

# MEXICAN ISLE PLAN DEFENDED

### Investors In Utopian Island Settlement Scheme Are Riled At Criticism

The following communication in defense of the Mexican island promotion scheme, now being exploited in Salem and vicinity, is reprinted from the Statesman of March 21:

**Mexican Isle.**  
As seen by one of the Salem bunch. Referred to by the Saturday Evening Journal of March 18. Editor Statesman.—As one of the Salemites referred to in The Capital Journal of March 18th, I want to call attention to a few of the misstatements in that article—not that I feel it would have a great deal of influence with people who are familiar with this so-called newspaper's attack on different projects, but to those who read such misstatements who may know its attitude.

Now as to the island being pictured as a Garden of Eden, and that all an investor had to do was to sit in the shade and enjoy the fabulous wealth that a bountiful nature had spilled in their laps—that statement seems too ridiculous to answer, and needless to say, was never made or pictured as such, but was found just as stated by Mr. O'Brien as undeveloped to a great extent.

As to Salemites spending \$50,000 there I cannot say, but I for one feel as though what money I have spent there I will come nearer getting value received out of than one who spends his money for a so-called newspaper that continues to misstate the facts to the general public.

The statement that the excursionists found but 300 or 400 acres slashed for clearing and only a fraction of this cultivated, is about as near the truth as many of the other statements. Mr. Purvine has slashed, or had when we were there, between 600 and 700 acres alone. Another company from the Yakima valley has several hundred acres slashed and part under cultivation; and there are several other individuals who have quite an acreage cleared and in crop, and can truthfully say I never saw such crops as are growing on the island at this time. The Echegarans, another company on the island, has hundreds of acres in coconuts, and contrary to the statement in The Capital Journal as to their not starting to bear before they were eight years old, many of the trees that are five years old have nuts on.

As to the island's exploitation extending over a term of 10 years, that I understand is also false, being started about the time of the war, and of course delayed on account of war conditions. The price paid for land is \$30 and if the same land was in this country it would sell readily at \$1000.

No cows or milk, he says, on the island, and there are thousands of head of cattle. It's true there are very few cows milked on the island, but they are there, and they give milk the same in Mexico as in the United States.

Title to the land he emphasizes as questionable. The Salem crowd had an attorney with them. He was given a letter of introduction by Francis J. Heney to a man by the name of Bonillas, who is a lawyer, a graduate of Harvard, and was a member of Carranza's cabinet at the time he (Carranza) was president of Mexico. This man was asked as to the title of these lands, and he assured the attorney from Salem that there was absolutely no question as to their being able to hold the title to same.

Yes, the island is covered in places with brush. I should say close to two-thirds of it, the other third open prairie and covered with grass of different sizes and colors, and this too will have to be plowed the same in Mexico as it would be if situated near Salem in order to get it into crops.

The water level, he says, is reported by settlers on the island as 12 feet—not four as represented. Almost as near the truth as many of the other statements. I examined many different wells on the island myself. The deepest one I found was about nine and one-half feet to water. Most of them, however, were from four to six feet. The morning I left there we were out in the car—yes, an automobile, on some of those terrible roads spoken of. We put down a test hole for water, and were glad to find it at less than four feet, for this particular water was on my land.

## SOUTH AFRICA IN THROES OF BLOODY REVOLUTION



Chinese mine laborers.



Premier Smuts.



Type of Negro miners.

The South African gold and iron mining district known as the Rand is in the throes of a bloody revolution. Striking miners are said to be fighting for the establishment of a soviet. Great throngs have stormed the law courts for permits to remain in the streets at night following a declaration of martial law. Many soldiers and civilians have been killed and wounded. General Jan Christian Smuts, South African premier, went to Johannesburg, seat of the trouble. The shaded area in the map shown herewith is the district affected. Chinese and negro miners have joined the revolutionaries.



General Smuts leaves Cape Town on special train and expects to reach strike zone within 26 hrs

The Journal reads—I will give you a clipping taken from the Nogaies paper of February 14 issue, and allow you to draw your own conclusions as to the truth of that remark:

### Heavy Tomato Train Arrives From San Blas

"Early yesterday afternoon, one of the S. P. de Mexico locomotives chugged into the Sonora yards from the south, a string of 27 refrigerator cars trailing behind loaded with tomatoes from Sinaloa.

The train is the second within the past four days from the Los Mochis and San Blas districts. After being looted here, the train was shunted out on the main line and shunted away northward early yesterday evening.

"Most of the cars will be diverted to eastern markets, some going to California. Inspectors at the border stated yesterday that the cars in the tomato train contained the best quality of the fruit that has been imported so far this season."

Frank L. Purvine did vouch for the island and since I have seen it I will also vouch for Purvine, as every statement he made to me I find on close examination to be absolutely true. In fact, I know it to be a fact that Mr. Purvine's own children are paying for land there at this time, by taking so much a month out of their salary to apply on what Frank Purvine advised them to buy. Does it look reasonable that he would advise his own children to put their hard earned money in it if he did not feel it was a good investment, and had a future; and is it not reasonable to think such men as Purvine, who is well known in and near Salem, who has made a success of his own business, and will advise or allow his own children to put their money in this together with his own money? Is it not more reasonable to think his judgment would be better than some disgruntled pessimist who is seeing nothing but the dark side of everything, as it seems to be some people's misfortune to do?

I am only one of the Salemites referred to but I think they were all as free from any hypnotic state referred to as I feel I was, and as to our investing \$30 per acre in this land, I guess the most of us made this money without the learned editor's advice, and naturally feel we should be allowed to spend some of it in the way we please and without being held up to ridicule and it idly by and have the facts misstated in most every particular as has been done in this case.

