A Newspaper for All the People

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Agriculture and Husbandry

Imperial Cotton

Into Imperial Valley some twenty years ago went Dr. H. J. Weber, former director of the Citrus Experiment Station at Riverside. With him he carried ideas about cotton. Carefully he surveyed the Valley, its soil, irrigation facilities, climate, rainfall, labor Near Calexico, on an experimental basis he planted, watched developments, saw the pioneer cotton plants grow. He reported a very satisfactory growth and yield.

Commercial development of cotton followed Dr. Weber's successful experiment. Under cultivation in 1910 were 6,500 acres. First to really develop the cotton growing industry, Calexico early became the ginning center.

Cotton as an industry had arrived in Southern California. It had arrived, but had it come to stay, was then the question—it is still a question, pertinent and unsolved.

Ever an erratic enterprise, the cotton industry has now shifted to the so-called marginal fringe, with Calipatria as the central ginning point.

Granted has been the fact that Imperial Valley soil is particularly fitted to the cotton's growth. But obstacles have developed; cotton production has decreased. Vegetables—more easily raised, pay higher prices to labor, do not demand such diligent husbandry, are independent of transient labor, have brought equal or greater returns. Cotton harvesting demands enormous man-power, transient labor is necessary, the main bulk of the crop being raised by tenant farmers not interested in scientific improvements, not willing to work harder than absolutely necessary.

Doubt has been expressed as to cotton's success and continuance as a paying product to the Valley. Cotton acreage has diminished. Recently questionnaires were sent out. Results were disappointing. Opinion was that the product was on the downward trend.

Conclusions drawn by men realizing the gravity of the situation indicated that two obstacles must be overcome before the raising of the product can become a popular and lucrative enterprise. Scientific planting, irrigation, cultivation and harvesting with scientific and modern equipment must be developed. The common farmer must be prevailed upon to adopt scientific methods in the husbandry of his product.

Vitally important is irrigation in the growing of the crop. Especially is it necessary where the soil is of an alkinary or salty nature. Conclusions reached by D. E. Creighton, Assistant County Agent, in Imperial County, show that by a rigid irrigating program the detrimental alkali can be rendered impotent.

Says Mr. Creighton: "Let the land lie fallow to dry and crack open. At the first heavy irrigation the injurious elements are washed below the root zone of the plants. The crop following this procedure will be affected to a minimum by the unwholesome chemicals."

"While irrigation is no doubt the most important single factor in growing the cotton crop, it cannot overcome the ill effects of lack of humus, bad physical condition, want of cultivation or other glaring neglect in making the soil a hospitable place for plant growth and fruition."

Essential is crop rotation in overcoming these latter difficulties, says Creighton. Highly developed though they are, the scientific methods of putting nourishment into the earth are little followed by the average tenant farmer in the Imperial Valley. Employing such soil rebuilders as alfalfa, calcarata vetch, Hubam clover, and sesbania, farmers might double their cotton output.

Conducted with happy results has been the practice of broadcasting calcarata vetch (twenty-five pounds per acre) in September throughout the growing cotton crop; "irrigated up"; plowing it under in December or January. Also beneficial is the sowing of Hubam clover in the same fashion, "plowed in" in the late spring Deposited within the root zone thus is a great quantity of green organic matter, vital to the growth of the cotton crop.

Practices detrimental to thorough irrigation are scourged by Mr. Creighton. Says he: Farmers in the valley are hard put to secure sufficient moisture penetration. Land is sloping in the Valley farm belt. It falls twenty to fifty feet per mile. Irrigation rows are directed with the greatest fall; thus water runs off before it can penetrate. In in row crops, especially, the direction can be changed so that the water will run across the slant, it will run more slowly, penetrate deeper.

Passing is the day of the mule, human cotton pickers, "slow motion" stalk cutters; ancient, laborious methods of plowing. Development of a "stripper picker" combine will facilitate picking, abolish dependence on transient labor; crops will occupy fields for a shorter time. The stripper-picker can turn out cotton but one grade lower than the hand-picked variety. Faster then and more efficiently will plowing, cultivation, stalk cutting be done; tractors will supplant mules.

