

# THE IMPERIAL PRESS

"Water is King—Here is Its Kingdom."

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## ON THE EAST SIDE

### Beginning of Production for a Most Promising Section

It has been the fortune of the settlers who secured land in Eastside to wait longer for water than those in any other part of the valley. This was due to the creation of a sub-agency for colonizing that section and litigation which followed. But after long delay the disputes were settled and water became available for irrigation February 10 of this year.

Just 100 days from the date of the first delivery of water there the editor of the Press drove through a large part of Eastside, saw a thousand acres of magnificent grain in which harvest was well under way, and talked with a number of the farmers who, in three months occupancy of the new country, have made wonderful headway in piling up evidences of thrift.

The accomplishment of so much in a short time is typical of work of development everywhere in Imperial valley, but it is worthy of special comment because it happens to be the youngest section of the valley now in production, and also because it has some distinctive local features.

By Eastside reference is made to that country east of the Alamo river covered by Imperial Water Companies Nos. 5 and 7. The portion of Eastside now under canals varies in width from two to six miles. The next work of the California Development Company, however, will be in extending the Eastside territory northward, and it will eventually have a length of close to thirty miles, and at the north will have a greater width.

Within two years, moreover, it is expected to put in a canal at a considerably higher level, which will cover about 60,000 acres of mesa land with gravelly soil, lying above sea level, and a good many thousand acres lying below sea level.

Eastside, therefore, is a principality in itself, and it is altogether probable that within five years there will be as much land under cultivation east of the Alamo as there is at present covered by Water Companies Nos. 1, 4, 6 and 8 combined, and the center of the valley's populated area may in time move due east of Imperial to the banks of the Alamo.

At the present time there are two sub-irrigation systems in Eastside, each taking its water from the Alamo river, which is used as a conduit from the Colorado river for all the irrigation works in the valley, while it is on the program below these canals to take out other canals to irrigate lands on which no settlements have yet been made.

Beginning at the international line is Imperial Water Company No. 7, the land ranging from thirty feet above to a point a few feet below the level of the sea. This land is commonly known as the Holt tract, and the water for it is taken out of the Alamo about a mile and a half south of the line.

North and west of this tract is No. 5, which takes its water from the Alamo at Eastside levee, just at sea level, and furnishes water from a trifle below that

level down to a hundred feet below sea level.

The soil under these two sub-systems is uniformly light and yet rich and highly productive, as has been demonstrated in the last three months by the heavy crops now being harvested, and under the canals now constructed filings have been made on about 35,000 acres.

At the Eastside levee there is the drop which W. F. Holt leased a few weeks since for 100 years from the California Development Company. As constructed, this drop is seventeen feet high, and over it at present there is passing about 5000 miner's inches of water. Mr. Holt had a survey made of the drop this week, and finds that as he carries the water down to the Alamo, but a short distance for the discharge, the water will be under pressure of forty feet, and through this gate, under the contract there must pass all the water diverted from the Alamo for the lower country. At present he only has the water going to No. 5, but within a year or two he will have the water for three systems, probably fully 15,000 inches, under forty feet of pressure, giving horse power running into tens of thousands. He will begin the development of the power the coming fall, and will build a flouring mill, creamery and other establishments to begin to make use of the power he has acquired.

What will be done with the great power thus made available near Imperial it is impossible to say, but it is evident that this drop has the possibility of eventually furnishing all the motive power required for operating an electric railway system to connect the towns of the valley.

As for Eastside, it is not enough for us to say that we have occasion to be proud of it as a neighbor, for it is not a neighbor, but a part of the whole, an interesting and thrifty and promising factor in the immense Imperial unit.

## WORK ON THE DROP

### Preparations for Furnishing Light, Water and Power

Work was begun this week by James Stuart and his men on the structure for the 17½ foot drop in the main canal southwest of Imperial, which is to be used in generating electricity for the town. After the structure is in place some months must pass before the water will cut out the earth sufficient to install the electric plant, but it is hoped that it will be ready to serve the town by about January 1.

In addition to furnishing light and power for the general use of the town, the plant will be used to pump domestic water through town, thus replacing the temporary domestic water plant now operated at the ice factory.

That there will be demand for considerable electricity by January 1 now seems certain, for the present need is great and the growth of population seems certain during the next six months.

