

NEWSLETTER FROM DR. BEN YELLEN  
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# THE TRUTH ABOUT T.B. SHANK

In Virgil Pinkley's PROSTITUTED PRESS with the name of Imperial Valley NEWS-PRESS of Sat.-Sun. October 30-31, 1965, there is a big propaganda article about T.B. Shank.

Now T. B. Shank is a millionaire and according to this article he owns 1,031 acres today. This propaganda blurb is on the front page with the biggest headline over it--FARMER FIGHTS 160-ACRE LIMIT.

T. B. Shank wails, "the government wants to take my land and sell it-except 160 acres. Don't they know I paid for my land and the water to irrigate it?". Now this propaganda article was put into PINKLEY'S PROSTITUTED PRESS by the Imperial Resources Associates which is a group of mainly millionaires who own most of the land here. It is claimed that T.B. Shank gave \$1.00 per acre as his contribution to the Imperial Resources Associates which therefore means that he gave a total of \$1,031.00. I would have to see his check before I believe it.

From now on you will see lots of propaganda articles like the one on T.B. Shank put into PINKLEY'S PROSTITUTED PRESS by the Imperial Resources Associates to brainwash you so that you do not recognize the truth. The Imperial Resources Associates is very careful not to put in any articles telling about the absentee landowners WHO OWN 70% OF THE FARMLAND and who therefore benefit to the amount of 70% from the combined electricity swindle of \$14 millions and property tax swindle of \$8 millions for a total of \$22 millions. You the inhabitants of Imperial County have to pay \$15.4 millions because the absentee land-owners wish to swindle you for their benefit.

So let us analyse T.B. Shank whom the Imperial Resources Associates thinks is such a good exhibit to illustrate what they claim is the Federal Government being mean and spiteful to a LOCAL BIG RANCHER.

T.B. Shank came to Imperial Valley a poor man. But under the Homestead Act of 1862, T.B. Shank was able to get 160 acres of land and his wife was able to get 160 acres of land. So the T.B. Shank family got 320 acres of land from the U.S. Government. Mr. Shank says he paid a 25 cents per acre filing fee so that means he paid \$80.00 for the 320 acres. He also says that he paid \$1.00 per acre to prove up his filing. So he paid \$320.00 for proving the 320 acres. Then altogether, the T.B. Shank family paid a total of \$400.00 to the U.S. Government to get 320 acres. THIS LAND IS NOW WORTH \$400,000.00.

So in 50 years the 320 acres went from \$400.00 to \$400,000.00. Do you not think that the U.S. Government was very kind to T.B. Shank? If he was a Mexican and lived in Mexicali Valley just across the border from Imperial Valley, the Shank family would have gotten NOTHING from the Mexican Government which did not have a Homestead Act. ONLY THE RICH AND POWERFUL WHO HAD MONEY TO GIVE BRIBES TO THE MEXICAN OFFICIALS COULD GET LAND IN MEXICALI VALLEY.

So that T.B. Shank and the rest of you inhabitants have it burned into your memories what happens when Federal Governments do not treat everyone alike, here is the list of landowners in Mexico across the border from Imperial Valley. No native Mexican had a small ranch there. These statistics apply to the same time that a poor family like

the T.B. Shanks were acquiring their 320 acres from the U.S. The statistics come from House Document 359, 71st Congress, 2nd session, pages 161, 162, 163, 164, and 165. American, British and Japanese monopolists had all the land in Mexicali Valley:

Colorado River Land Co. S.A. (Los Angeles Times interests) 800,000 acres  
Compania de Terrenos y Aguas de Baja California S.A. 28,500 acres

(Southern Pacific R.R. Co.)

Globe Mills Co. (W.C. Allen and Allen, Goh and O'Hashi)	12,000 acres
Imperial Development Co. (Cudahy Packing interests)	16,000 acres
Shintani Ranch	8,080 acres
Cia Agricola Civil del Valle Imperial (Daugherty Estate)	10,000 acres
Algodones Plantation Co. (W.H. Harris & Son)	2,995 acres
Alamorada Ranch Co. (Weed and Laing)	4,262 acres
Cuervos Development Co. (H. deNancy & Co.)	1,657 Acres
Cia Agricola Cuervos (P.E. Williams)	2,666 acres
Andrade Estate	50,000 acres
Mount Signal Land & Cattle Co.	10,000 acres

I repeat again that if the U.S. had not had the Homestead Act, poor families like the T.B. Shanks would never have had the opportunity to get 320 acres for \$400.00 from the Federal Government. At the same time these statistics prove that the big ranchers here are telling you lies when they say that now one must have a big ranch to be able to farm successfully. You can see that there were big ranches in 1915 which is 50 years ago. The 800,000 acres ranch owned by the Los Angeles Times interests, was in one piece and was 20 miles by 70 miles in dimensions. If you go back in history, you will find that 500 years ago, the king and his noblemen had big ranches or estates. The only difference is that 500 years ago, it was Prince this or Duke that who owned the big ranch and now corporations own them. The difference is only in the names. The big landowners try to justify their monopoly by different reasons in different centuries.

But T. B. Shank says he owns 1,031 acres and he and his wife got only 320 acres from the U.S. How did he get the extra 711 acres? Mr. Shank himself has told how bad conditions were in Imperial Valley and other little farmers and their wives who had gotten 320 acres from the U.S., got discouraged and sold out. The T.B. Shank family bought the other 711 acres from these discouraged farmers at very cheap prices.

Why were conditions bad? The irrigation water comes by a ditch from the Colorado River to the riverbed of the Alamo River. This Alamo River wanders for 60 miles in Mexicali Valley where the big ranches owned by the monopolists took the water first. What was left over was permitted to go to the Imperial Valley as the river turned North and entered the United States. Irrigation farming is expensive for the land has to be levelled. Here in Mexicali and Imperial Valley, there is farming for 12 months of the year. It is desert country.

But the snows melt in the Rocky Mountains in June, July and August and 75% of the flow of the Colorado River occurs in these 3 summer months. So when December, January and February came around, THERE WAS VERY LITTLE WATER IN THE COLORADO RIVER. The monopolists with their big ranches in Mexicali Valley grabbed the water first in the months when there was a shortage and THE LITTLE FARMERS OF IMPERIAL VALLEY COULD NOT GET WATER FOR THEIR CROPS AND WENT BROKE. The building of the Boulder Dam and the All-American Canal would give Imperial Valley first choice of the water. That is why the Los Angeles Times and the other monopolists fought the Dam and Canal for 15 years. The Los Angeles Times called it, "Socialism and Bolshevism".

New T.B. Shank paid \$17 to \$25 dollars per acre for water rights. HE DID NOT PAY THIS TO THE UNITED STATES. He conveniently forgets to tell you he paid it to the private water company the California Development Co. WHICH WAS UNABLE TO SUPPLY THE SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF WATER TO THE IMPERIAL VALLEY FARMS. That is why the little farmers of the Imperial Valley made a 15 year campaign for the U.S. Government to save them. The price the U.S. asked was that each person get water for 160 acres. The excess land must be sold. There was not to be monopolists. T.B. Shank will not be hurt. He just has to give 320 acres to each of his children's families. T.B. SHANK IS GIVING US PROPAGANDA.