

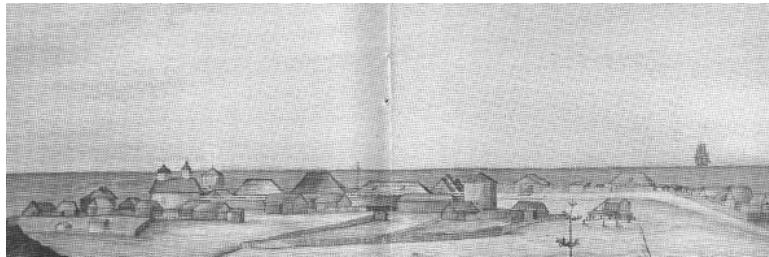
California Hemp History

1795 According to Hubert H. Bancroft's History of California, hemp was introduced to California in 1795 by Joaquin Sanchez who was sent to Mission San Jose by Spanish Governor de Borca to plant hemp for exportation.



1810 Sanchez found that hemp was already growing there and that the natives used it to make nets to catch sea otters. Sanchez went on to plant hemp at the missions at San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and San Gabriel. The production of hemp continued until 1810 when the Spanish subsidies ended.

1863 R.A. Thompson says in his The Russian Settlement in California that the Russian settlers at Fort Ross raised hemp from roughly 1812 to 1841 and hemp



cultivation experiments were proposed by California Governors Bigler in 1850 and Stanford in 1863.

1896 The Transactions of the California State Agricultural Society, 1899, includes a letter written by Mr. John Heaney in which he says that he has “been actively engaged with hemp since 1874” and “raising hemp in California since 1896.”



Heaney's letter says “I have now at this point 350 acres of hemp which will average about 1,000 pounds of fibre per acre. My neighbor, G. Rau, has about 160 acres which will average about the same as mine. This is all the hemp grown at present in the State, and will produce about 250 tons of fibre, the average price of which is from 6 to 7 cents per pound in the Eastern market.”

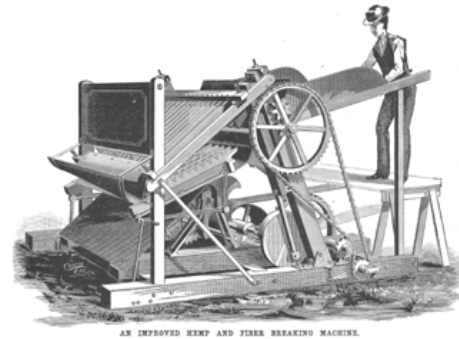
1899 The December 10, 1899 San Francisco Call newspaper recounts P. Ettliger and J. H. Thomas' plans to raise 300 acres of hemp on Ryer Island in the Sacramento Delta.¹ The article also says that J. Cunningham of Salem Oregon had processed 5 bales of California hemp thru the jute machine @ San Quentin prison and that he found the California “hemp to be superior to the hemp of Oregon”.



1903 The 1903 Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture reported that hemp grown @ Gridley in Butte County was well over 10 feet tall and The *History of the Sacramento Valley* says that “A hemp mill was built in the Rio Bonito District near the Ord Ranch east of Biggs and Gridley in 1905. Italians were brought from the east and settled on the land to grow hemp, but labor disturbances and destruction of the mill by fire ended this experiment. Sutter farmers also experimented with this crop but to no avail.”ⁱⁱⁱ



1913 Mr. Haney’s hemp production is noted extensively in the USDA’s 1913 Yearbook. In a report entitled HEMP, botanist author Lyster Dewey recounted that, “hemp was first grown on a commercial scale at Gridley in Butte County by Mr. John Heaney who had grown it at Champaign [Illinois] and who devised the machine used there for making long tow.”



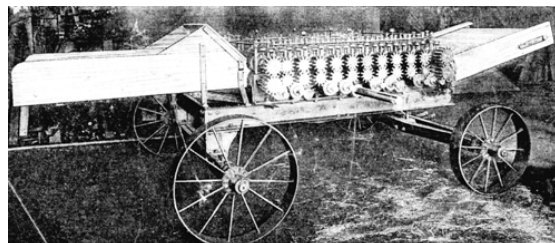
Mr. Dewey went on to recount that “Mr. Haney built a machine with some improvements at Gridley, and after three disastrous inundations from the Feather River moved to Courtland, in the lower Sacramento Valley, where the reclaimed lands are protected by dikes. The work is now being continued at Rio Vista, in Solano County, under more favorable conditions and with a machine still further improved. The hemp fiber produced in California is very strong and is generally lighter in color than that produced in Kentucky. In 1912 hemp was first cultivated on a commercial scale under irrigation at Lerdo, near Bakersfield, Cal., and a larger acreage was grown there in 1913.”ⁱⁱⁱ



California enacts the 1913 Poison Act Amendments outlawing hemp farming.