I have good alfalfa pasture, horses \$2 per head per month. Jacob Stoner. If Harness preserving soap at the harness shop. 4-5

## IS A BOOM COMING?

### Many Indications That Imperial Will Have a Stampede

The Press always endeavors to be conservative. There is nothing to be gained by overreaching the truth in any statement. But it is the duty of this paper to chronicle the events of Imperial valley, and just now there is no truth more apparent than the tendency toward creating a genuine, old-fashioned boom in the fall.

Truthful men and liars in thousands of cities have alike used the expression: "We have no boom, and don't want one. We are simply experiencing a healthy growth." That is all bosh. Everybody everywhere wants to see values go rushing upward, and they are always looking for that sort of thing. Imperial wants a boom, but a boom is not necessarily an unhealthy condition. A boom that leads to staking out town lots by the million is an evil. A boom that results from depressed values rising to the level of values in surrounding sections is a natural result of the competition to secure big value for dollars expended.

There are 200,000 acres of land filed on in this valley of which the market value today is but one-tenth of the market value of equally good land and water in other portions of Southern California. That being true, and it is stated simply as a matter of fact and not for effect, it seems certain that the person who is looking for an investment in land will take advantage of the opportunities presented here just as soon as he knows that the opportunities exist, and the price of land will advance steadily until it gets its proper level as a producer of revenue.

For three years the land has been advertised, but for two of those years there was little or nothing demonstrated. One could easily believe the valley had a great future, but it was not subject to mathematical or optical demonstration, and the great majority of human beings possess that Missouri trait of wanting to be shown.

But in spite of the fact that there was little that was demonstrated, the population of the valley in two years has grown from nothing to about 4000, and when the summer crops are all in a few weeks from now there will be a crop acreage in the neighborhood of 40,000.

One would expect this changed condition to have an effect on the people who come to see the valley, and it does so. They now drive for many miles without being out of sight of magnificent fields, and the demonstration of present riches and a glorious future is complete.

The fact that there was a constant expansion of territory tended to prevent rise of values, but at last the time has come when there is a restricted opportunity for making filings on land where water can be obtained in the near future.

During the present month probably more strangers have visited Imperial valley than ever before in any month. Some of these people have made original filings, but about 5000 acres have been bought by them from the former locators. In every new country there are men who overreach, and there is always a percentage of dissatisfied settlers, no matter what the conditions. There

were some of these in the valley, and they were anxious to sell either a portion or a whole of their land. The opportunity has been presented for them to do so, and about 5000 acres have passed from these classes of men to new men or men who have tested the valley and believe in it. Whatever sales are made in the next six months will be mainly along this line, and it cannot but have the effect of lifting values toward their proper level. This will be aided by the fact that on June 1, water stock will be advanced \$5 an acre by the California Development Company.

Shrewd men see this, and they are writing to their friends of the opportunities presented. The friends are coming in and getting land and returning home to tell their friends, and they are coming.

The valley has reached the point where it is advertising itself. It is less necessary for men to stand under it and boost it upward. People read literature advertising a country and discount every word. When their neighbors in whom they have confidence, go to a new country and come back with enthusiastic endorsement of all that has been printed, there is advertising value that money cannot buy, and the point from which the settler went to the new land becomes the center of a colonization movement.

There is not a prominent town in Southern California but has experienced the effect of colonization centers at some localities. And now Imperial has the advantage of having many of those centers. They are scattered widely over California. They are especially in Eastern Oregon and in Eastern Washington, in Montana, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio, Massachusetts and New Hampshire, and are steadily springing up in new localities, their distribution being according to no known law. But they are having their effect, and the hundreds of visitors coming to the valley are the result.

The great colonization movement is under way. Thousands of men are sending out or carrying out the word that they have discovered a new Oklahoma, where values are yet dwarfed, and where grand opportunities exist for rich and poor alike.

This is no fancy sketch. It is a recital of the actual conditions prevailing in Imperial valley. The condition is recognized by every one, and every one is asking what the result will be in the fall when the real tide of immigration sets in. There can be but one answer, judged by the present appearances, and that is a deluge of people who will precipitate a good old-fashioned wholesome boom. And let it come.

## Value of Irrigation

A Washington dispatch says: The agricultural year book to be issued June 15 contains an article by Edward A. Beals on irrigation, which says there are more than 7,000,000 acres of irrigated land in the United States. The total cost of the irrigation systems of the United States is \$64,289,601, and the value of the irrigated crops for the single year of 1899 was \$84,433,438, or 30 per cent greater than the cost of the plants. The number of irrigators was 102,810, which gives nearly 71 acres to the farm.