THE IMPERIAL PRESS

"Water is King—Here Is Its Kingdom."

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WHAT ABOUT WHEAT?

Many Persons Figuring on the Future of the Valley's Product

Something is going to be done this year with the wheat crop of Imperial valley, which is now growing, and which is certain to bring in large revenue to the farmers. This will be the first crop which will be handled with a view to the production of grain, and there is to be no dearth of buyers.

Harvesters of various kinds are being provided. There are now being brought to the valley self-binders and headers in large number, and at least one of the great combined harvesters, which thresh as well as cut the grain, is to be provided, and a few weeks hence the harvest fields of Imperial will present an interesting and busy scene.

And there will be threshers here this year to meet the requirements of the valley—the regulation threshers which handle the product of the self-binders and headers.

But provisions for handling grain after it is harvested are not being overlooked. Plans are in hand by independent persons for building warehouses here, and while it is not understood that this is finally determined on, it looks as though the project might materialize.

Several outside mills are already looking after the matter of getting grain from the valley for shipment, while one of the largest milling companies in this section is now talking of building a mill at Imperial next fall or winter.

There was a time, but a few months ago, when one sometimes heard a doubting Thomas ask whether the crops grown here could be marketed, just as though there were obstacles presented here greater than elsewhere, but the building of the railroad and the growing of great crops have combined to put an end to such queries, and it is now an established fact in the minds of everybody that the products of this valley, like the agricultural products of every section, will be sought after by many persons, and the very magnitude of the Imperial valley is tending to hasten the coming of buyers.

New Officials Needed

A petition is out asking the Supervisors to divide the Imperial judicial township, to give Silsbee and Imperial each a judicial organization on the same lines as the voting precincts. At present the justice of the peace resides near Silsbee and the constable at Imperial. It is with great difficulty that petty misdemeanors are given the attention they deserve, and in every community there are certain to be some such cases. The petition being circulated asks that T. P. Banta be made justice of the peace for Imperial. This is in line with the needs of the section, and it is thought the supervisors will act with promptness regarding the matter.

Another need of the town is a health officer, such as all California towns need and have. In all towns there are persons who absolutely disregard the most ordinary sanitary requirements, and in Imperial there are some of this class, who need to be watched closely by some official whose special duty it shall be to look after sanitary matters.

But until such an official is appointed, there should be a general movement on the part of the people of the town to put things in neater condition. With scores of persons camping about the town at all times, it is possibly inevitable that certain quarters should have a neglected appearance, but the neglect very easily becomes a chronic complaint. We ought to be able to convince the strangers visiting the valley that we are a neat and orderly people, and this can be done with very little exertion on the part of the citizens of the town. A general cleaning up is about the first and greatest need of Imperial.

FARM AND STOCK

[Farm and Ranch]—Sorghum—the saccharine varieties—constitute one of our very best and surest feed crops that can be grown on a farm. Cut and thrown to the stock green—or the best way is to cut one day for feeding the next—it is relished by all kinds of stock. It may be pastured, or cut and cured, or fed green and always with good results. Care should be taken to feed lightly of green sorghum the first two or three feeds. Sorghum should not be planted early. It may follow oats or be planted anywere as late as August, and if there is moisture enough to bring it up, it will stay there, and when it rains it will grow, and may be cut and will grow again, and continue to grow until frost. A convenient arrangement is to plant it close to and on two or more sides of the feed lots, so that it may be cut and thrown over to the stock. This is simply a labor-saving device.

Anoter valuable crop is peanuts, and of these the Spanish are the best for general farm use, and for all purposes except for the peanut venders, who will give more for larger white and more attractive looking nuts than for a really better sort which they think will not sell so well. The Spanish are adapted to a wider range of soils; no insect pest or fungus disease affects them, and they will mature a good crop during our dryest summers. They are also the earliest variety, maturing in about ninety days. They are somewhat stronger than the old variety, but this is more than offset by the fuliness of the pods and the scarcity of "pops;" also by the fact that they form nearer the main stem, and adhere more strongly to the stem, which greatly facilitates harvesting, as the bunches may be pulled up with every nut adhering. The nuts and the hay are both rich foods for all sorts of stock and for fowls.

Corn is the greatest of all fattening feeds for live stock, but, as is well known, it will make a badly balanced ration being deficient in protein, and consequently not suited as a sole ration for growing animals. It has long been known that different samples of corn vary much in chemical composition. The softer and more starchy having a lower protein content than the flinty varieties, as it is the germ and horny appearing portions and bran that concontains the protein. Scientific plant breeders have been busy for several years with attempts to develop breeds of corn that will come nearer yielding a well balanced feed. As it is we must balance the corn ration with some food having a much higher protein content and contain less of carbohydrates and fat. These efforts have measurably succeeded, but not perfectly. The experiment stations are working on this problem with every prospect of ultimate success.