1915 George Schlichten patents decorticator

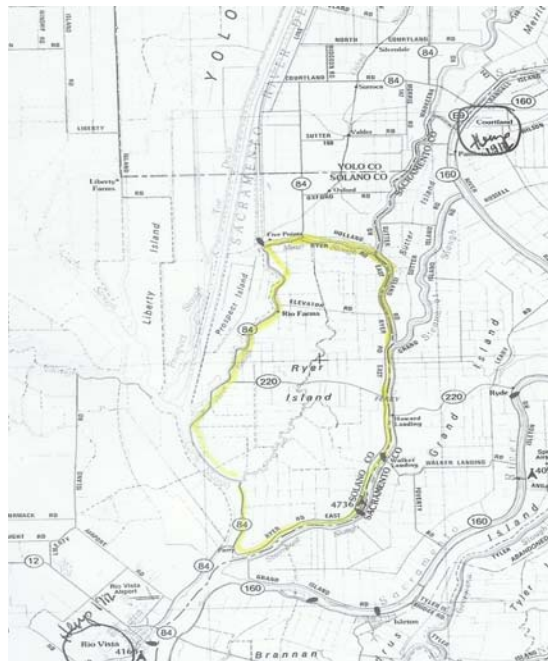
1917 Jack Herer, in his ground-breaking book about hemp “The Emperor Wears No Clothes”, says that 100 acres of hemp was harvested at Brawley on “the Timken ranch in Imperial Valley, California” in 1917 using Schlichten’s decorticator.^{iv}



In the 9/18/09 issue of NUG Magazine, Dion Markgraaff has written that “in 1917, the national media thoroughly documented the hemp farming taking place locally at the famous Timkin Ranch in Imperial County. A detailed report said local farmers produced about 125 tons of hemp fiber and 312.5 tons of hemp hurds from his 100 acre field. Mr. Schlichten raised 5 tons of hemp stalks to the acre on a one hundred acre patch on the Timken Ranch in Imperial County and paid the growers \$15 per ton of dry stalks delivered to his machine. Thus the farmer gets \$75 per acre on his crop which matures in 100 days. The stubble and that part of the leaves and tops which remain on the field (containing in excess of 50% nitrogen) are wonderful fertilizer. Moreover, the hemp kills all weeds. The farmer’s land is left in fine condition for immediate planting of other crops. A second crop could be raised.”

1919 An article entitled “*Ryer Island*”, in the June 1995 issue of the Sacramento River Delta Historical society’s NEWSLETTER, says that “there was a hemp mill operating on Ryer [Island]” in 1919. The article above also says that in 1938 there were “leftover” hemp buildings on the Island.

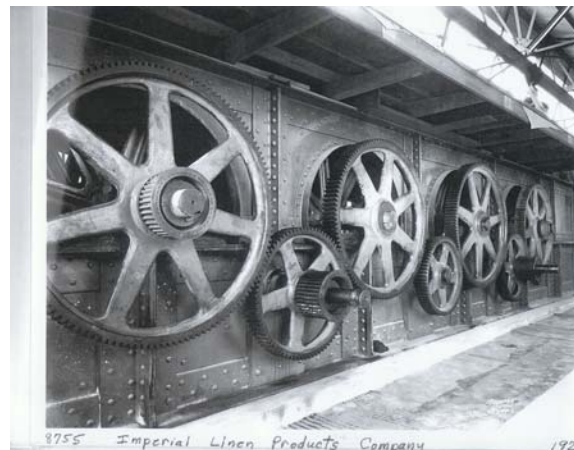
1927 The December 1927 issue of San Diego Magazine has an article about the Imperial Linen Products Corporation’s plans to build a large hemp processing



plant on National Boulevard @ Harbourside in Chula Vista in San Diego County.