We have read the above letter of Mr. Eoff and will vouch for every statement he has made as being true.

**Winter Term of Normal School to Close Friday**  
Monmouth, Or., March 22.—The winter term of the normal school will close Friday at which time several young people, who have completed the standard course, will receive diplomas. Simple exercises in honor of these graduates will be held at the chapel hour on Friday morning.

### Appearing at the Grand Tonight



Lucille Schulman, star in "Georgious Cecille", a 3 act comedy drama at the Grand Theatre tonight.

### Mexican Project

(Continued from Page One.)

down there?" asked Mr. Archer, who did most of the questioning.

**Monkeys All Came Back.**  
"A man came into my store when I got back," said Mr. Roberts, in explanation, "and asked me if I was going to train the monkeys to climb the trees for the coconuts. I told him that the trouble was there wasn't any monkeys down there—they all came back."

There are no snakes on the island, Mr. Roberts said, a few "ticks," some gnats, and ants that seemed to be minding their own business when he saw them.

Dave Drager, county treasurer, saw the same things that Mr. Roberts saw, adding that he had seen a few oysters nine inches long, had eaten onions that tasted good, saw 150 hides of poisoned deer, traveled over the road which was said to be impassable, and found it only sandy, and was told it was like pavement when it rained, and did not see a stone as big as a marble on the entire island.

**Drager Shot Fish.**  
Mr. Drager testified that he was not hypnotized by the promoters, but bought before they ever came to Salem, through Mr. Purvine, and had found things just as represented.

"Acres of fish splash around in the waters," said Mr. Drager, "we shot them with a shotgun and when we got tired of that we did something else."

"The people on the island want more people to come down there—people who will work. They are all boosters—those that are there."

**Brought Back Wild Hog.**  
J. C. Selgund testified that he saw the same things that Mr. Roberts and Mr. Drager saw and that he had brought back a wild hog—evidence that wild boars run wild on the island.

## School Heads Discuss Plan to Cut Taxes

Albany, Or., March 22.—Members of the school boards of 15 leading cities of western Oregon met here this afternoon to consider school problems with a view toward reducing expenses and as a result curtailing annually mounting taxes for school purposes, but adjourned without any very drastic recommendations.

The only resolutions adopted recommended the curtailment of expenses in general terms, but when it got down to specific cases of curtailment there was no unity of action. The elimination of excessive superintendence was the only thing on which the convention really went on record.

Practically the only definite result of the meeting was the formation of an organization to be continued for one year, looking toward concrete action later. Dr. J. H. Bennett of Albany was elected chairman of this organization and W. A. Sherman of Astoria secretary. These officers presided over the meeting today.

Many delegates favored strongly a reduction of teachers' salaries. Other districts opposed formal action of the convention on this subject. Because of a diversity of conditions in various districts, particularly as to living expenses, the convention decided to leave that subject to each district to work out without recommendation.

It was pointed out by some speakers that the whole tendency of the schools in recent years was to introduce new courses which other schools had to adopt to "keep up" and hence the taxes had mounted consistently.

Cities represented at today's meeting were Salem, Astoria, Eugene, Albany, Corvallis, McMinnville, Dallas, Oregon City, Lebanon, Seilo, Newberg, Hillsboro, Woodburn, Silverton and Forest Grove.

### Wine Ship Will Advertise French Products Abroad

Paris, March 22.—(By Associated Press.)—Premier Poincare today will receive the committee for South America of the French Wine Growers association and give official sanction for an "exposition wine ship" which is scheduled to leave France in July for a six months advertising trip in South America.

The ship will visit both the western and eastern South American seaboard for the purpose of advertising French wines, as well as French silks, tapestries, velvets and paintings.

### Cherro Flour

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### Cow Gives Birth to Five Normal Calves; All Die

Regina, Sask., March 22.—A record which will stand for some time in the animal world was established recently by a Saskatchewan cow when she gave birth to five calves, all normal, weighing about 30 pounds each. The cow, a pure-bred Jersey, bore three normal calves last year. The performance is detracted from somewhat because none of this year's litter of calves lived. This was due to the mother cow taking fright at a train and running more than a mile, only a few days before giving birth to the five.

### Kaiser's Aid Dies Poor

Ontario, Can., March 22.—Revelation that Baron George Von Roehow of this city, formerly a member of the military escort of Ex-Kaiser Wilhelm, left an estate valued at less than \$100 was made in a petition for letters of administration filed by J. E. Hanna, public administrator.

Many people long for more money, but look at Europe!

### First Mate of Lurline Gives Out the Facts

**He Feels As Strong and Active As a Boy and Hasn't a Trace of Rheumatism or Stomach Trouble Left, Declares Meyers**

"I would be an unreasonable man not to be satisfied with all that Taniac has done for me," said Fred Meyers, popular first mate of the steamer Lurline, Alder St. Dock, Portland, Or.

"For four or five years my stomach was all out of order and I suffered terribly from rheumatism. Nobody but myself will ever know the misery I went through in that time. I couldn't eat without suffering the greatest distress, my back hurt me so that it was agony for me to bend over and straighten up again and I was so nervous and restless I couldn't get the sleep I needed.

"I have a splendid appetite now and my stomach feels just like a new one. I am as strong and active as a boy again and it is only right that I should give the credit to Taniac, for it certainly did the work for me."

Taniac is sold by J. F. Tyler, druggist, and by leading druggists everywhere. (adv)

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