

RECEIVER'S REPORT ON YEAR'S OPERATIONS

Col. Holabird Files Complete Account of Stewardship With Court

Financial Condition of California Development Company Shows Improvement Under Business-Like Management. Expenditure Necessary to Insure Future Adequate Water Supply.

Col. W. H. Holabird, Receiver of the California Development Company, has presented to the Superior Court of Imperial county a detailed report of operation and management covering the period from the date of his appointment, Dec. 13, 1909, to Nov. 30, 1910.

The report gives a concise history of the receivership and sets forth the relations of the C. D. Co. with the Mexican company and the conditions found existing when the receiver took charge of the property of the C. D. Co. The receiver found that virtually all the stock of the Mexican company is owned by the C. D. Co. and that the Mexican company is in the hands of a receiver in Mexico under a judgment for about \$1,000,000 obtained by the Southern Pacific in a Mexican court. The revenues of the Mexican company are not paid to the receiver of the C. D. Co.

Receiver Holabird reports that he has been authorized to issue certificates for \$336,051, of which he has sold \$315,000 to the Southern Pacific at par; that in the spring of 1910 he built a protective levee in Mexico to prevent overflow of the river into the Imperial valley at a cost of \$71,196; that he placed a weir dam in the Colorado below the intake and that a shortage of water in the canal occurred while he was securing the reluctant permission of the War Department engineers to build the dam, and that all demands for water have been met since the dam was constructed. He points out that much work must be done to put the system in shape to meet increased future demands for water, and that almost constant use of the dredge will be necessary to keep the channel and intake clear of silt.

The report recites the history of the receiver's effort to obtain funds for construction work by increasing the water rate from 50 to 80 cents an acre-foot and the compromise with the mutual companies under the terms of which the rate remains unchanged and the companies furnish a dredge for use in the Alamo channel.

The receiver requests the court to fix and allow fees to attorneys McKinley and Ives for services rendered and for which no payment has been made and to make a further allowance to the receiver, who has been paid \$3,000 up to date. He also asks the court to rule on a controversy between the receiver and Water Company No. 1 concerning methods of measurement of water delivered to that company.

The report is very complete and clear and shows business-like management of the property and great reduction in cost of operation of the system under the receiver. Hearing on approval of the report has been set for January 6, 1911, at which time all parties interested may appear in court and present objections if they have any. At the same time the receiver will ask the court to authorize the expenditure of \$35,000 on work necessary to maintain adequate delivery of water during the coming season. This work includes the construction of levees to retain water in the Alamo channel.

The receiver has suits pending against companies 6 and 8 for collection of water rentals alleged to be due. No. 6 has paid only \$600 to the receiver and claims an offset of \$9,230.70 for construction work on its own distributing system under an agreement with the C. D. Co. made prior to the appointment of the receiver. No. 8 also claims an offset under a similar agreement, but has presented no bill and the amount is not stated. The attention of the court is called to the status of these accounts.

A summary of the receiver's financial statement shows:

Receipts—	
Certificates sold	\$315,000.00
Bills receivable	24,660.93
Water rentals	169,253.61
Interest on deposits	889.79
Total	\$509,804.08
Disbursements	
Cash on hand	\$5,595.08
Ordinary operating exp.	\$160,044.96
Canals and structures, U.S.	172,203.12
" " Mex.	58,123.20
Levee in Mexico	71,196.57
Total exp., inc. taxes, etc.	\$470,666.53

WATER RENTALS DUE.

From Mutual Company No. 1	\$39,736.25
" " " No. 4	5,150.89
" " " No. 6	10,751.19
" " " No. 7	5,674.50
" " " No. 8	11,274.36
" " " No. 12	1,169.06
Credit to No. 5	2,485.91

No. 5 paid to W. J. Doran for water sold in December, 1909, after appointment of the receiver, \$4,670, and the receiver reports that the Southern Pacific has refused to turn that money over to him and that he is trying to enforce collection.

The report shows that the deliveries of water from Dec. 13, 1909, to Nov. 30, 1910, amounted to 553,936 acre-feet gross, or 480,851 net, the rentals for which aggregate \$240,523.95. As the ordinary operating expenses under economical management have been only \$160,044, it appears that the C. D. Co. must have been badly managed heretofore to get into practical bankruptcy.

The alleged extravagant expenses of the Los Angeles office of the C. D. Co. under the receiver, including rent, salaries and rent of offices for attorneys, which item has been cut off since the retirement of Mr. Ives, have amounted to \$10,725.

HARRIS LOSES APPEAL CASE.