With the introduction of tractors, expenses decrease, says Creighton. Present costs: $2.25 per acre for plowing with mules; $1.25 with tractors. Speedier is the new process, carried on day and night. A very short time is necessary for the sowing of the crop, cultivation is more efficient, the harvest is completed in half the time taken by the old method, leguminous materials are planted, plowed in, and the field is ready for the next crop.

* * *

From the beginning of February until the middle of June the cotton is sown at Imperial. The bulk is planted in March and April.

The general practice in Imperial culture is to ridge the land, irrigate the beds and plant on the bed. In other valleys, listing in the furrow and planting flat is the general rule. Some growers practice a combination of volunteering and replanting as near the old stubs as possible. Securing a good stand is often a very perplexing problem and sometimes a replanting is necessary.

Disregard of proper cultivation is a great factor in the production of poor crops. Given an opportunity to compete with the cotton, water grass, a hardy weed pest, robs the commercial plant of nourishment, stunting its growth, thinning the bolls. In many cases cultivation stops too soon.

The early cotton has a bottom crop ready for the pickers in August. This crop is generally conceded to be the best. Seed is saved from it for the next planting, and if a good set of bolls mature on the bottom crop it will pay for practically all the expenses of producing the crop up to that time.

All the cotton is hand picked. Laborers are in demand and are paid $1.50 per cwt. of seed cotton picked. The problem of availability of pickers sometimes delays the harvest. Climatically Imperial Valley is ideally adapted to the harvesting of cotton, little or no rain making for excellent field working conditions and the absence of fog and relatively little dew aiding the producer in gathering an extra white, dry seed cotton which gins well.

The Pima variety of cotton, government tests show, is the most hardy and productive type. The fiber is longer, heavier, healthier. In experiments carried out at the United States Experiment station at Sacaton, Arizona, Pima was compared with Acala, a lighter upland variety. Shedding of bolls averaged seventy-five per cent on the Upland variety and twenty-five on the Pima.

Disappointed are authorities with cotton's development in the Imperial Valley. The careless manner in which the poor farmer does his work, unheedful of modern methods of cotton culture, is blamed. Vegetable raising at present has the advantage. On the development of efficient machinery, scientific husbandry, and their adoption by the cotton farmer, they base their hopes for the product's future in the Imperial Valley.

* * *

From the Department of Commerce at Washington last fortnight came an announcement that in the production of cotton, California had jumped from thirteenth to eleventh place in two years. In 1928, California ginned 173,230 bales of 500 pounds each, as compared with 90,000 in 1927.

Listed as cotton producing units are eight California counties. Easily taking the lead is Kern County with a 1928 production of 44,779 bales. Tulare cames second with 29,540. Listed in the report, the other counties are: Imperial, 15,716; Kings, 19,509; Madera, 11481; Merced, 11,674; Riverside, 13,731; Fresno, 21,829; and other counties producing cotton totalling 4,971 bales.

* * *

Alarmed by the serious menace to the cotton crop by the cricket, the Department of Agriculture at Washington assigned E. A. McGregor of the Bureau of Entomology to study the insect, to report the best methods of protection against the pest.

Findings: Severest cases of cricket damage occurred in fields of cotton previously sown with barley or other small grain. Mr. McGregor recommended that this sequence be avoided as far as possible.

* * *

Many were the pickers that flocked to Imperial and Coachella valley cotton fields last week. Entire families were engaged in the harvest, children were busy. More than fifty bales had been ginned at the close of the week. Indications were that the Imperial cotton crop would better its last year's total of 15,716 500-pound bales.

Although over 200 pickers were busy in Imperial Valley fields, it was said that the harvest was late. Late October is expected to see the picking at its height. Transient labor from Arizona and Mexico will arrive in Imperial by that time.

Prices average about eighteen cents a pound; $90 a standard weight bale. A shade more than half a bale an acre is the valley yield. On one field of forty acres thirty-five bales were grown.

.NDIAN COTTON PICKERS AT CALIPATRIA

A "stripper picker" would abolish dependence on transient labor.

Grape Aid

Federal farm relief until a fortnight ago was only a nebulous theory to Californians. Last week grape growers in California realized that it was real, genuine, remunerative, experienced the thrill of its aid at a time of need.

