 50 cents per acre foot which is equal to about two cents per inch for 24-hours' flow. The water is

then delivered to stockholders only as they may order it at cost price which is the price paid the California Development Company plus the cost of distribution and expense of keeping up the distributing system.

For the amount of water delivered and the certainty of its being delivered when called for, this is the cheapest irrigation water to be found in the United States at the present time—and the most abundant supply.

Two hundred thousand acres of land in the Salt River Valley, which is only partially irrigated, and hence is only partially productive, is supporting a population of 30,000 people, and a move is on foot to construct the Tonto reservoir so as to fully reclaim this 200,000 acres and make it support double the population it does today. These facts are gleaned from the Arizona Republican, a live daily published at Phoenix in the Salt River



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THE GANGES CANAL.

The largest irrigation canal in the world is said to be the Ganges canal in India, which is 180 feet wide and ten feet deep, and carries 6780 cubic feet of water per second. This is the statement of the "National Irrigator." This canal was a government enterprise.

The Imperial canal now being constructed to irrigate 500,000 acres of land in California and about 300,000 in Lower California will consist of three parallel canals each of which will be sixty feet in width and ten feet deep, or a total of 180 feet in width and ten feet deep, the same as the Ganges canal.

The Ganges canal using water on a basis of one inch to two acres—the basis on which the Imperial canal is constructed—would irrigate 678,000 acres of land, or 122,000 acres less than the amount which will be irrigated by the Imperial canal. This can probably be accounted for on the presumption that the Imperial canal has a little more fall to the mile than the Ganges, and hence would carry more water.

Valley. The Republican is solid in irrigation matters, and is doing a great work for Arizona. If 200,000 acres of land now partially irrigated, supports 30,000 people, and would support 60,000 when fully irrigated, what will the 500,000 acres in Imperial Settlements support, having a full water supply for every acre? With one inhabitant to every three acres, the population of that section would be 166,000—more people than there are today in Los Angeles city and county. This is no dream. It is a conservative statement.

The Jaffa orange is grown in and around Jaffa on the Syrian Coast, and the crop amounts annually to about 300,000 boxes. The Jaffa orange garden covers usually about twenty acres on which are planted about 6000 trees twelve feet apart each way. The orange is budded on lemon stock and comes to maturity in six years when the annual income is from \$100 to \$125 per acre. The crop is mostly shipped to England—less than 1000 carloads a year—about one-third the Redlands' crop.

NEW YORK TRIBUNE,

PHILADELPHIA PRESS

What Some of the Leading Eastern Publications Have to Say About the Imperial Canal System.

The New York Daily Tribune, in its issue of Sunday, September 19, publishes an illustrated article under the heading of "Reclaiming a Desert," in which it says:

"The most remarkable series of irrigation projects ever wrought out in the United States are rapidly taking form on the Colorado River, the greatest stream in the Southwest, which carries sufficient water to irrigate eight million acres of land. On the California side of the river is the vast Colorado desert. Across the international line in Mexico, on the Peninsula of Lower California, the desert extends to the southward. On the eastern, or Arizona side of the river, the desert extends from Yuma to the head of the Gulf of California and beyond.

"The greatest of the projects, however, is that of the Imperial Company, which has entered upon the gigantic task of irrigating five hundred thousand acres of land in San Diego county, California, and three hundred thousand acres in Mexico, and which delivered its first water in June of the present year. The water now deliverable to the Imperial lands is sufficient for the irrigation of more than one hundred thousand acres, and to this additions are being made rapidly. Several hundred acres were planted in June, on the arrival of water, and fully fifty thousand acres will in all probability be sown in alfalfa during the coming winter.

"Before water was placed on any of the land under this system, over eighty thousand acres were filed on by settlers under the Desert Land Law and the Homestead Law, and hundreds of people are now rushing into the country, anxious to take advantage of the opportunity held out by the government to acquire cheap land under the assurance of crops provided by irrigation."

The Philadelphia Press, in its issue of September 29, also publishes an illustrated article which is headed "Nile Dams Surpassed by Greatest Irrigation System in the World:"

"From the present rush into the country, it seems probable that within a year or so, the entire area of irrigable lands on the delta in the United States will be taken up. The average holdings will be about 100 acres, implying that some 7500 families will find homes on the delta within the next year or two.

"But the popular conception of a desert is a wide expanse of light, drifting sands. That is erroneous. There may be drifts of sand, and there are here, in places, banks of sand off at the edge of the desert. But the main floor, hundreds of thousands of acres in extent, is not of sand, but of a sedimentary deposit, made by the great Colorado River, the shavings, as it were, produced by the carving out of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, the grandest and most awful work of nature on the whole broad face of the old earth.

"The soil is compact, and teams driven over its unbroken surface trot along at ease. Yet it is easily worked, and chemists who have carefully analyzed it declare that it even exceeds in fertility the famous soil of the delta of the Nile, while the water of the river, used for irrigation, carries greater fertilizing properties than does the water of the Nile, and a well drilled to the depth of 585 feet was still in the same soil when it was abandoned."