

GREAT INLAND SINK.

FIERCE RAMPAGE OF COLORADO RIVER DESPOILS THOUSANDS OF FERTILE ACRES.

Huge Engineering Difficulties Must be Overcome or Otherwise Eight Thousand Families Will Be Rendered Homeless and Destitute
C. J. BLANCHARD at Los Angeles.

The great Colorado river of the southwest the Nile of America, is on its bad behavior. Like old travellers who forsake the beaten highways, the Colorado, grown tired of its channel, is seeking a new route. Its desire for change naturally is the cause of

Gulf and created a huge inland sea which covered all of what is now known as Imperial Valley. The shore line of this great sea can be distinctly traced by the old beaches which are found there.

Enormous Salt Beds.

Under an almost tropical sun the sea evaporated, uncovering a great level plain over large portions of which was laid a deep deposit of rich river sediment wanting only irrigation to produce abundant harvests. At the lowest depression in the valley, where evaporation has not yet carried off all the water, the salts were deposited thickly and large works have long been established there marketing thousands of tons of this mineral. For centuries the Colorado has been

THE JOY OF AGE.

Misinterpretation of Dr. Osler's Statement.

Dr. William Osler, late professor in John Hopkins University, Baltimore, met with a great deal of undeserved notoriety because he was misunderstood when he said the creative faculty disappeared usually at the age of forty years. He did not mean to convey the impression that man's usefulness ceased at that time, but that the imaginative faculty was not as active then as it was in earlier years, when men are green and raw in judgment and put forth many things that they wish to have suppressed later on. His little jest about chloroforming those who "lag superfluous on the stage" was meant to apply only to teachers who failed to move with the advanced thought and had a special humorous reference to himself, but the miscomprehension and exaggeration of the press has magnified his utterance and given it a sweep he never intended.

Must Seek New Fields.

When the acquisition of knowledge is used merely as a means through which to earn bread, that is the end of a man's career, whether he be thirty or forty or a thousand years old. Men who seek no new fields of exploration nor carry forward to fulfillment any work they attempt in early days are mere drones in the hive of life.

Dr. Osler, who is close to the sixty year line, has gone to England to take a professorship of medicine in Oxford University, which will without doubt lead to an increase of his professional fame, which did not come to him until after he had passed the half century post in his journey of life. His parting injunction to his medical associates in America, at the Washington meeting in May, was to follow the Golden Rule in all their actions, and to cultivate that moderation which is said to be the golden thread running through all the virtues. This advice is not new, but it cannot be repeated too often in an age when many men are striving to shove their neighbors to the wall in their desire to occupy the middle of the road themselves. Man is naturally a selfish animal and needs to be often reminded that he must do unto others as he would have them do unto him, even if he desires to attain more worldly success. The man who has no consideration for his laboring fellows is likely to find no consideration extended to him when the hour of misfortune comes.

Best Work Late in Life.

Dr. Osler never deprecated age, knowing that man's best work is done after age has mellowed his understanding and strengthened his judgment. There are numerous examples of what virility in age can do all along the track of history. It was seen in Benjamin Franklin, William E. Gladstone, in seen in Edward Everett Hale, Lord Kelvin, Charles H. Haswell, engineer and author, still at the age of 97 at his desk in New York, and other names will occur by scores to general readers.

It is an inflexible law of nature that the being who does not progress must retrograde. There is no place on this fearful ascent of life where, spiritually and intellectually, we are not forced to go forward lest we slip back. But it is a happy provision in nature that even in the longest life there is no arbitrarily fixed point of time where expansion must cease as if by a fiat, where there are no more heights before the soul to climb, no more views to be obtained, no broadening and expanding of the vision possible. Always and forever a new bud may be formed on the topmost bough of the old tree, even though the trunk be partly hollow, and the nourishing sap mount slowly through the bark.

CHINESE GRAVEYARD CUSTOMS.

Peculiar Custom of Placing Cooked Food on the Graves of the Departed.

Assorted foods, literally by the wagon load, are annually taken out to Cypress Hills Chinese Cemetery by members of New York's Chinese colony, says the New York Times, and these offerings, which are to us such strange evidences of affection and remembrance, are placed with picturesque rites, on the graves of the departed. Celestial brothers of the colonists are awaiting the convenient or is it the auspicious?—season for transmigration to the land which these most stolid of sentimentalists insist on believing to be the only one where the dead can rest comfortably. These annual illustrations of the fact that the Chinaman has feelings like the rest of us, even if he does choose different ways of showing them, attracts the usual amount of attention, some of it respectfully curious and some openly derisive, but neither variety affects the performance of the ceremonies or enables us to get a bit nearer the mysterious Mongol mind. It is hard to believe that our far-traveled Chinese really think that anything is accomplished for the dead by putting roast pig and boiled rice on a grave, and yet they do it year after year.