Overproduction has been a menace long feared by grape raisers. Recent gluts of grapes on the market have brought prices to a low level. Not orderly were the markets; prosperity seemed to be receding. As far back as 1927 the California Vineyardists Association was organized with Associated California Fruit Industries, Inc., to systematize marketing of California's grape crops. More recently was formed Fruit Products Incorporated, a merger of the physical and business facilities of 80 per cent of grape product plants in America. Last June was formed the Federal Fruit Stabilization Corporation, organized to take advantage of expected Federal Relief. All these organizations hoped to bring the deciduous fruit industries, especially grapes and raisins, to the profit side of the ledger.

Last fortnight, the Federal Farm Board at Washington came onto the scene, granted $9,000,000 for grape relief. To the Sun Maid Raisin Association it turned over all raisin problems and the money. No contract for the purchase of raisins this year will be executed by the stabilization corporation.

Said Lloyd S. Tenny, member of Federal Fruit Stabilization: "We are in a most favorable position, statistically (for Federal aid) . . . The crop is short and there will be no carry-over at the end of the season. No grape grower in California should become panicky and sell his products at ruinously low prices. Because of the actual shortage of raisins, every grower who can should unquestionably put his grapes on trays.

The Sun Maid Raisin officials began last week purchasing current crops of raisins from nonmember growers. The grading schedule provided for an initial payment to the growers of $50 to $70 per ton with $60 as a basic price, as provided for by the Farm Board. Purchase contracts will all be in the hands of Sun Maid plant managers. The announcement pointed out that the first payment is merely an advance that is always made immediately following delivery. Because of the short crop and indication of a rising market, officials are confident that substantial additional payments will follow. Thus the first delivery of raisins is expected to be made late in September.

At Washington, negotiating, had been H. M. Creech, president of Sun Maid. On his return to Fresno last week he said: "We have been entrusted with the duty of making farm relief for all growers, affiliated with the Sun Maid Association or not. . . . Our task will be carried out in an entirely impersonal manner. We regard it as a public job, a public service. We are to be an industry vehicle subject to strict supervision by the Farm Board. Our program proposes the extension of the benefits of farm relief for every grower who wants it."

Sun Maid men pointed out last week that it was the influence of Federal backing that had created the three-quarters of a cent raise in the market price of raisins.

But late in the week, someone tossed a monkey wrench into the Sun Maid machinery. The Federal Fruit Stabilization Corporationo's organization committee refused their support. The refusal came at the end of a verbal battle between the pros and cons on the Sun Maid question following a speech by Director-General Ewing of the Stabilization Corporation. Against Sun Maid's program was Ewing. Said he: "The present Sun Maid organization and setup fail to inspire confidence enough to make a co-operative a success." A complete re-organization of Sun Maid would make it a grower-owned and grower-controlled institution. He did not think Sun Maid could accomplish the work entrusted to it because the asserted lack of confidence of the growers was so great. Other members of the committee expressed the same feeling.

On the other hand, Sun Maid's position, principles and intentions were strongly upheld by former State Senator W. F. Chandler of Fresno, and A. J. Atkinson of Sanger.

* * *

This year the California grape and raisin crop is valued at from $40,000,000 to $60,000,000. The importance to general business conditions of obtaining orderly marketing needs no argument. Ninety per cent of the world's crop is produced in California.

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DEATH TAKES MOTHER OF INFANT TWINS

Mrs. Mary McCarthy Succumbs After Rallying from Caesarian Birth—Funeral Saturday

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth McCarthy, 23 Gramercy avenue, passed away at the Jared Sidney Torrance Memorial Hospital at 12:55 Saturday evening, after an illness lasting a week.

Cause of death was attributed to acute dilation of the stomach.

Mrs. McCarthy underwent a Caesarian operation at the hospital Friday night, August 30, at which time twins, a boy and a girl were born.

Surviving her are her husband Edward J. McCarthy, four children, two boys and two girls; four sisters, Mrs. John Emery, Mrs. Robert Darries and Miss Gertrude Lovell, all of Torrance, and Mrs. J. Sargent of San Francisco; brothers, Clifton and John Lovell of Torrance; her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lovell of 2012 Gramercy avenue, and a host of friends.

