

A Sonnet

FOR THE PRESS

There lay abandoned of an ancient sea
A desert wild, to arts of man unknown
Where the traveler halted with
disheartened groan
And read on Nature's face Death's stern
decree.
The arid wind moaned through the
blasted tree,
Bowing the stunted sage with with'ring
breath.
Unharm'd the rattler hissed its lay of
death,
And the coyote vented his demoniac glee.
Behold! how altered Nature's crude
design;
The plain enchanted has now burst its
bond:
And lo! up spring the blossom, date and
vine
As Science stretches forth the wat'ry
wand.
Onward! be Columbia's fairest record
thine,
An empire risen with her century's dawn.

JOHN F. LEMON.

SALT COMPANY SUES FOR BIG DAMAGES

Wants \$87,000 From California Development Company for Damage Done by Waste Water to Salt Works, Injunction Asked for

A suit of great importance has been filed, in which the New Liverpool Salt Company of Salton, Riverside county, sues the California Development Company for \$87,000 and asks for an order restraining defendants from running waste waters into the lands of plaintiff corporation.

The complaint which comprises eight typewritten pages, sets forth the following allegations:

The plaintiff is engaged in the business of mining, gathering and refining salt and has sheds, warehouses and mill, between 700 and 800 feet long, on section 14, township 8 south, range 10 east, and owns besides several other sections in the vicinity which are of great value because of their salt deposits.

That the Colorado river, carrying many thousand second feet of water does not flow naturally upon or near plaintiff's lands.

That defendant has for more than a year past been diverting the waters of the Colorado river and carrying them to Calexico and has constructed on the Colorado river three intakes for the purpose of diverting the water of the river into canals.

That the lands of plaintiff are situated in the Salton sink, 280 feet below sea level, and because of the contour of the land all water carried by defendant's canal finds its way through the various waste and distributing canals and water courses to the Salton sink and lands of plaintiff.

That defendant has for the past six months been diverting and distributing a stream between 300 and 500 cubic feet per second, in addition to the amount used for irrigation or that is absorbed or evaporated, and that this amount is continuously pouring into the Salton sink, producing a lake over 20 miles in length and several miles in width and have overflowed and covered all of section 23 and a large portion of section 15, belonging to plaintiff. This would extend further but for the fact that a dyke has been built by plaintiff around its mill, in which a crew of men is constantly at work in the preservation of the dyke.

That the amount of water in the lake is constantly increasing and if the increase be not checked will overflow the dyke and flood the ground about the buildings and render their foundation insecure, besides ruining many thousands of tons of salt piled on the ground inside of the dyke.

That the water carries large quantities of sand, silt and mud which cover up the salt and render it impure.

That the railroad running from the mill southerly for a distance of three miles has been entirely covered by the overflow water.

That the lake will disappear if no more water is diverted from the river to the lake. If this is not done the plaintiff alleges will suffer damage in the sum of \$200,000.

The complaint further alleges that plaintiff's railway has been damaged to the amount of \$6000, and that 15,000 tons of salt were destroyed of a value of \$25,000. The damage to lands and salt beds is estimated at \$50,000, and plaintiff has expended \$6000 on its dyke.

In conclusion the plaintiff company seeks to perpetually enjoin defendant from diverting any of the waters of the Colorado river in any way whatever so that they shall flow on lands of plaintiff, unless it shall construct suitable headworks and headgates so that the water shall not flow in excess of the amount required for irrigation.

Pending the trial an interlocutory decree of court is asked for restraining defendants until the further order of the court. In conclusion \$87,000 is asked for damages already suffered.

Purdell Rowe and Judge J. W. McKinley are attorneys for plaintiff.

The complaint is accompanied by affidavits of Civil Engineers Duryea, Sherman, Dubbers and Evans, relative to inspections that they have made of the head works and canals of the defendant company supporting the contentions of the salt company.—Riverside Press.

Opening of Great Irrigation Canal

Messrs. Buckman, Warren and their associates who are building for the Federal government the big irrigation canal in Nevada, east of Reno, from a point on the Truckee river and thence easterly and southeast a distance of about thirty-eight miles, together with over a hundred miles of lateral or connecting ditches, for the reclamation of about 300,000 acres of arid land, are confident of having the bulk of their work completed by the time the Congressional Joint Committee on Irrigation comes West in June to inspect the work and look over the irrigation projects in Nevada, California, and Arizona.

Mr. Buckman says that by the time the committee arrives he thinks it can be treated to the sight of seeing the water turned into the canal from the Truckee river.

From the advices he has received from Washington, Mr. Buckman thinks the following Congressmen are sure to come West to view the formal opening of the canal: Senator Warren of Wyoming, chairman, and Senators Dietrich, Hansbrough, Ankeny, Fulton, Bailey, Patterson, Gibson, Gorman and Newlands and Representatives Mondell, Reeder, Tirrell, Dwight, Marshall, Cooper, Williamson, Underwood, Hitchcock and Van Duser.

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