Several weeks ago M. Harris, a merchant at Calexico, was convicted in the city recorder's court of that town of violating the Sunday-closing ordinance and was fined \$75. He appealed the case to the Imperial County Superior Court, where the judgment of the recorder's court was sustained. Harris then took an appeal to the District Court of Appeals, and this week this court denied his petition for the issuance of a writ of prohibition.

WATER TANK COMPLETED.

The 100,000-gallon sheet steel tank for the municipal water system stands completed today. Work was finished on it yesterday, although it has been in use since December 17. The entire municipal water system is working to the satisfaction of the superintendent. The Samson engine at the pumping plant has been in use for thirty days and in that time but twenty minutes' time has been lost by its delays, which is considered a remarkable record by engine users. The city at present is using about 100,000 gallons of water per day. Service connections are being made as rapidly as possible, but the old plant has been kept in operation by the Holton Power Company to supply those who were unable to get their service connections made.

HOLT BUYS ICE PLANT

Coachella Outfit to Be Operated in Connection With Valley Plants.

It is probable that W. F. Holt and his associates will take over the ice factory at Coachella and operate it as an auxiliary to the big plant at El Centro in supplying ice for refrigerating fruit cars during the shipping season in addition to supplying the local demand in Coachella valley. Mr. Holt recently inspected the Coachella plant and virtually closed the deal, and doubtless the factory will be remodelled and put into operating shape in time for use during the coming season.

The increasing use of ice for refrigerating shipments of fruits and melons from Imperial and Coachella valleys has outrun the capacity of plants that were designed to be adequate for several years to come, and every season it has been necessary to supplement the product of local factories with shipments of ice from Los Angeles. The capacity of the El Centro plant has been doubled within the past year, and yet the demand exceeds the supply.

BARS AT THE BORDER NOT YET LET DOWN

Contractors for Levee Cannot Pass Customs Barrier--- Crews Held Up

Washington Officials Had Not Completed Arrangements With Mexico When Order to Begin Work Was Given. Hope to Straighten Out Things in a Few Days.

Work on the Colorado river levee is delayed by the failure of government authorities on both sides of the line to make arrangements for passing outfits and material free of duty. The American Minister in Mexico informed the State Department that the Mexican government consented to remission of duties, but the Mexican government had not sent instructions to officers on the border up to last Thursday, and the contractors were unable to get their outfits located on the job. While awaiting adjustment, some of the contractors broke up their organizations and discharged large gangs of men. Bowker's outfit belongs on the Mexican side, however, and he is going ahead with the railroad grade on force account.

Secretary Ballinger has set up the long yell for help from this end of the line, and influential people are keeping the wires hot between Los Angeles and the seats of the mighty, with prospects that order may be brought out of the confusion on the river within a few days. The government has had only six months in which to get ready to go to work, and naturally nothing but the river is ready. Even the engineers do not know yet what they are tackling.

CATTLE FROM MEXICO.

Within the ensuing week 1200 head of cattle will be brought over the international line from Mexico to the Imperial valley, passing through the port of Calexico.

BUILDING AT IMPERIAL

Business Structures and an Episcopalian Church to Be Erected in Oldest Valley Town.

The first of the new year is to bring considerable building activity to Imperial. George Long, during January, will begin the erection of a two-story pressed brick building at the corner of Imperial avenue and Ninth street. The lower floor will be divided into storerooms and the upper floor will be leased by the Karnak Club. The building will cost about \$16,000.

During January work will be started on the edifice for St. Mathias Mission of the Episcopal church. A \$3000 building is projected and the funds are all subscribed. The Mission chapel will be located at Seventh and H streets. It will be of Mission style of architecture and hollow tile will be used for the walls.

Stevenson Brothers are planning for an addition to their store building and erection of a warehouse, 25x100 feet, on the property adjoining the Zimmer building. All of these structures have been planned by Architect S. B. Zimmer.

LOOKS LIKE POWER GRAB

Chuckawalla Project Described as Scheme to Make Settlers Pay for Big Dam.

It is suspected that one of the companies in the big electric power combination that is trying to get control of the water-power resources of the West has become interested in the schemes of the Chuckawalla Development Company, and is backing the project of damming the Colorado above Parker. The promoters of the project talked big things about an irrigation system for the Colorado Indian Reservation on the Arizona side and the Chuckawalla valley in California, but they have not been suspected of having any capital with which to carry out such an ambitious enterprise.