1928 In the February 1928 issue, the

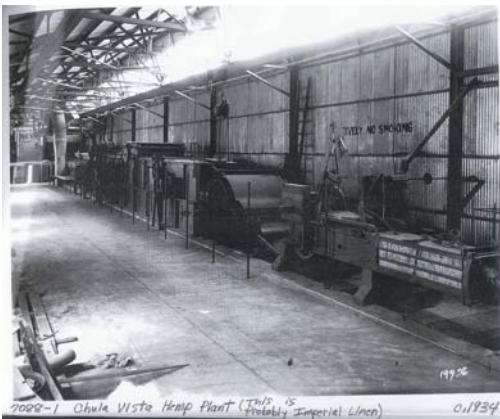


Magazine described “new machinery that will be employed” as “[A] modernized 100 ton hemp decortivating machine...”

1925 Imperial Linen Products Company 1928



1928 State reports hemp is growing only in Imperial County near El Centro, per LA Times 4/22/28^{vi}, ^{vii}



2022-1 Ohlwa Vista Hemp Plant (This is probably Imperial Linen) 0.1934

It is delivered to the machine where an automatic chain conveyor feeds it to the breaking arms at the rate of two or three tons per hour. The hurds are broken into fine pieces which drop into the hopper, from where they are delivered by blower to a baler or to truck for freight care for loose shipment. The fiber comes from the other end of the machine ready for bailing.

1937 US Marijuana Tax Act of 1937^{viii}

1938 Popular Mechanics “The New Billion Dollar Crop” article^{ix} recounts the economic potential unleashed by Schlichter’s decorticator cuts hemp “with a slightly modified grain binder.



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1942 WWII “Hemp for Victory” campaign plans the planting of 300,000 acres of hemp and the construction of 71 processing plants to meet military demand for rope, twine, uniforms and other products which can be made from hemp.



Top, modern version of Hanx Auster made from hemp. Bottom, harvesting hemp with a grain binder. Hemp grows luxuriously in Texas

1993 Hemp Industries Association formed

1994 Chris Boucher plants hemp @ USDA research station at Brawley in Imperial County.

Chris Boucher , of Laguna Beach’s Hempstead Company, in cooperation with the Imperial County Agriculture Commissioner, receives permits and letters from the USDA research center @ Brawley in Imperial County to plant a crop of low-THC hemp. The crop is destroyed by state police at the direction of the office of the California Attorney General which declares that the state’s 1913 Poison Act Amendment law makes no distinction between low-THC



hemp and marijuana.^{xi}

1995 Chris Boucher drafts the California State True Hemp Farming Act

1999 HR 32, calling on the state to revise the legal status of hemp to allow for its growth in California and calling for universities and other agencies to prepare studies on the cultivation, processing, and marketing of industrial hemp, is adopted by California Assembly.

2001 AB 448 to permit licensed California growers to raise industrial hemp dies in Assembly Agriculture committee. California State Grange adopts Resolution supporting the legalization of industrial hemp.

2002 AB 388, directing the University of California to assess the economic opportunities of specialty fiber crops including hemp including market demand, identification of potential barriers, production and processing, passes the legislature and is vetoed by the Governor.

2006 AB 1147, to permit the production of industrial hemp in California, passes the legislature and is vetoed by the Governor.

2007 AB 684, to permit the production of industrial hemp in California, passes the legislature and is vetoed by the Governor.

2011 ???



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Michael J. Greene
CDS Consulting
3701 McKinley Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95816-3417
916-736-1572
cdsconsulting@surewest.net

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Photos courtesy of:

ⁱ <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85066387/1899-12-20/ed-1/seq-5/>

ⁱⁱ 1903 USDA Yearbook Hemp on Alluvial Soil at Gridley, CA.

ⁱⁱⁱ http://www.electricemperor.com/eecdrom/HTML/EMP/02/ECH02_20.HTM

^{iv} http://www.electricemperor.com/eecdrom/HTML/EMP/02/ECH02_20.HTM

^v Advertisement from San Diego Magazine December 1927

^{vi} Chula Vista Public Library

<http://content.cdlib.org/ark:/13030/kt1580229z/?brand=calisphere>

^{vii} Internal photos of Imperial Linen from San Diego History Center

^{viii} San Diego Historical Society

^{ix} <http://www.druglibrary.org/schaffer/hemp/history/newbilln.htm>

^x San Diego Historical Society

^{xi} <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-1199945475316180479#>

^{xii} <http://www.gov.mb.ca/agriculture/crops/hemp/bko01s01f.html>