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## THE DESERT LAND

### Secretary Wood Returns to San Diego Enthusiastic in Praise of The Desert

The following extracts are from a long article published in the San Diego Union under date of April 15:

Secretary H. P. Wood of the chamber of commerce and E. J. Swayne, who were the representatives of San Diego on the editorial excursion which made the trip into the rapidly developing country about the new town of Imperial, in the eastern part of the

turning the tide of immigration this way. Throughout the entire United States there is an increased desire for information concerning this land of the future. During the past two decades millions of dollars have been spent in the development of irrigation enterprises, reclaiming here and there areas, great and small, of unproductive soil, affording homes for many thousands of people, who have found in this beautiful Southland health, wealth and happiness.

"The lesson taught by the pioneers in their intensive system of agriculture has been well learned. Great is Southern California, but still greater is the delta of the Colorado, which, in the eastern part of San Diego county, alone furnishes a greater area of arable land than is under all of the

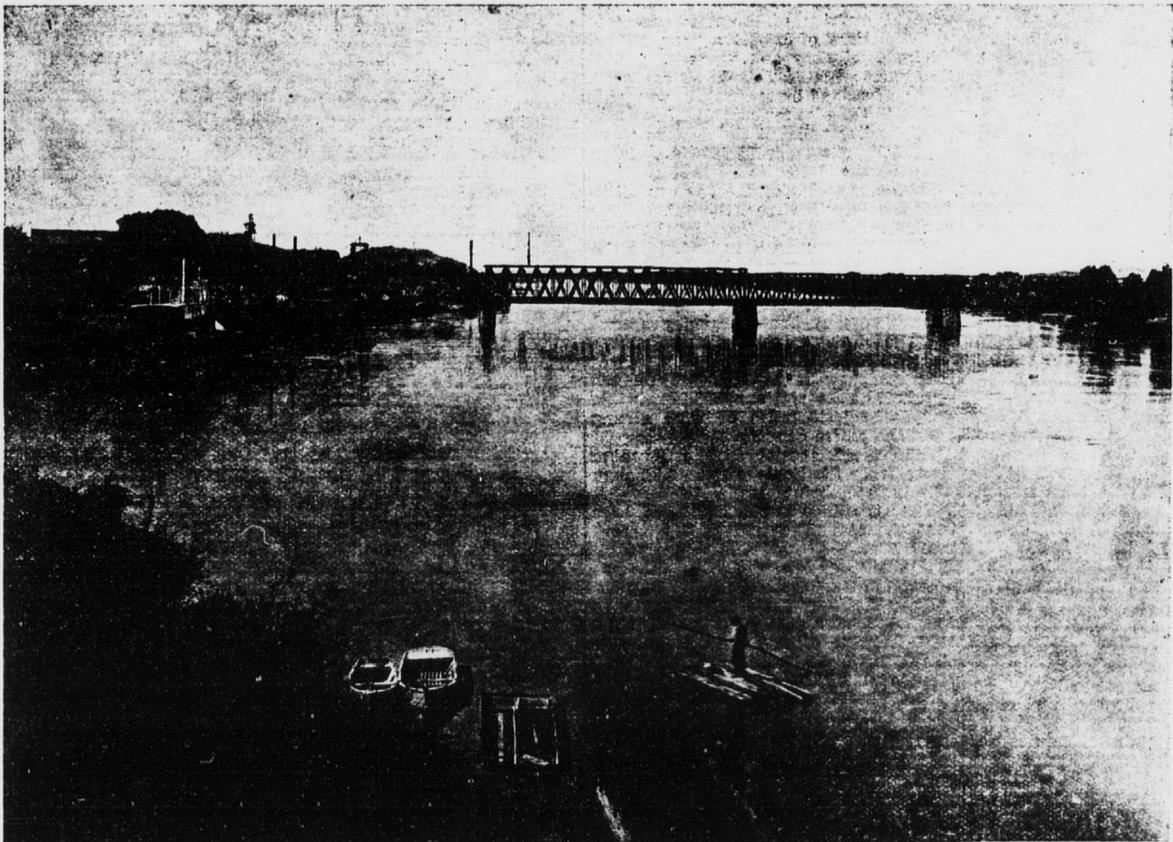
feet, and a storm flow of 400,000 cubic feet per second. This minimum flow alone would furnish water sufficient to irrigate eight millions of acres. Of this amount the California Development company's system includes 600,000 acres below the line in Mexico, and 500,000 acres in San Diego county.