A Bright Retort.

The ancient story of the Chinaman who, when asked at what hour the spirits consumed the food thus offered to them, replied that it was at the same hour chosen by our dead for smelling flowers we might as well be always pertinent to discussion of this mystery, and reflection on the story has the admirable effect of giving a new standpoint from which to study the "outlandish" custom of our useful but unloved guests. In all these things it is the thinking so that constitutes right, propriety and congruity. The Chinese ceremonies do show affectionate or pious remembrance, and whether the dead are indifferent or not, the reflex action on the living is effectively brought to bear.

Black Friday.

"Now, children," said the Sunday school teacher, addressing the juvenile class, "can any of you tell me anything about Good Friday?"
"Yes, ma'am, I can," replied a boy. "He was the colored man what done the housework for Robinson Crusoe."

A Good Buggy For Sale.

Leesville (Mo.) Light: Luke Belmont's new buggy is for sale. He got married last week, you know.

TOBACCO FOR THE NAVY.

Government Selects Supply for Officers and Men.

The American naval officer and the Jacky smoke and chew. This is a fact of which the Government takes official cognizance and recognizes in a way that makes such habits inexpensive incidents to life on board ship. Recently the Navy Department had under consideration the award of a contract for 150,000 pounds of cut plug tobacco, and in November next bids will be called for another supply of like amount. The contract under which the supply is now being furnished was secured on a basis of a bid of 40 cents a pound. Twenty-nine bids are now under consideration, the prices ranging from 30½ cents a pound to 48 cents. The contract will not necessarily be let to the lowest bidder, but to the one supplying at the lowest price the grade best suited for the purpose.

Practical Chewing Tests.

Each bidder is required to submit a sample of the tobacco to be furnished, and these, after the factory labels are removed and secret identification marks substituted, are divided into small lots, part being sent to a chemist for analysis, and a goodly supply going to the various navy yards for distribution among officers and men. For practical test, the opinion of the officers and "Jackies" was taken before the award is made. Final results are reached by the process of elimination, until the selection of the chews dwindles down to two or three samples which are bound to be favorites. These favorites are then taken up with regard to the chemical test, and the contract is awarded, so that perhaps the lowest bidder has no consideration whatever when the final result is obtained.

While heretofore the navy supplied the men with the tobacco (a very inferior article) free of cost, the Government now insists upon the best grade, which it sells to the sailor at the contract price, plus a very small percentage to cover the cost of handling. Only such tobaccos are considered which are manufactured from pure leaf tobacco of the growth of the current or preceding year in which the contract is made, and which shall have undergone a natural sweat.

How to Tell Counterfeits.

Any visitor to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing where Uncle Sam is printing the much sought-after greenbacks, comes away impressed with the intricacies of the manufacturing of a paper note. Few, indeed, understand the rule of four adopted by the Government as an aid in thwarting the plans of counterfeiters. Acquaintance with the rule of four, might help many people of the outside world in detecting counterfeit money. Every note printed by the Government—national currency and not bank notes—contains a number and a letter, no two bills having the same number. These are printed, as the visitor can see, in the blocks of four as they leave the plate printer's table. For instance, a number will be found on a note, 58,383 with the letter C in the upper left hand and lower right hand corners; another bill bears the number 70,983 D; another 42,596 B. These numbers and letters have a relation for each other and are easily determined. The last two numbers on the note determine, when divided by four, the letter to be found in the two corners. Should the last two numbers be divisible by four, with a remainder of one, the letter appearing should be A; if two remain, B; if three remain, C; and if the last two numbers are exactly divisible by four, with no remainder, the letter appearing should be D.

Rest the Bones of Pocahontas.

The proposition to bring back to the ancient city of Jamestown the body of Pocahontas, in connection with the exhibition at that place, has aroused considerable indignation, both in England and in America, by people who believe that such a step is nothing more than a move intended as a side-show feature of the exposition. While it is true there have been instances of a disturbance of a grave made hundreds of years before, as in the recent case of Admiral John Paul Jones, still the cases cannot be compared. One is a man who had much to do with the preservation of the American nation and navy; the other was the central figure in a bit of fiction surrounding the settlement of this country by English settlers. Pocahontas, it is true, was a native American, which John Paul Jones was not, but Pocahontas married an Englishman, lived and died in England, and the traditions of her later life were surrounded by all that is English.