Cow-peas are one of the best forage crops known to the South, both for the live stock and for the soil. No staple crop is more certain. Drill about three pecks per acre in rows thirty inches wide, and cultivate about twice and whether the soil is rich or poor, you will have a crop to be proud of, and one the stock will be proud of. The popular and most common way is to plant in corn at the last cultivation, either broadcast or drilled between the corn rows. On rich soils, if planted late, cow-peas often refuse to produce seed, but yield a heavy crop of hay or pasturage. Our North Texas black land farmers have some trouble in growing seed, but not vines. One advantage afforded by cow-peas is, they may be planted from March until August with assurance of a good yield, if there is moisture in the soil to bring the plants up. This crop is worth growing on this land for its fertilizing effects only, and the seed is clear profit.

Another Fish Story

There are some good stories which bear the liniaments of truth on their faces, but there are others which call for documentary evidence. For instance when a man says that the Imperial irrigation water carries a large number of fish, which are often found in fields being irrigated, he tells what we all know to be true. But when a stern and solemn faced individual invades the sanctum of the Press and in cold blood informs us that he has harvested a crop of sun-dried carp we know he is a falsifier despite the plans and specifications he presents. As the story runs, his field was strewn with waste grain from last year's crop, and he turned in a flood of water. He noticed at the time that the water was simply alive with fish and congratulated himself on getting so much good fertilizing material free. He gave no further thought to the matter, however, for a week, when he chanced to pass the field. Then he discovered that the grain had sprouted immediately, each sprout catching a fish in the gills and carrying it upward until it was suspended in the air, where the warm sunshine rapidly cured it.

Construction Crew Leaves

The Southern Pacific construction crew this week finished its work on the Imperial road so far as to permit the departure of the main body of workingmen, who go to a point north of Los Angeles. A few man are left behind to put the finishing touches on the new track, and the carpenters have a few days more work before them in completing the bridges between Imperial and the main line, but the new road is now practically finished, and nothing is needed to secure regular traffic but the trains, and for them the people of the valley are waiting anxiously. Thus is brought to a finish one more great work in the development of the valley.

NOW AFTER POWER

Electric Plant To Be Provided for Imperial by Fall

Plans are now being prepared for the electric light and power plant which it has been the intention of the Imperial Light, Water and Power Company to put in from the start, and it is proposed that by fall Imperial will be provided with electricity for both light and power purposes. The town has been growing so rapidly during the last year that the domestic water system may soon be inadequate to meet the full needs of the population, and the new plant will provide for improvements in that respect as well as for furnishing electricity.

Something of a canvass has been made of the demand for electricity, and it is found that from the installation of the plant there will be a number of motors in use.

Imperial is very fortunately situated in the fact that an electric system can be installed without great expense. The company alluded to owns the power of the big drop in the main canal southwest of town. It is estimated that this drop will furnish power in the fall to the extent of 700 horse power, and when the canal is called on to furnish its full quota of water it will run to 1200 horse power. There are no tunnels or other expensive works such as have been required in building the large power plants in the mountains of Southern California, the problems being of the simplest nature.

While the electricity generated will be used in large part for general light and power purposes, it will in part go to operating the pumps of the domestic water system, and almost any pressure can be provided that the requirements of the town demand.

At just what date this new service can be provided depends on work on the canal which the California Development Company yet has to do, but it is expected that that work will be done in the near future, and that the electric plant will be a realization in the early fall.

Imperial the Place for Fat Hogs

Peter Barnes of Calexico called at the office of the Imperial Land Company and gave a bit of interesting information says the Los Angeles Times. He stated that he had marketed in Los Angeles three carloads of fat hogs, and that Mr. Lathrop, of Imperial, had marketed two carloads, for which was received $6.60 a hundred pounds.

Mr. Barnes has been instrumental in shipping into the Imperial Valley stockers to the number of 800, and he has 250 head on his ranch near Calexico. He says the Imperial Settlements, or rather the Imperial Valley, is one of the best sections in the United States to raise and fatten hogs, and he is going into the business extensively. He states that in all his experience he has never been in any locality where hogs are so free from disease, there having been none whatever.

Five carloads of fat cattle have been shipped out and 250 head of feeders are held by the ranchers in the valley.

Possibly you have a friend to whom you would like to send the Press a year for a dollar.