

Imperial Press

AND FARMER

Published every Saturday at
Imperial, San Diego County, Cal.**Edgar F. Howe Editor and Manager****SUBSCRIPTION:**One year - - - - \$1.50
Six Months - - - - .75ADDRESS: IMPERIAL PRESS, Imper-
ial, San Diego County, Cal.Entered at the Imperial, California Postoffice
as second-class mail matter.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1902.

THE GREAT ISSUE

The Press and Farmer has been confessedly derelict in commenting on the greatest issue which has been before the people of Southern California for many years—if one can judge by the amount of newspaper space devoted to it. This neglect is probably due to the fact that the issue is itself about as old as the progressive era of Southern California, though each year the issue is growing into greater prominence in the press of Southern California.

Briefly stated, this question is: Is Major-General Harrison Gray Otis a suitable person to edit the Los Angeles Times?

It might be considered that this is an issue for the press of the State to settle according to personal feeling toward the Times and its editor, but in reality the question is a greater one. The opponents of General Otis have opposed him so vigorously and so persistently that they have beyond all question elected him to the chief citizenship of Southern California. He is the man of whom all men have heard and the one whose character most men have discussed, often with little opportunity for knowing his true character. Personal feeling towards the Times and its editor and the acceptance or rejection of the opinions of the Times and its editor have no relationship with the real issue, for men may disagree and yet respect or even admire one another—can even respect and admire characteristics which are above the meaningless glad-hand order when they are associated with strength of character enabling a man to lift himself from the dead level of average life to the almost commanding position which General Otis has come to occupy in Southern California.

There are but two men living in California who, by the sole force within them, starting with little or no capital, have built up great and powerful newspapers. M. H. DeYoung did that in San Francisco and H. G. Otis did the same in Los Angeles. In San Francisco the editor of the Chronicle is a leading citizen, but he would probably not be selected as the one imposing personage in that city in the same degree that General Otis would be in Los Angeles. Herein, one would naturally think, there is ground for the newspaper men of Southern California to manifest some pride in the fact that a follower of their profession has won the high place which everybody accords to General Otis, even though they may occasionally have found the Times' vigorous English gnawing like a file upon their own opinions and wishes.

The one charge against the Times and its editor which has been made to stick is that their opinions are arbitrary, which is to say that their opinions are of the same character as those of every newspaper and every editor that ever got above the dead level of mediocrity. The writer who feels that he must go about the highways and hedges with explanations of or apologies for the "policy" of his newspaper is lost, and the Times and its editor have never got lost in that way.

The Press and Farmer realizes that both the Times and the general public have been waiting with some anxiety for this deferred expression of its opinion on the real live issue of Southern California, but now it wishes to record its verdict and to declare its pleasure and pride that the chief representative of journalism in Southern California

is also able to maintain his place as the chief citizen of the section of the country under the influence of his pen.

IMPERIAL VALLEY SCHOOLS

The presence of Hugh J. Baldwin, county superintendent of schools, and Supervisor Jasper, during the present week, has opened the way for interested parents and the school directors to present local school questions to them for some additional information, and as a result of conferences some important steps are being taken.

The most encouraging fact for the immediate future is that Superintendent Baldwin has arranged to have the present school continued for the full school year of nine months. The plan has heretofore been to have a six months' term, but outside of regular ways money has been provided to continue the school for the full year at its present quarters.

This is good for the present, but it does not meet the requirements for the coming year, when there will be several hundred children anxious to attend school, but scattered over a wide stretch of country, for which reason it is considered necessary to have four school districts under the Imperial irrigation system for the next year, while even that number will necessarily be greatly increased within the next few years.

The schools to be provided for the coming year will be located at Imperial, Calexico, at or near Paringa and at some point about three miles east of Blue Lake, the exact location of the two latter schools being determined by the center of population in the districts. The growth of the towns of Imperial and Calexico has been such as to give permanency to the schools, and at each of those points school houses will be built. That at Imperial will probably be of brick, designed to be a wing of a larger building when required, and the one at Calexico will probably be on the same line.

To maintain these schools an effort will be made to get the 76 miles of the Southern Pacific railroad in the county divided between the four districts. The reason for this is a logical one. The railroad has heretofore been divided between the mountain school districts, and has been subjected to special taxes to build school houses in most or all of those districts, though none of them are in country tributary to the railroad. The railroad company has expressed a desire to people of this valley to be put in districts in Imperial valley, which is tributary to the road, declaring its willingness to contribute to the building of schools in this section, where the road would share the benefit of the schools. It is necessary to have the roads in these districts, because it will be some years before the land filed on is proved up and is thus made subject to taxation. The mountain districts are now provided for, and the time has come for building schools in the valley.

What will be a great surprise to many people is the fact that Imperial is in a union high school district, and that every dollar's worth of property here is subject to taxation for high school purposes. This district contains about 7,000 square miles, and is probably the largest school district in the United States. The school house is located at Julian, about sixty miles northwest of Imperial. Any of our bright young people who so desire can walk over to Julian any morning and enroll themselves as pupils of the high school, returning in the evening. The Julian high school is a very prosperous institution, because it has every mile of the Southern Pacific road in the county on which to levy taxes, although the railroad runs from 60 to 125 miles from the school house. Now it is occurring to many people of Imperial and of the valley that since the valley has within it all the railroad which supports the Julian high school, since all the property in this valley is subject to taxes for high school purposes, and since it is impossible to get free from those taxes, that it is a proper move to begin immediately to work for a union high school district for the valley. The school can be provided and maintained in good shape without adding scarcely a dollar to the taxes of the people of the valley, and the question presented is whether Imperial valley desires a high school, independent of the question of the cost of equipment and maintenance, and of course that question will be answered in the affirmative. The class of intelligent and progressive people who are settling the Imperial valley lands are

Imperial Water Rights

We have opened a branch office at Imperial, in charge of our Mr. H. C. Oakley, who is thoroughly familiar with the whole

IMPERIAL COUNTRY.

In addition to our DISTRICT AGENCY for the Imperial Land Company, we are prepared to handle any of the early filings that the owners may wish to dispose of at reasonable price;

For special reports on lands or for general information, address

Oakley-Paulin Co.,**IMPERIAL, CALIFORNIA.****LOS ANGELES, 304-5 Douglass Bldg.****Imperial Mercantile Co.**

DEALERS IN—

GENERAL MERCHANDISE**HAY
AND
GRAIN****LUMBER AND
BUILDING
HARDWARE****Imperial, and Calexico, Cal****The Hotel Imperial****Imperial, California.****Offers to the public
superior accommodations****Patronage of tourists and land-seekers solicited**

W. F. HOLT, Pres. A. H. HEBER, Vice-Pres. LEROY HOLT, Cashier.

**First National Bank
of Imperial****DIRECTORS**W. F. Holt,
Leroy Holt,
A. H. Heber,
H. C. Oakley,
George A. Carter.All accommodations consistent with conserva-
tive banking extended to patrons.

of the class who wish their children to have all the modern facilities for getting an education, and here is presented to them a rare opportunity, while there will be scores of high school pupils provided as soon as the school can be built. A petition for this purpose will be circulated and sent to the supervisors at once.

Wanted to Buy

The undersigned wishes to buy 80 or 160 acres of the early filings near Imperial. Must be a bargain. J. H. HAYDEN, 614 east 23rd street, Los Angeles, Cal.

Alfalfa and Barley Seed

Just received from Utah a carload of alfalfa seed. Also choice seed barley for sale. Imperial Mercantile company, Calexico.

F. P. BLAKE, M. D.**GENERAL PRACTITIONER****IMPERIAL, CAL.**