The London Standard, in commenting on the movement to bring her body to America, cites pages from a book by an American writer tending to show that the life of Pocahontas was a tradition and poetical version and adding: "If the original myth is really believed by the people of Jamestown, we only hope they will do something to answer the audacious skeptic that has impugnied it."

Toothache or Appendicitis?

A movement looking to the better care of children is spreading. It is proposed now that the tooth brush drill be a part of the curriculum of our schools, and that dentists should visit regularly the children attending them. Doctors have spoken very strongly on the usefulness of taking tonics and similar medicines in order to purify the blood, when a constant system of poisoning is going on in the mouth. It is claimed that much poor blood and weakness in children comes from dental decay. A noted physician declares that appendicitis is caused by bad teeth. Take your choice—either have your teeth extracted or your appendix cut out. The doctors get you either way, going or coming.

To Be Reunited.

"Have you seen my poor, dear little duckling?" asked the distressed but bewitching young mother duck.
"Ah! madame," replied the polite but still hungry fox, "I have inside information on that point; you will soon meet your little one."

STOP LAND-GRABBING.

THE DUTY OF CONGRESS IS TO AMEND FAULTY AND ANTI-QUATED LAND LAWS.

President Hill, of the Great Northern Railroad, Calls Attention to Enormous Disposals of Government Land Without Settlement Into Homes.

From the Philadelphia Bulletin.
There will be people ill-natured enough to charge that President Hill, of the Great Northern Railway, did not come into court with entirely clean hands in the vigorous denunciation of the land-grabbers contained in his recent speech before the National Irrigation Congress at Portland. This, however, does not necessarily detract from the truth of his charges. Perhaps few men in the country are better qualified to speak upon the blighting effects of the dishonest policy which has appropriated millions of acres of valuable lands, only to exclude from them the actual settlers who would have developed them.

President Hill is a railroad manager, and railroads depend for profit upon a traffic afforded by a populous and well-cultivated country. A railroad extending through territory without farms or farmers, towns or industrial communities must suffer serious disadvantages. Where great tracts of land are owned and controlled by mere speculators, development is impossible. It is very likely that President Hill spoke by the card when he charged that those who go upon Government land at this time for the purpose of making homes are only a handful.

Rapid Disposals of Public Lands.

His figures, showing the rapid increase in area of public lands which have passed into private ownership since 1898, possess a significance that is startling. Nearly 90,000,000 acres, a total area equal to three times that of the State of Pennsylvania, have been awarded to private owners in the six years from 1898 to 1903, inclusive, very little of which—according to President Hill—has become the property of homestead seekers. The bulk of it has become the holdings of the lumber kings, cattle barons, and speculators pure and simple. It is evident that there are more men who deserve the penalties of the law which have lately been inflicted upon Senator Mitchell, of Oregon.