Mrs. McCarthy was an employe of the George Neill real estate office four years, leaving there a year and a half ago.

She was 36 years old and born in North Sidney, Nova Scotia, and with her husband came to Torrance seven years ago. She was a member of the Catholic Altar Society and the Catholic church.

Funeral services have been delayed while waiting for Mr. McCarthy's parents to arrive from Nova Scotia, and are tentatively scheduled for Saturday morning at 9 from the Catholic church.

NEW COURSES OFFERED IN EVENING HIGH

The Torrance Evening High School opened the school year this week with several new and interesting courses and most of the subjects which were offered last year. The classes meet in the high school building from 7 to 9 p. m. Tuition is free, the only exception being a book deposit in certain courses and a small charge for materials used in the welding classes. The subjects offered are as follows:

Monday: Band.

Monday-Wednesday: Typing, beginning and advanced; current events and history, mathematics, elementary and advanced; Spanish, beginning and advanced; dramatics, dressmaking, altering; citizenship, Palos Verdes branch.

Monday-Wednesday - Thursday: Machine shop, welding, machine shop; bookkeeping, stenography, operating machine.

Monday-Tuesday - Wednesday - Friday: Physical education, men; arts and crafts, reedcraft, free-hand life.

Tuesday: Millinery and flower making, felt blocking; choral club and community singing.

Wednesday: Floriculture.

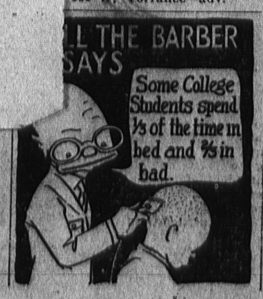
Tuesday-Thursday: Mechanical drawing, machine drawing; physical education, women.

Monday - Tuesday - Thursday: Woodwork, cabinet making.

...EY DINNER AT CHURCH

The Methodist Ladies' Aid Society will give a "jitney" dinner at the church parlors on Thursday, September 19, beginning at 6 o'clock and continuing as long as the food lasts. Music and a social good time will follow. For those who do not know what a "jitney" is, its price is a nickel.

...Rent—Furnished apartments, $20.00, double $30. Gas, lights included. Sam Levy. 131-W. Torrance—adv.



WOULD DIVERT FIGUEROA ST. AWAY FROM US

Property Owners Protest Zig-Zagging of Figueroa Ex-zagging of Figueroa Explanation of County

Investigation of the reasons for the proposed change of the route of Figueroa street, originally planned to connect with the Wilmington-San Pedro road by way of Machado street, to a point southwesterly and away from Torrance to connect with Frigate avenue at Reyes street, was started today by the roads and bridges committee of the San Pedro chamber of commerce headed by B. B. Mann. The investigation of the new route, for which surveys were being made this week, at the request of the board of supervisors was ordered yesterday by the board of directors of the San Pedro chamber of commerce in response to numerous requests from property owner protesting the change.

Ernard Opp, president of the Wilmington chamber of commerce, and members of the Figueroa Improvement association are active in support of property owners opposing the proposed change in route which would affect the southerly extension of Figueroa from 190th street to Wilmington and San Pedro road.

Original Plans

In the original plans the extension of this street was scheduled to run south on Hoover in a direct line across Ocean and connect directly with Machada street, a plan which it is declared met with general approval of property owners. The original route, because of its directness and connection with a street already improved, suggests itself as desirable for the extension, according to those familiar with the conditions.

The proposed change in the Figueroa extension plans, which has been brought to the attention of the directors of the San Pedro chamber of commerce, diverges at a point 700 feet beyond Ocean and cutting off a corner of five acres, connects with Frigate street, thus establishing two decided angles and leaving useless 700 feet on Hoover street, objectors to the plan declare. A petition signed by 90 per cent of the property owners affected by the proposed change protests against the rerouting.

A letter explaining in detail reasons for the proposed change has been promised David M. Carroll, manager of the Figueroa Improvement association by George W. Jones, county road commissioner.

Gourdier Attends Banquet to Chief

Postmaster and Mrs. Al Gourdier attended a dinner Wednesday evening at the Hotel Alexander given by the postmasters of Los Angeles county and city for Hon. W. R. Spillman. Mr. Spillman is deputy first assistant postmaster general and is here from Washington, D. C. inspecting the operations of the postoffice department.