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The work of constructing headgates, filtering basins and the main canal to connect the Colorado with the Salton channel is directly in charge of Mr. George Chaffey, whose camp is at Hanlon's heading. This division now employs some 200 men and about 175 horses. Two large dredgers are at work, one in the settling basin, the other in digging out the main canal. Good and rapid work is being done and the entire canal will be built by the

Mr. W. F. Holt, who for several years past has been successfully engaged in the banking business in several parts of Arizona, but who is now withdrawing his capital from other points and investing it, for a major portion of it, in the development and improvement of the city of Imperial. This gentleman has recently bought out the store, which was started by Dr. Heffernan, and which he proposes to enlarge immediately. He is arranging to carry a stock of between \$25,000 and \$30,000 in all lines of merchandise. Mr. Holt is also preparing plans for a \$5,000 residence and is now building a telephone line from Imperial to Flowing-wells.

(The telephone line is now completed.—Ed.)

"With a soil, which is practically in-



## COLORADO RIVER

### Source of water supply for the Imperial Country

county, returned to the city yesterday noon, after a most delightful trip on which they were entertained most pleasantly by the managers of the Imperial Land company and the California Development company. No party was ever given a better opportunity to see what they went to see, and all returned well pleased with the trip and well stored with information regarding the country through which they traveled and which they went to see.

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Secretary Wood was quite enthusiastic, not only about the trip, but also about the country seen, and in a casual talk, which went only partially into the subject, yesterday afternoon, said:

"The rapidly developing commerce of the Pacific ocean and the consequent increase in importance of the states bordering its shores, is again

other great water systems combined.

"The great canyon of the Colorado, one of the most stupendous of nature's creations, was gradually deepened and widened through thousands of years for a purpose. There can be no waste in the economy of nature; it was not that man might stand on the brink of this great chasm to gaze and wonder; a nobler end was in view. Gradually the shifting winds wrested from the arm of the sea, now called the Gulf of California, the upper portion of the basin into which have silted the rich earths of the mountains and plains traversed by the Colorado, creating a principality, the fertility of whose soil is inexhaustible.

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"The minimum flow of the Colorado river is 14,000 cubic feet per second with a maximum flow of 75,000 cubic

feet, and a storm flow of 400,000 cubic feet per second.

\* \* \* \* \*  
"Water rights for more than one hundred thousand acres have been bought, and applications are being filed daily for more. Farmers are coming in from less favored districts, bringing with them their wagons and horses, for which they immediately find employment on the line of work mapped out by the company, receiving compensation at a fair rate, either on a cash basis or part cash and part water stock.

\* \* \* \* \*  
"The town of Imperial, which is situated in about the center of the section west of the river, now has a good hotel, a general store, and a printing office. Lumber is on the ground for the construction of a church which is being built entirely at the expense of

exhaustible, and with water which will be delivered at a very reasonable cost per acre, there is no doubt whatever but that a very large immigration will quickly follow the spreading of the knowledge of the existence of such a favored locality and it will be but a very few years before the Salt river valley around Phoenix will be duplicated many times over on the Colorado desert.

"The climate during eight months of the year is pleasant, and the remaining four months, though warm, are not unbearable, for the climate is so dry that the heat is unobjectionable.

"The increasing price of the beef stock throughout the entire country assures a profit to the tiller of the soil from the very beginning. Six crops of alfalfa can be raised yearly, and it

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