

California

John H. Wiley is in receipt of a letter from his son, Guy C. Wiley from Fresno county, California, dated January 2. He writes that he had a tough time "passing through barren desolate plains where the sky was dotted with the floating forms of buzzards that marked with glowering eye the forms of half famished, haggard brutes staggering over the grassless plains below.

"I have seen thousands of thin, colorless faces of men, women and children half starved and emaciated beyond belief gazing in despairing hopelessness at the barren fields where the seed had dry rotted in the earth, destroying the last hope of success after the failure from last season's drought and yet no rain."

He further says: "Crossing the plains and coming into the mountains on the eastern side, the greatest mining region in the United States, I found every mill was still." The people were in a semi-state of starvation; and even in Fresno, an irrigated section, water is so scarce that with the greatest economy, only a half crop can be raised. Yakime, he remarks, has nothing to fear from California this year--Yakima Herald, Jan. 12, 1899.

At the request of the secretary of the interior the secretary of war has directed General Shafter, commanding the department of California, to send one troop of cavalry to the Yosemite park and one to the Sequoia and General Grant parks in California to protect from destruction or injury by preventing trespassing either by cattle or sheep herders or timber thieves. Two troops of the Fourth cavalry, now at the Presidio, San Francisco have been selected for this duty-- Yakima Herald, March 23, 1899.

California
Sugar Beets

Times are lively in and around the big beet-sugar factory at Oxnard, Cal. Fourteen thousand nine hundred and fifty acres of beets have been planted in that vicinity and are now being prepared for harvest. Over 1,000 men are engaged in thinning the beets for which service they receive \$1.40 a day on an average. The new crop will amount to about 200,000 tons of beets and when these are put through the big factory the result will be that about 30,000 tons of refined sugar is ready for the market, but for it is estimated that the crop will average about 18 per cent saccharine matter.

A large deal has just been consummated whereby the American Beet Sugar Company, which owns the Oxnard factory has purchased the large Patterson ranch which contains 5,000 acres. The purchase price is said to be over \$600,000. This is the largest single purchase put through in many years in Ventura county.

The new factory now has a capacity of 2,000 tons of beets per day, and since the capacity was recently doubled it is now the largest sugar factory and refinery in the world--Yakima Herald, August 3, 1899.

R.S. Curie of Fresno, Cal. is in the city and is casting about in the hope of finding a ranch to suit his tastes upon which to go to farming.

Mr. Curie until recently has been the superintendent of a large ranch near Fresno comprising over 2,400 acres and has had much experience in farming irrigated lands. He visited this section of the country about seventeen years ago and expressed himself as very much surprised to find it so well developed since his last visit-Yakima Herald, November 23, 1899.

Sunnyside Canal.

California-Arizona

James Stewart left here last week for Arizona where he will be employed as superintendent of the wood work of the largest irrigating canal in the world.

This canal will be about 200 miles long. It takes water from the Colorado river and will carry it across into California. Mr. Stewart assisted in the construction of the Sunnyside Canal--
Yakima Herald, Oct. 24, 1901.

Santa Barbara- Oct 7-- One of the Santa Barbara county's most treasured documents--a record of its only unanimous election, was partially destroyed in the earthquake.

The transcript, which had been carefully guarded for more than 75 years related that every qualified elector residing in the county cast his vote on April 1, 1850 , and the result was 20 to 0 in favor of California entering the Union and the ratification of the state constitution-The Yakima Republic, Oct. 7, 1925.

San Diego, Oct. 29(AP)* The United States senate committee on irrigation and reclamation one of the largest senate committees that ever visited the West, today entered for the Imperial valley to look over the garden spot of the Southwest that has been described in hearings of the committee as threatened with complete destruction by the unregulated forces of the mighty Colorado river.

The committee last night surprised San Diegoans and representatives from all sections of the West by the declaration in speeches by two of its members that congress will build a dam on the Colorado river immediately. These statements were made by Senators Key Pittman of Nevada and Wesley L. Jones of Washington.

The most comprehensive survey ever made of the Lower Colorado basin by a committee of law makers is now under way and all the sections of the basin, including all irrigation and prospective major irrigation works within the basin and all major dam sites on the Lower Colorado will be visited.

A hearing for the people of the Imperial valley is set for tomorrow afternoon after the committee looks over the northern end of the valley.

This valley, a desert in 1900, now has a population of some 65,000 people and its annual products are valued in excess of \$50,000,000.-
The Yakima Republic, Oct. 29, 1925.

