

IMPERIAL TO THE FORE

Careful Observer Tells of Progress Being Made

The newspapers of Southern California are publishing more about Imperial than ever before, and the following from the Los Angeles Times is a fair sample:

The Imperial Valley is day by day adding to its population, new improvements and industries.

Banker W. F. Holt has perpetually leased what is known as the Eastside waste gate drop from the California Development Company for the purpose of developing electrical energy, to be utilized in the establishment of creameries and for milling purposes. The drop is situated immediately adjoining the Eastside big dam, in Imperial Water Company, No. 5, and has a fall of seventeen feet. A large volume of water passes over this drop, and it is capable of developing about one thousand horse power. Mr. Holt will immediately install a plant sufficient in capacity to operate two or three creameries, and a mill for flouring and grinding purposes.

In this connection it will not be amiss to state that Banker Holt has been of infinite benefit to the Imperial settlements. It was he who installed the first telephone system and erected the first church edifice. It was he who, in connection with the president of the California Development Company, A. H. Heber, organized the Imperial and Gulf railway, and subscribed and paid in cash its capital stock \$7200, and began its construction. It was he who bought out the controlling interest in the First National Bank of Imperial and opened it up for business, which has been a great stimulus to the development of the valley, and an accommodation to the settler. It was he who organized Imperial Water Company No. 7, covering an area situate immediately south of the Eastside dam, and extending to the Mexican border. He bought and paid for a majority of its capital stock, and obligated himself to construct and complete its irrigation distributing system, which has practically been completed and accomplished. But in the mean time, while he has been in a manner a philanthropist, he has at the same time benefitted himself financially to the extent of about a hundred thousand dollars. Too much praise cannot be accorded to him for his energetic acts and influence. He has been instrumental in interesting some of the best and most substantial citizens of Redlands and other localities in the State, as well as Arizona. A few such men as Mr. Holt would soon build up an empire out of the material furnished in the Imperial Valley. What is commonly known as the Eastsider or Number Five (meaning the settler in that section of the valley) can congratulate himself in having Mr. Holt as an immediate neighbor.

The California Development Company has issued instructions for the construction, as fast as men and money can do the work, of the Eastside main forty-foot canal north to a point touching the township line, a distance of about fourteen miles from the intake. Said canal will furnish water for about 40,000 acres, 15,000 acres of which has been sold, and the distributing system completed, and the owners of the land are now taking possession, improving the property and planting the same to crops of various kinds.

The Imperial Construction Company has about completed its flume across New River, some six miles northwest of Imperial, and is constructing the distributing system, under contract, for

Imperial Water Company No. 8, covering a territory comprising about 30,000 acres of some of the best lands in the valley. The system will be completed by October 1. A portion of it will be ready to be utilized for planting summer crops.

The California Development Company has a corps of engineers exploring the territory immediately west and north of the last-named system, with a view of extending one of its main branch canals to the territory, in order to supply the increasing demand for land. The engineers report the discovery of an excellent body of land in that locality. Heretofore it has not been explored.

Frank S. Miller, the new proprietor of the thriving and bustling town of Brawley, situate on the line of the Imperial and Gulf Railway, a branch of the Southern Pacific, about ten miles north of Imperial, is planning extensive improvements for his town. He will immediately establish a bank, a hotel and two stores, for all of which he will erect suitable and substantial buildings. He will also erect a number of dwellings to supply the wants of the town. It will require about \$20,000 to carry out the work which has been planned. Mr. Miller is recently from Pittsburgh, and is backed by influential and wealthy easterners, with plenty of

money at his command. The town of Brawley is extremely well situated, and it is predicted by those who ought to be in a position to know that it will develop into one of the best towns in the valley, and it behooves the Imperialite to keep an eye open and watch it grow.

[This is advice which is fully as timely when reversed, for Imperial is now growing faster than ever before in its history.—Ed. Press.]

The Southern Pacific management is arranging to put schedule trains on the line from Old Beach to Imperial during the week, when the old method of travel by stage will be entirely dispensed with between those two points, and which will be a glad day for all who are interested in the settlements.

There are now about a thousand head of fat cattle in the valley ready for shipment, and as soon as the stock yards which have been ordered installed at Imperial are completed, shipments will begin to the Los Angeles and other markets.

Settlers are coming into the valley daily, with their stock, implements and household effects, preparatory to making permanent residents, and it is confidently predicted that within the next twelve months the population in the valley, which is now about 4000, will be trebled.

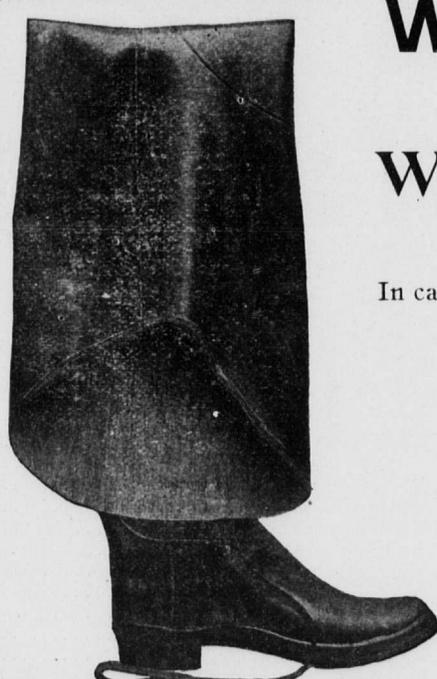
The Southern Pacific Company surveyors have run a line from Imperial south into Mexico, and are now some

thirty miles or more east of Calexico, running the line through the republic of Mexico to Pilot Knob, to connect with the main line of the Southern Pacific, and it is believed that through services by way of Imperial over the Southern Pacific is only a matter of a short time in the future.

The Cameron Lake Cattle Company have, on their Keystone ranch and near Imperial, about 1800 acres in grain, all doing excellently. Some of the wheat is headed out, and is as tall as a good-sized man, with heads from six to eight inches long. Surely the harvest will be immense in this valley, and it will be well for the Los Angeles merchant to look to the valley for increased trade. New structures in the way of ranch houses are going up on every hand in the various sections of the valley.

The California-Mexico Land and Cattle Company are planting and preparing to plant about 1000 acres to crops in the immediate vicinity of Calexico, and it is reliably reported that the company is preparing to begin operations upon adjoining land in Mexico, comprising about 10,000 acres, for the purpose of seeding in the early fall. The company is a valuable acquisition to the valley.

The Blue Lake section, where the town of Silsbee is located on the Blue Lake, is making substantial progress, and some day will surprise the unbeliever, if there be such. The town is beautifully located, and it is believed it will make a permanent health resort.



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