The Parker Post reports that the company is prospecting a dam site at Box Canyon, 16 miles above Parker,

and says: "In connection with the abandonment of the old site it is said that a 10-foot diversion dam is planned by the Chuckawalla Co., at Headgate Rock, the power dam to be built further up the stream. If this report is correct it goes to prove that the Chuckawalla company plans to provide an irrigation system for the reservation. Heretofore officials of that company disclaimed any intention to provide an irrigation project for these lands, basing their arguments and petitions to Congress for privilege of building a dam on the Colorado solely for the purpose of conveying water into the Chuckawalla valley, over 40 miles west of Parker. This latter project it is now claimed has been abandoned by the company, owing to its utter impracticability. What arguments will be advanced before the congressional committee on rivers and harbors for the construction of a dam near Bill Williams Fork are not known, but from all appearances it looks as if it will have to be admitted that it is solely for power purposes.

"We do not object to a concession being granted for a power dam on the Colorado river, but do object to the company securing so valuable a privilege also annexing the lands of the reservation. The Warren bill provides for the opening of these lands under the Carey Act, which, in this instance, means turning them over to a corporation composed of capitalists contemplating the construction of the greatest power dam in the United States, and which will take nearly \$10,000,000 to build. Under the Carey Act the lands would be assessed to the limit for water rights and privilege of usage. The settlers on the land would pay for a power dam, besides paying a stiff price for the land."

WATER WITHOUT STOCK

Rancher Asks to Have Practice Legalized by Decision of Court.

The case of Thayer vs. the California Development Company, in which the plaintiff seeks to compel the company to supply water at the rate of fifty cents an acre-foot for use upon land upon which no water stock is located, and without the intervention of a mutual company, came up on demurrer last week, and the demurrer on a technical point was sustained. Time to amend and to answer has been granted, and the case will be hard on its merits later.

The suit was instituted to bring up the question of the right of the canal company to require the purchase of water stock and to fix, if possible, the status of the C. D. Co. as a public service corporation. Thayer has not suffered through lack of water. His attorney says he has been getting water directly from the C. D. canal for land for which he holds no stock, but the water rental has been charged to Mutual Company No. 1 and Thayer has paid the C. D. Co. through the mutual. Thus the C. D. and No. 1 virtually have been supplying water to land for which no stock is held.

SEEK CITY HALL SITE

Special Committee Appointed by City Trustees to Investigate Plan for Purchase of State-Street Lots.

One of the most important matters that came before the El Centro Trustees at their meeting last Tuesday night was a proposition to secure a site for a City Hall. Messrs. Whitescarver and Dan V. Noland, City Attorney, were made a committee to investigate a proposition to purchase two lots on State street west of the Carnegie library for a City Hall site. The City Attorney was instructed to prepare an ordinance requiring property owners to connect their premises with the sewer system.

Lester Laughlin was granted permission to erect a lath nursery house at the rear of his greenhouse on Main street. The City Clerk was instructed to purchase from H. A. F. Thenberg three city maps, showing the municipal water and sewer systems and general information needed by city officials.

The City Engineer was empowered to employ an inspector of cement construction. The proposed occupation tax ordinance was given its first reading. The Board approved the election of officers by the El Centro Fire Department.

PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN PLANNED FOR CITY

Chamber of Commerce Shows Signs of Life and New Activity

Illustrated Lectures On the Valley to Be Given by Col. Holabird. Terminal Freight Rates and State Experimental Station Discussed by Local Body.

The El Centro Chamber of Commerce meeting held at the City Hall on Wednesday evening was well attended, and as one of the practical results an advertising booklet will be issued within the ensuing fifteen days for general use by business men of this city. The booklet will be of convenient size to insert in an ordinary-sized envelope, and will contain views of El Centro and the valley and special articles on various phases of ranching and business in this valley.

The Chamber accepted the offer of Col. W. H. Holabird to deliver a lecture here and show colored views of the Imperial water system and valley views. Saturday afternoon, January 14 is the date selected for this lecture, which will be given at the Holt Opera House. It will be advertised generally throughout the valley.

President Reading notified the Chamber that he had secured the display of goods made from the first crop of Imperial valley cotton, and the matter of placing these in a permanent exhibit was discussed. Suggestions were made favoring the division of these articles into displays for Los Angeles and San Diego, with possibly an exhibit at Indio, where Southern Pacific trains stop twenty minutes, or at Imperial Junction.

D. G. Whiting presented the matter of assisting J. J. Carr in his efforts to secure terminal freight rates for this valley, and the Transportation Committee was instructed to confer with a similar committee from the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association in this matter.

Phil D. Swing presented the matter of endorsing the movement to secure an appropriation of \$25,000 for a State Experimental Station in Imperial valley, and the president and secretary were instructed to prepare and sign such a resolution and have it presented to the State Senator and Assemblyman from this district.

