

NEWS LETTER FROM DR. BEN YELLEN

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HOW THE U.S. RECLAMATION LAWS PROTECT THE LITTLE FARMERS

Many persons have spoken to me about the 160 acre limitation of the U.S. Reclamation laws. From their conversations, I have begun to realize that most people of Imperial Valley are so saturated with the propaganda put out by the big farmers and big landowners, that these people have an incorrect idea about the matter.

The easiest way to explain it, is to take the example of the farmland reclaimed from the desert in the State of Washington by the Grand Coulee Dam built by the U.S. government.

NOW THE RECLAMATION LAWS DO NOT LIMIT HOW MUCH LAND YOU CAN OWN!!!

THEY JUST LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF WATER THE FEDERAL DAMS WILL SUPPLY TO THE LAND!!!

Here is how the laws work in the Grand Coulee Dam region. A single person can own and get water for 160 acres. A husband and wife can own and get water for 320 acres. Now in addition, each person can lease another 160 acres and also get water for the leased acreage. Therefore a single person can farm 320 acres and get water for the acreage. A husband and wife can farm 640 acres and get water for it. Any child over 21 years can own 160 acres and lease 160 acres and get water for an additional 320 acres which when added to that farmed by his father and mother, would total 960 acres for a family group. Each additional child over 21, would swell the total acreage farmed by a family group.

THEREFORE, YOU CAN SEE THAT THE PROPAGANDA PUT OUT BY THE BIG FARMERS AND BIG LANDOWNERS THAT YOU CAN ONLY FARM 160 ACRES UNDER THE U.S. RECLAMATION LAWS IS NOT TRUE. THE PROPAGANDA THAT YOU CAN NOT MAKE A LIVING BECAUSE YOU ARE FORCED TO FARM TOO SMALL AN ACREAGE UNDER THE U.S. RECLAMATION LAWS, IS NOT TRUE.

THE BIG FARMERS AND LANDOWNERS PUT OUT THIS PROPAGANDA BECAUSE NOW THEY ARE ABLE TO SQUEEZE OUT THE LITTLE FARMERS. THEN THEY BUY UP THE LAND OF THE LITTLE FARMERS.

Under the U.S. Reclamation Laws, all farmers in Imperial Valley will be little farmers and the competition between you will be equal. As it is now, the little farmers have no chance against the big farmers and landowners. Many persons have told me that if the situation continues as at present, that in another 15 years, there will be no little farmers.

YET THE U.S. RECLAMATION LAWS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE ENFORCED HERE. THE IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT MUST REFUSE TO DELIVER WATER TO FARMS EXCEEDING THE LEGAL LIMITS.

The merchants and little businessmen favor you little farmers and will vote for you. The inhabitants of the cities favor you little farmers. They know that the more little farmers there are, the more business for the cities. A united front of little farmers and city inhabitants can beat the big landowners at election time.

On the Board of Directors of the Imperial Irrigation District, there already is Mr. Mitchell who beat a big farmer and Mr. Moore who also beat a big farmer. We need one more Director to have a majority.