

The Assessor of Imperial County has assessed adjoining land at \$2 per acre, thus indicating its appraised value to be \$4 per acre.

An inspection and appraisal by a member of the Commission's Staff on August 6, 1953, sets the value at \$10 per acre. Mr. Clithero posted the necessary amount to meet this value. The land, located at an elevation of 500 feet, is sandy silt, first quality, level, and supports sparse desert growth. It is accessible by an existing graded desert road, and water is available at a reasonably shallow depth. It is situated approximately 1½ miles from U. S. Highway 80, near the small desert community of Ocotillo. Water appears to be available from wells.

The State's application to select the land has been accepted by the Bureau of Land Management, subject to future approval and listing.

UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, IT WAS RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

The sale is authorized of Lots 11 and 16 of Section 26 (Tract 55), Lots 13, 14, 23 and 24 of Section 27 (Tract 55), and Lots 1 and 2 of Section 27 (Tract 56), T. 16 S., R. 9 E., S.B.M., containing 225.95 acres in Imperial County to R. H. Clithero at the appraised cash price of \$2,259.50, subject to all statutory reservations including minerals, upon the listing (conveyance) of said land to the State by the Federal Government.

18. (SALE OF VACANT FEDERAL LAND, OBTAINED THROUGH USE OF BASE, SCRIP APPLICATION NO. 10563, LOS ANGELES LAND DISTRICT, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, MELVYN M. STEPHENS - S.W.O. 5543.) An offer has been received from Melvyn M. Stephens of Amboy, San Bernardino County, California, to purchase the E½ of Lot 1 of NW¼ (or SE¼ of NW¼) of Section 5, T. 5 N., R. 12 E., S.B.M., containing 40 acres in San Bernardino County. This land may be obtained by the State from the Federal Government through use of base. The minimum price for scrip for this type of land has been set heretofore at \$5 per acre. Mr. Stephens made an offer of \$200, or \$5 per acre.

The Assessor of San Bernardino County has assessed land lying north of Highway 66 at \$25 per acre, thus indicating the appraised value of the land in the vicinity to be \$50 per acre.

An inspection and appraisal by a member of the Commission's Staff on October 30, 1953, sets the value at \$50 per acre. Mr. Stephens posted the necessary amount to meet this value. The subject land is level, barren, and the soil, which is of third quality or poorer, is subject to alkali contamination from Bristol Dry Lake. No potable water is available. The land lies south of Highway 66 and the A.T. & S.F. Railroad at the edge of Bristol Dry Lake, and immediately adjacent to the railway yards at Amboy. It is crossed by the road from Amboy to Twenty-nine Palms, now a black-top road. The location is such as to make it suitable for light industry or warehouses at the railhead of the Marine Corps Base at Twenty-nine Palms.

The State's application to select the land has been accepted and listed to the State by the Bureau of Land Management.

UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, IT WAS RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

The sale is authorized of the  $E\frac{1}{2}$  of Lot 1 of  $NW\frac{1}{4}$  (or  $SE\frac{1}{4}$  of  $NW\frac{1}{4}$ ) of Section 5, T. 5 N., R. 12 E., S.B.M., containing 40 acres in San Bernardino County, to Melvyn M. Stephens at the appraised cash price of \$2,000, subject to all statutory reservations including minerals.

19. (SCRIP APPLICATIONS BY REDLOCK CORPORATION - S.W.O. NO. 5592 AND S.W.O. NO. 5604.) On March 11, 1953, applications were filed by the Sacramento Office of the Division of State Lands with the Office of the Los Angeles Land District, U. S. Bureau of Land Management, for the allowance of an exchange of lands listed on Indemnity Selection Lists No. 10583 and 10583-A. These applications were submitted on behalf of the Redlock Corporation, and involved the ultimate sale to that corporation of the  $S\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 26, the  $N\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 34, the  $N\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 22, and the  $SE\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 24, all in T. 11 N., R. 13 W., S.B.M., and comprising 1,120 acres in Kern County. On April 7, 1953, additional applications were filed by the Sacramento Office of the Division of State Lands, on behalf of the Redlock Corporation, covering the  $NW\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 18, T. 11 N., R. 12 W., the  $SW\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 28, T. 11 N., R. 13 W., and all of Section 14, T. 11 N., R. 13 W., except the  $SW\frac{1}{4}$  of the  $SW\frac{1}{4}$ , all S.B.M., containing 959.39 acres in Kern County. Subsequent to the filing of these applications, objections to this transaction were filed with each member of the Commission by Congressman Harlan Hagen, on the basis that the lands applied for by the State were also being applied for by a number of residents of Los Angeles and Kern Counties under the Small Tract Act of 1938. Objections were also filed with the Bureau of Land Management, not only by Congressman Hagen, but also by representatives of the alleged applicants for small tracts, and more recently objections have been filed with the Governor of the State of California. Investigation shows that some of the objections filed are based upon what appears to be incorrect information. Also, allegations are made that the State applicant, the Redlock Corporation, does not intend to use the applied-for lands for the purposes set forth in its application.

In view of the controversy existing, which seems to be growing in strength, it is believed advisable to hold a Public Hearing as near the location of the lands as possible, at an early date, with a view to arriving at a more accurate determination of the facts involved.

UPON MOTION DULY MADE AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED, IT WAS RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

The Executive Officer is authorized to conduct a Public Hearing on the matter of the State applications for lands located in Kern County in Sections 14, 22, 24, 26, 28, and 34, in Township 11 North, Range 13 West, S.B.M.; in Section 18, Township 11 North, Range 12 West, S.B.M.; and other lands in the immediate vicinity over which, in the opinion of the Executive Officer, a controversy appears to exist; and thereafter make a full report to the State Lands Commission for such action as may be appropriate.