J. V. Wacntel, Jr., was elected treasurer of the Chamber.

Short talks were made by various members on the theme of town and county advancement.

LARGE WAREHOUSE COMPLETED

The large warehouse of the Hamilton Supply Company, located at State street and the Southern Pacific tracks, is completed and is being filled with produce and a stock of groceries which this firm will wholesale to valley merchants. Six carloads of potatoes and three carloads of mill stuffs have been placed in the new building. An office building and store will be erected later. At present the offices of the company will be maintained in the warehouse building.

SLUGGED AND ROBBED

Citizen Attacked by Thugs at the Door of His House.

Two thugs knocked down and robbed Frank Preston, of the firm of Preston & Macartney, on his own doorstep last Wednesday night. Preston lives in the Hamilton addition in the south part of El Centro. Returning home late at night, he was about to unlock the door when he heard steps behind him, and he turned only to receive a heavy blow from a club full in the mouth. He was knocked out, and was barely conscious of hands exploring his clothing after he had fallen. There were two robbers, as Preston noted when he turned, and they went through him thoroughly, retaining the small amount of coin they found and casting aside his papers and such effects as might be identified. Preston was severely bruised and

lost two teeth, but he was not injured seriously.

El Centro has been remarkably free from lawlessness heretofore, but the races attracted predatory criminals to the valley, and the dregs appear to have remained. It is no longer safe to leave doors unlocked, and it is unwise to be unobserving while walking in the dark.

PROMOTING HOME INDUSTRIES.

In accordance with conclusions reached at a recent conference of the advocates of promoting home industries of California, State Mineralogist Lewis E. Aubury has mailed to the President of the United States a strong protest against the discriminations against California that have been made by the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department. The Home Industry League of California is co-operating with Mr. Aubury in the fight to have California structural materials used in the construction of Federal buildings in this State in preference to those produced elsewhere.

CALEXICO'S CREAMERY PROJECT.

At a meeting of those interested in the establishment of a creamery in Calexico, held Monday, the Calexico Creamery Association was formed, constitution and by-laws were adopted, and officers were elected. J. M. Edmunds is the president; Benjamin Vlier, vice-president; T. T. Miller, secretary; First National Bank, treasurer. A building committee was appointed and consists of Sidney McHarg and Thomas Miller. A Mr. Johnson from Oakland, has been secured as manager. It is expected that the creamery building will join the cold storage plant recently erected by W. F. Holt.

HAZELWOOD IS ITS NAME.

Hazelwood is the name selected for the new postoffice in the heart of Water District No. 7. It is located about seven miles southeast of Holtville. C. P. Grandfield has been appointed postmaster. A general store is maintained at Hazelwood and there are ambitious plans afoot for laying out a townsite.

NEXT TO LOS ANGELES

El Centro's Freight Traffic Shows Great Increase Over Last Year.

Freight shipments in and out of El Centro show an increase of business over last year's record corresponding to the increase in express and post-office business. Last week 92 carloads of freight were received at El Centro, about 60 per cent increase over receipts for the same period in 1909, and exceeding the receipts at any other station in Southern California except Los Angeles. Outgoing shipments of produce amounted to 52 carloads and 112,000 pounds in less than carload lots.

Figures for the entire valley are not available, as the agents at some stations are secretive and refuse to give information. It is evident, however, that the valley branch of the Southern Pacific does a big freight business and is one of the best traffic producers in the system.

MC CABE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

New Pastor Has Arranged Interesting Program for Tomorrow Morning at "Stone Church."

A special Christmas service will be held in the McCabe Methodist Church, southwest of El Centro, at 10:30 o'clock tomorrow forenoon. Rev. F. S. Converse, the new pastor, will have charge of the services and the program includes:

Organ voluntary, "Incarnation." Mrs. H. J. Wilson; song, "Joy to the World," choir; prayer and Christmas address, Rev. F. S. Converse; carol, "White Shepherds Watch," Sunday school; "Prophecies," Superintendent J. H. Wilson; song, "Holy Angels," Sunday school; song, "Holy Night," Miss E. Haggerty; recitation, "The Birth of Jesus," Dorothy Nichols; recitation, "An Angel Appears," primary class; song, "Cradle Hymn," Dorothy Nichols; song, "Peace On Earth," Sunday school; hymn by the congregation; Benediction.

The McCabe Sunday school will have a Christmas entertainment this Saturday evening in the church, the program to include a Christmas tree and the appearance of Santa Claus.