The Modern Rush.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.
He didn't have time to chew
The food that he had to eat;
But he washed it into his throat
As if time was a thing to beat.
At breakfast and lunch and dinner
'Twas a bite and a gulp and go—
Oh, the crowd is so terribly eager,
And a man has to hurry so!
A bite and a gulp and away
To the books and the ticker! A bite
And a drink and a smoke and a seat
At a card table half of the night;
A pressure, a click and a pallor,
A cloth-covered box and a song;
A weary old fellow at forty,
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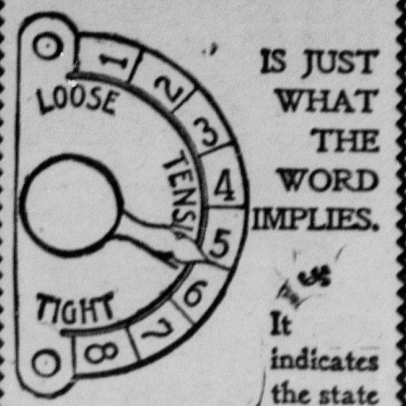
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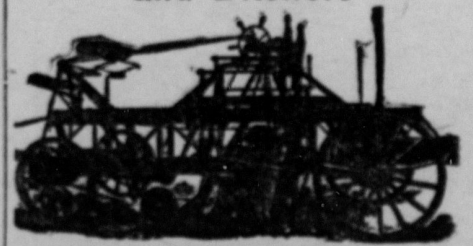
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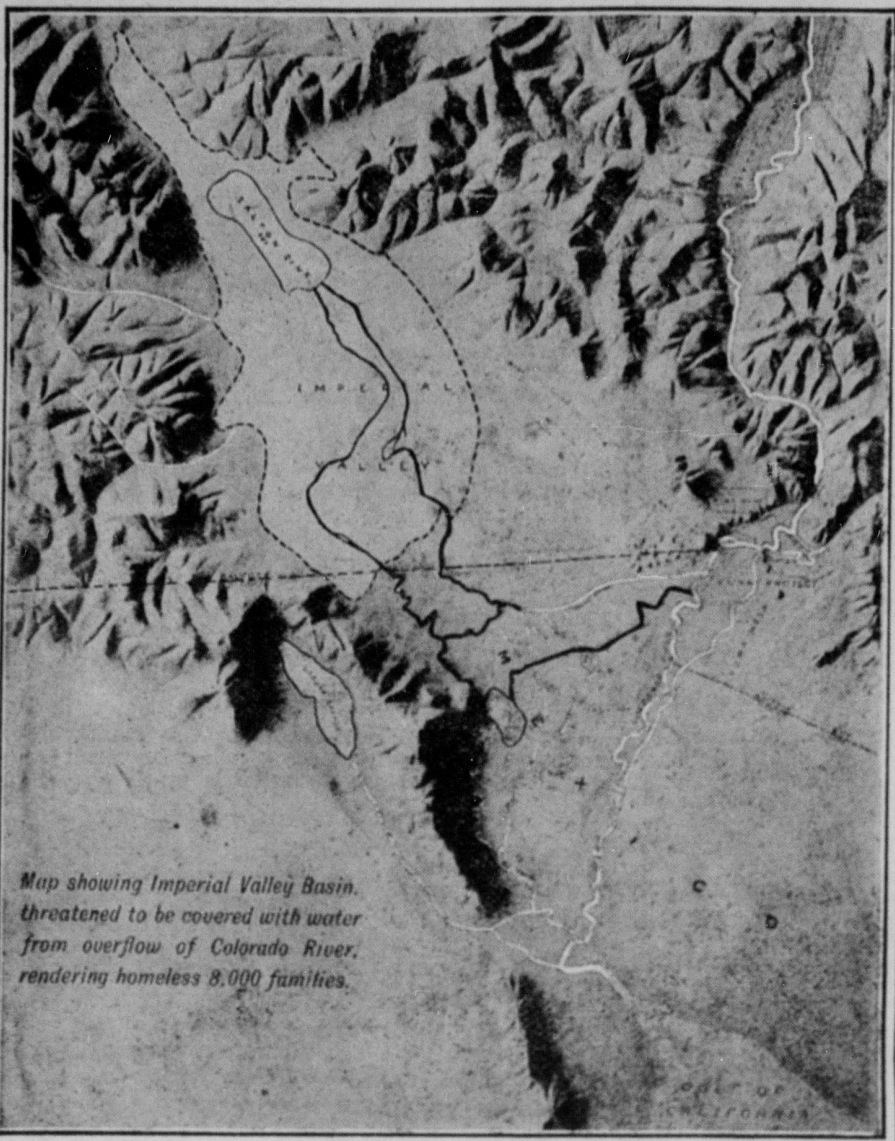
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Map showing Imperial Valley Basin threatened to be covered with water from overflow of Colorado River, rendering homeless 8,000 families.

much consternation on the part of the railroad which happens to be located near by, and of some little disquietude among several thousand settlers whose farms are apparently threatened unless the erratic stream can be induced to return to its old pathway to the sea. A glance at the map will make clear the unusual conditions which at present prevail in the Colorado Delta.

Below the town of Yuma, Arizona, the stream has cut its banks at three places and passing through old, dry channels, is now pouring westward and northward into Salton Sink. Augmented by the volume of this great stream the Sink has already become a vast inland sea, spreading out for 60 miles in one direction and 30 miles in another, and growing daily.

The Giant Force of Nature.

Passengers on the train now exclaim with wonder as they look out upon the broad sea reaching to the western horizon, where but a short



SIXTY FIVE MILES OF LAKE.