He is reported to be amazed at the growth of the Southland and particularly the Harbor District and extensive improvements in postal service is anticipated as the result of his visit.

ALL SCHOOLS SHOW BIGGER ENROLLMENTS

Substantial Increases In Number Of Students Reporting At Two Grammar And High Schools

Enrollment in the high school and the elementary schools is somewhat greater this year than last, according to reports made for Tuesday and Wednesday. Although an accurate check could not be made at the high school, the number enrolled is approximately 515, which is an increase of 23 students for the same period last year. By the end of the week it is expected that the number will be much higher. Four hundred eighty-six students were enrolled at the beginning of the semester last year.

At the elementary school the enrollment had reached 915 last evening, which is an increase over the 899 registered at the same time last year.

Fern street annex announced that 115 students were enrolled at the beginning of the year. Totals of the three show that 1545 students are registered in Torrance schools.

METROPOLITAN SEWER TAX IS CUT 3 CENTS

The tax levy for the Metropolitan Sewer System in District No. 5 will be 23 cents per $100 assessed valuation instead of 26 cents as was previously announced. The rate last year was 26 cents, but at a meeting Tuesday of this week attended by the mayors and other officials of cities in this district, it was decided to decrease the rate three cents. The motion for the decrease was made by Mayor John Dennis of Torrance, and is in line with his economy program.

This change in the metropolitan sewer tax will effect a net reduction of two cents from the total tax rate of property owners in Torrance. The city rate was cut 17 cents by the council, which was more than absorbed by a 16 cent increase in the county rate and a two cent increase in the Flood Control assessment. It was previously thought that these increases by the county would entirely wipe out the saving of the city council, but the action this week by the Metropolitan Sewer board brought the net total tax two cents under last year.

Educational Center Is Well Attended

Arline Atwood, Marilyn Jean Smith, Donald Lee Sheppard, Robert O'Tool, James O'Tool and Winifred Webb were the six newcomers among the 26 babies brought to the Mothers Educational Center on Friday, Sept. 6. Regular inspection of the babies by competent physicians, with advice to the mothers on the care and training of their little ones is the program of the Center, which meets regularly on the first Friday of each month at the Women's clubhouse. All mothers of young babies are invited to attend.

PENNEY STORE OPENS NEXT THURSDAY

Watch Special Edition for Values!

The new Torrance store of the J. C. Penney Company will open its doors on Thursday evening, September 19th, to welcome the people of this district. No goods will be sold Thursday evening, but a store full of big values awaits the public on Friday and Saturday, according to F. M. Buffington, manager of the Torrance store.

Complete details of the J. C. Penney Co. values will be given in a special four page section of the Torrance Herald and the Lomita News, to be distributed on Wednesday and Thursday of next week in conjunction with the monthly bargain event sponsored by Torrance merchants. A copy of this special edition will be delivered to every resident of Torrance, Lomita, Gardena, Moneta, East Torrance, Keystone, South Torrance and all other people living between Torrance and the Long Beach and Redondo city limits, as well as the rural routes out of Gardena, which extend as far north as the Los Angeles city limits.

Noel, first base.
Robinson, pitcher.
Thompson, second base.
Price, center field.
Sleppy, left field
Burmaster, catcher
Phillips, right field.
Utility: Anderson, Butcher.

Hopkins, first base
Dossi, second base.
Lenard, shortstop.
Mack, third base.
Singer, left field.
Edwards, center field.
Cogans, right field.

exposures can now be made, according to Miss Esther Maxwell, superintendent of the hospital, and the new equipment provides the Torrance hospital with one of the best X-ray equipments in this part of the county. The new transformer and control cost $2100, all of which was donated by Mrs. Torrance.

to business and get the FACTS. Have the City Engineer estimate the cost of a new system. Get a competent water authority to ascertain if there is sufficient water sources available, and then tell the property owners how much it would cost them in taxes to own their own system and how much they would save in water rates if they did install a municipally owned water system. If it's profitable for Hawthorne, it certainly should be profitable for Torrance.