Sacramento, January 15, 1926- For 75 years California has been trying to become known as the land of cotton and at last its efforts are meeting with a success as striking as were some of its early failures.

Figures of the federal government department of agriculture disclose that for several years California has produced more cotton than Virginia, the oldest cotton producing state; that California's average yield per acre is the highest of any cotton-producing state and that California'scala cotton sells as a premium on the cotton markets of the United States.

In 1854 when farmers were still throwing away their plows to join the rush for California gold, T.O. Selby received some cotton seed from Mississippi and planted it on his ranch just outside the city of Sacramento. Three years later the Sacramento Union acknowledged on its editorial page the receipt of "a lot of beautiful cotton grown on the Selby ranch."

In 1856 Gen. Sutter, whose sawmill was the scene of the gold discovery was growing cotton on his Hock's farm near Marysville although the newspaper men describing the crop waxed far more enthusiastic over the "excellent brandy-real simon pure stuff-" which the general was making out of wild grapes.

The Civil war gave a temporary boom to the industry; but with peace it soon collapsed when California growers became convinced they could not compete with growers in the South and their great supply of cheap Negro labor; but cotton never ceased to be of great interest to experimenters, commercial production lagged until 1909 when Imperial valley growers demonstrated cotton could be grown at a healthy profit on irrigated California lands. The production that year totaled 350 bales.

Redding, Calif. May 22—High in the Sierra watershed this thriving community awaits actual construction on the Central valleys project, California's \$170,000,000 solution to its greatest problem, winter floods and summer water shortage.

Completion of preliminary surveys and selection of nearby Kennett as the focal dam site have been announced.

Magnitude of the project almost staggers the imagination. Greater than famed Boulder canyon dam development, the Central valleys project includes plans for a 500-mile waterway from the upper Sacramento river down through the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys to the great citrus regions of Southern California.

The valleys in midway between the Sierra range and the Pacific coast and San Francisco and Los Angeles lean heavily upon their productivity. San Francisco's dependency has been conservatively placed at \$600,000,000 and that of Los Angeles at \$130,000,000.

A self-liquidating undertaking the project will repay federal loans by sale of water and power. The 420 foot dam at Kennett at the headwaters of the Sacramento river will impound 3,000,000 acre feet of water half as much as the combined total of California's 750 other dams assuring a year around controlled river flow.

The dam will give to 800,000 acres of settled lands flood protection valued at \$15,000,000.

Spectacular engineering feats will be necessary. The main line of the Southern Pacific must be rerouted and United States highway 90 will be radically revamped.

Kennett itself will be at the bottom of a huge lake with the water's surface far above the present rooftops.

A double deck bridge with the world's tallest piers will carry automobile and railroad traffic far above the then swollen waters of the Pitts river.

River boats, a joy to the hearts of sentimentalists and a source of profit to business men again will reach Red Bluff, 60 miles south of here from Sacramento and San Francisco.

Inland encroachment of salt water from the San Francisco bay area will be halted, likewise aridity in the San Joaquin valley.

At the top of the San Joaquin watershed the 4,000 Friant dam will become the longest concrete dam in the world making the San Joaquin river run backward and carrying much needed irrigation water over step dams under pressure.

When all the seemingly insurmountable engineering problems have been solved and numerous other pieces fitted into the gigantic jigsaw California will have harnessed and put to work the 20 million acre feet of surplus water that now sweeps away in destructive floods.

An executive order of President Roosevelt in 1935 ordered allocation of \$15,000,000 to begin construction of storage reservoirs on the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers.

The seventh-fourth congress later appropriated nearly \$7,000,000 but meanwhile the president's sum was cut to \$4,500,000, leaving approximately \$11,400,000 available. Some 400 men already are engaged in the preliminary work but the blueprints are drawn and even now men are drifting here asking for jobs. Seven years probably will be required to complete the project--Yakima Herald, May 23, 1937.

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Under the lash of World war demand, Imperial valley's cotton production expanded prodigiously and tempted other districts to try growing on a commercial scale. The first important San Joaquin valley production was in 1918 and expansion was so rapid that in 1925 more than half the state's cotton acreage was in this region. Last year the state had an acreage of 172,000, the average yield being estimated at 354 ~~66400~~ pounds per acre as against 162.3 pounds for the United States at large.

The estimated total production was 126,000 bales.

State legislation set aside certain counties where only Acala cotton may be grown to protect growers from the seed stock deterioration that comes from ~~intercrossing~~ intercrossing. A rigid and persistent quarantine is preserved against the boll ~~weevil~~ weevil.