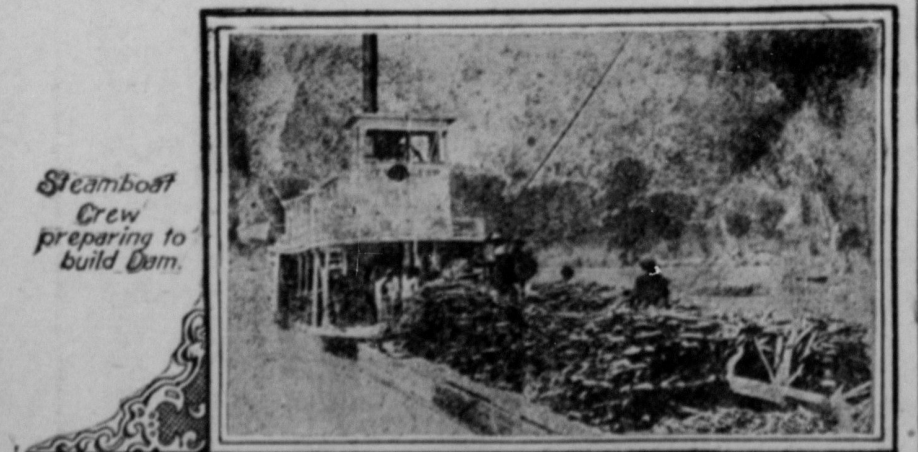
time ago the desert reigned supreme in its awful desolation.

Glance at the map again and note the faint line near the international boundary, and encircling the large area marked Imperial Valley. All the land included within this line is below sea level, the lowest portion situated in Salton Sink where it is 287 feet below. To those who visit this remarkable region it is apparent that in ancient geological times the Gulf of Cali-

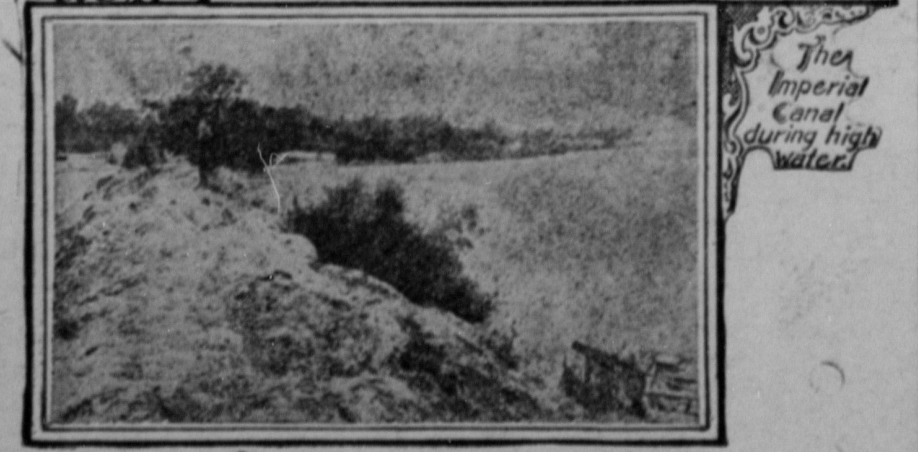
building up its delta, higher and higher until today the bed of the river is above the valley on either side. Once let it cut its banks and the stream spreads out all over the country. About four years ago a large corportion, imbued with the laudable purpose of making homes for settlers in the Salton Desert, completed a big canal heading in the river below Yuma and almost on the international boundary. The canal was a large one, 60 feet on the bottom, and carried a great amount of water through Mexico into California on to the area now called Imperial Valley. The canal heading, owing to the character of the banks of the stream, was insecure. It has always been a source of trouble and annoyance. The river resented it as an obstruction in its course and deposited great loads of silt in front of it and then proceeded to cut a channel around it. Dredges were used constantly to keep the canal heading open.

The last great flood in the stream simply wiped away the head gates and opened a way for a large part of the stream to flow into the valley. Just below this point the stream spilled over the banks again and following down an old stream channel it finally began to pour its whole volume in to Salton Sink. Only the high banks of the Imperial canal prevented larger areas of irrigated lands from being inundated and millions of dollars in crops from being destroyed.

Great difficulties are presented to the engineers who are trying to induce the stream to go back to its old channel. A new heading is projected. Thousands of feet of lumber have been ordered and steamboats are awaiting its arrival. If these means prove ineffective there is danger that 8,000 families now residing in the Imperial Valley, may be rendered homeless. Competent engineers are inclined to believe that the task is beyond the strength of the present company to perform and that measures now being undertaken will not properly nor permanently safeguard the property of the people in the valley. This is a question for the engineers



Steamboat crew preparing to build dam.



The Imperial Canal during high water.

ornia extended far northward. The Colorado River, carrying as it does a vast load of silt and detritus from a drainage basin covering 225,000 square miles, built a bar entirely across the

to settle. Meanwhile, the citizens of the valley are somewhat philosophical and are continuing to reap, under almost tropical skies, the heaviest crops grown in the world.