



VIEW NEAR HEAD OF DITCH JAN 30 1891

Extracts from "The Credit Foncier of Sinaloa," published at Topolobampo, Sinaloa, Mex., February 15, 1891:

DITCH FIGURES.

The head of the ditch is about three miles below the town of Mochicahui, on the Fuerte River. The ditch runs in a straight line for seven miles, its course being south, 22° 53 minutes west (that of the river at the ditch head being south, 75° west). The grade will be one foot to the mile. The average cut for the first mile is eighteen feet, which drops to thirteen feet at the end of the third mile, and to ten feet at the end of the fourth, dropping ten feet in the last ten miles. From there (the end of the seventh mile) to Topolobampo Bay, a distance, by ditch line, of twenty miles, the cut will be about four feet, maximum, being just sufficient to furnish the dirt for the banks. The ditch cuts into the Mochis tract, consisting of sixty-three thousand acres, at the end of the sixth mile. From the end of the sixth mile all the land south and west of the ditch, and a strip one mile wide on the north and east sides will be subject to irrigation

E. A. H. TAYS, *Chief Engineer.*

NOTES ON THE ABOVE.

The ditch, as it is now being dug, is six feet wide at the bottom, and the banks slope one to one, or at an angle of forty-five degrees. The bottom of the ditch will be two and a half feet below low water mark, hence will carry, at low water, a stream six feet wide at the bottom and eleven feet at the surface of the stream. However, there is not a month when the river does not rise from one to fifteen feet, which increases the capacity of the ditch greatly. The ditch, as at present constructed, will furnish water for the irrigation of twenty thousand acres. Enlarged to its permanent size, twenty feet at the bottom, and four feet below the low water mark, it will supply one hundred thousand acres.

There are two hundred and eighty-nine thousand cubic yards of ground to be moved, on the present plan, to finish. From the fifth day of January to the fifth of February, there were moved 29,000 cubic yards, with a daily average of twenty teams on the dump; that is, each team moved over one thousand four hundred and forty-five cubic yards. There are now thirty teams on the dump, hence February will show a removal of not less than thirty-six thousand cubic yards.

C. B. HOFFMAN.

DITCH NOTES.

An average of fifty cubic yards of ground moved per day for each team at work is a grand showing. Who says that people working for themselves accomplish less than when working for their masters?

The camp is as busy as a humming western town. On the river bank, on the west side of the ditch, are massed the corral, the commissary, the corn-grinder, the blacksmith shop, harness shop and charcoal pit. Back of these are the "messes" of Lamb, Wolf, Butler and others. The black smoke rises continually from the charcoal pit; the sound of the anvil, the grinding of corn, the pumping of water, the feeding of horses and oxen, the orderly work of the men unharnessing or harnessing their teams, the coming and going of Indians and Mexicans, the children, goats, sheep that make themselves numerous, the hum of conversation, of banter and repartee, make things lively from early morn till late at night. In the evenings, calm, mild, delightful evenings, the air is resonant with violin, guitar and flute. The air, lit up with numerous camp fires (wood being plenty, huge fires are lit in front of many tents every evening) around which chatting groups of men discuss ditch, politics, religion, science, until bed time.

The residence portion of the camp is on the west side of the ditch, amid groves of mesquite and cottonwood trees, among trailing arches of wild vines, really a delightful location.

L. D. Scott of Kennington, Kansas; D. W. Cole, of Big Bend, Kansas, and Ole Knudsen, of Richland, Kansas, return to Kansas with the next boat.

Here is what they say about it:

L. D. Scott.—"Why do you go back before the ditch is done?"—I go to get my family. I want to sell or rent my place in Kansas as quick as I can, and get back here by the time the ditch is done."

"Do you think this country as good as Kansas?"

"Yes, much better, or else I would not want to sell out there and come here."

"What do you think of co-operation by this time?"—"It is better than competition—God! yes it beats competition all hollow."

Ole Knudsen:—"I am going back to sell my property and will come back with my family. This is the best country for irrigation I ever saw."

D. W. Cole:—"Yes, I like it here. I wish I had all my folks here, my property sold and invested in land and ditch. I have considerable invested already. I have a mill here and some stock in each Company. This is just the place for workers"

Marshal Davis of Delphos, Kansas, was asked: "Have you anything to say this morning?"

"Yes, everything is lovely and prosperous. I am well pleased with the land, the climate, the water, the people and the natives. I don't intend to go home for eighteen months, and won't go at all if I can sell my property in Kansas without going back."

"Do you think our folks, the refined element, will respond to our call for means to secure more lands for co-operation and to finish the ditch rapidly?"—"Yes, if they can but be made to see what glorious opportunities we have here. But we will win, for we are on the right track."

The members of the Alliance held a meeting last Friday evening. Some twenty active members responded. They passed a ringing set of resolutions, sending greetings to their comrades in the North and telling of the grand opportunities open to the toiler here, and the need of active support of this movement by the Alliance all over the country.

The "Executive Mansion" is completed. E. A. H. Tays, architect; Morales, boss contractor. It is the most imposing structure in camp—measures 16x20, is one story high, has solid walls and a water tight roof, a brick fireplace and is withal not expensive—its cost being \$15.50, material and labor included!

Subscriptions to the Improvement Fund keep coming in. Don Manuel Barboa, the leading merchant of this valley, and a man fully awake to the profitableness of the investment, takes \$800 of the Scrip—Senor Robles, an old friend of the Colony, also takes quite a block. Our Northern friends must look to their laurels or the Mexicans will forestall them.

LAS TESTAS (DITCH CAMP), SINALOA, MEX., FEBRUARY 16, 1891

A. K. OWEN,—

The work here progresses rapidly for the force at work. We have ninety-three men on the pay-roll and thirteen women. There are about fifty teams at work which average daily fifty cubic yards per team, for every team actually at work on the dump. I think that the dirt can be moved for about thirteen cents total cost per cubic yard—may be less.

The health is good; the spirit excellent. The enemies to our cause in our own midst are singing very low, and continued activity and prosperity will obliterate them entirely.

Yours truly,

C. B. HOFFMAN.

