

Imperial Press

AND FARMER

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GOVERNOR GAGE begins to look like a boy with a stubbed toe.

A contributor to the Kansas Churchman, who recalls that in his boyhood people went to two and sometimes three services a day, sat on hard benches and sang, "My God, the spring of all my joys," while now they lean back in cushioned pews and sing, "Art thou weary, art thou languid?" thinks that hymnology is changing to suit the times.

AFTER having the questions under consideration for about two years, the Interstate Commerce Commission has decided that citrus fruit shippers have a right to route their fruit to the East, which was denied by the railroads. The commission declares that there is no law by which it can order railroads to provide their own cars. This decision upholds the independent car lines. Other questions involved are reserved for further testimony.

THE beginnings of colonization are necessarily crude, and necessity forced the first settlers in the valley to resort to tents and the most insecure sort of buildings for a makeshift. In some cases this method of building has been continued where not absolutely necessary, and experience is teaching the people that it is not only more comfortable, but cheaper in the long run, to put up substantial buildings, and the prospects are favorable for a decided improvement in the character of buildings through the valley.

IN another place is given an article on the profits in cane and rice growing in Texas. With two rice fields being put in at Imperial this year, that crop awakens considerable interest, and the showing of an income from rice in Texas of from about \$75 to \$110 an acre is very encouraging. This is one of the cultures most worthy of careful investigation and experiment, with sugar cane and Egyptian cotton as prospective rivals. Rice is the principal article of food of about a third of the world's population, while rice straw is not only a fair cattle food, but is an article from which an excellent quality of paper is made.

PAPERS now booming Northern California should remember that advertising failures and preventing their duplication has really been as great a factor in development in the south as advertising the successes achieved. No paper can afford to lead the people into disaster. Even though it be true that the north can produce oranges as well as the south, the fact remains that the economic conditions have not prompted planting in the south for several years. Heavy planting could very easily carry the citrus fruit industry into the condition of the prune industry.

SOME papers not acquainted with the local situation have commented on the temporary injunction (now dissolved) which Frank Bothwell secured against the California Development Company as though the Imperial irrigation system were involved. About 140,000 acres of land in the valley have been filed on, while only about 16,000 acres is even remotely involved in the question at issue, which is the right of way through a homestead filed on with the supposed object of obstructing work on the Eastside canal. Even that injunction has now been dissolved, and work will proceed on the system. But the system is now practically completed for 125,000 acres about Imperial, and there is no prospect of the courts looking with sympathy on any obstructive work on the part of those who would prevent the further development of the valley.

IMPERIAL IS BOOMING

The town of Imperial is undoubtedly in the incipient stages of a boom. For months it lay in an almost comatose state while the farmers were coming in and taking possession of their places and the Development Company and Land Company were devoting their first energies to the farming interests. But with the virtual completion of the irrigation system a new condition is growing up, and the sounds of the hammer and the brickmason's trowel are heard in the land.

After a few days delay on account of lack of material, work is ready to proceed on the brick block being put up by the Imperial Land Company and Wilbur Clark. Mr. Clark has ordered his stock of hardware and is anxious to take possession of his part of the building as soon as possible.

W. D. Montgomery has about completed the addition to his store which will more than double its capacity.

The Edgar Brothers building is nearing completion and will soon be occupied by a stock of hardware and agricultural implements.

Mrs. Muller's adobe restaurant building is well advanced.

George W. McCaulley will soon put up a two-story hotel building to operate in connection with the hotel he is about to build at Old Beach.

Charles Lathrop is looking for tenants for a brick block which he proposes to build.

It is on the programme to begin work in the course of a few weeks on a brick block for George Varney of Halleck, while W. B. Broadwell of Covina is planning to build and remove his store here early in the fall.

It is expected that the ice plant will be purchased this week and be installed as soon as the work can be done.

Much of the pipe for the domestic water system is in town, and it is expected to have that completed by July 1 at the latest.

These are what mark the incipient stages of the boom, but the many letters being received from people who are planning to come to Imperial in the fall, about the time the railroad will be completed into the town, tell of great expectations and are taken as premonitions of a grand rush into the town and valley at that time.

Report of Crops

Blanks have been sent to all the subscribers of the Press in the valley asking them to co-operate in reporting the acreage of the various crops growing in the valley or just harvested. This first year it is highly important that accurate data be gathered touching the growth of crops, but this cannot well be done without the assistance of many persons, so widely are the crops scattered. It is hoped that everybody will take an interest in making as full a report as possible.

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