

To Imperial and Return.

A clerical party recently left San Diego for Imperial. On the return trip over the mountains they experienced some stormy weather as reported by the Union of December 11, as follows:

The party of Episcopal clergymen who started two weeks ago for a short visit to the Imperial country returned last night, after an experience they will not forget, since the drive from the eastern side of the mountains was made in the storm which has settled over this southern part of the county, but of which only the low temperature was felt in San Diego. The party was composed of Bishop Johnson of Los Angeles, Dean H. B. Restarick of San Diego, Rev. C. E. Spalding of Coronado, and Fred Johnson and Charles L. Partridge of Redlands, with Fred Blethen, formerly driver of the Escondido stage, as driver.

The start was made a week ago last Tuesday, and the return late last night. The first stop was made at Mesa Grande, and the second at Agua Caliente. Thence they drove down to the desert throughout San Felipe ranch and canyon to Vallecitos, where they had the first touch of the desert windstorm, but they drove out of it, stopping the next night at Carriso creek, where the country is covered with oil claims staked out.

The next day was Sunday, and it was spent in a drive across the desert to Blue Lake, where they camped on Sunday night. Monday was spent between Blue Lake and Imperial, and back again to Blue Lake.

The big main ditch which is to bring the water into the Imperial country permanently, the present supply being brought by a temporary route, is now within a mile of Imperial, and a big force of men is at work with four-horse teams and Fresno scrapers. The laterals are all laid out, and staked out as though they intended to do some business in that section of the country. The people are coming in from all directions, and are coming quite rapidly. Many are from this state, from Redlands and Riverside, and some from here. Phoenix, Ariz., is furnishing a good many settlers for Imperial, and they are driving in not only from Flowing Wells, but also from Yuma. The people who are trying to build up that section of the country are very confident that the next few months will tell a tale of remarkable growth.

All of Monday was spent in the section between Blue Lake and Imperial, and at night the party found itself back at Blue Lake ready to start home on Tuesday morning. That day, the party met A. E. Dodson, who had just been in an adventure. He had reached Coyote Wells on the preceding day or on the day before that, at noon, and was camping there when his horse took a notion to start back for San Diego, and did so. The animal made for Mountain springs, and Mr. Dodson had to remain where he was until a man who had been at work on the road in Devil's canyon caught the horse and brought him back to Coyote Wells, about twenty-four hours after he had started on his self-planned trip to Mountain springs.

Near Coyote Wells, the ministerial party saw the rig of the Yuma Oil company. The rig was three-quarters of a mile away, but it could be seen that it was working. Tuesday night, Mr. Restarick and his fellow travelers camped with the road-builders in Devil's canyon. The men are working on road under the direction of the board of supervisors.

The next day the party drove into the cold wind of the desert storm, but they made Jacumba about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. There they met Dr. C. C. Valle, Charles Chase, and another gentleman who had gone out from here. The doctor and his friends had camped there the night before, and the storm had swept their tent down that night, or rather about 4 o'clock in the morning. They were then encamped in an old adobe building of two rooms. They gave up one of the rooms to Mr. Restarick's party, and there they all remained that night, eight people in the two-room adobe structure.

The next morning they started for Campo, and the storm continued. About a mile from Jacumba, they drove into a snowstorm which con-

cluded during most of the day. On the summit about thirteen or fourteen miles east of Campo there was about four inches of snow on the ground. The snow kept falling until they were within a mile or two of Campo, and a dozen times on the journey they wished they had not started. They came through Campo to Potrero, where they remained Thursday night, having driven thirty-three miles, most of the distance in a storm.

Thursday night was the coldest night Potrero had known for years, and the ground was frozen hard until 11 o'clock the next day, which was yesterday. There was not much rain or mist this side of Potrero, but it was disagreeably cold, and no one was ever more glad to get to the end of a forty-two-mile drive than were the members of the party when they reached San Diego last evening at the end of their day's travel.

The trip was made in the interest of the church, but not for the purpose of holding services, though one or two were held. A general view of the country was taken, and plans for the future were made contingent on the upbuilding of the country, as it is expected it will grow.

Miss Boston Baque—"Mr. Porkerly, did you ever feel that longing for the infinite; that soulful desire for a more perfect grasp of the beyond?"

Mr. Porkerly (of Chicago)—"Have I? Well, I should smile. I always feel it when I put up margins on pork."

There is salt enough in the sea, it is said, to cover 7,000,000 square miles of land with a layer one mile in thickness.

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