



SOURCE OF THE SALT RIVER.

RESOURCES
OF
THE · SALT · RIVER · VALLEY

MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA

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CONSERVATIVE man, but a few years ago, gave to all the country lying west of the Missouri River the name of "The Great American Desert," peopled it with awful beings, pictured it with horrid scenes, and drew upon its border a line beyond which the tide of civilization would never roll. But the acquisitive and the adventurous soon found the worth of the "desert" land, and, though many passed on to the gold of the Pacific and the silver of the Rockies, yet enough were left to lay the foundations of the great States that to-day are the granaries of the Union. Where the fierce Comanche once chased the buffalo are productive farms, and the church bell is heard where once howled the wolf. On the shores of the Pacific has risen an empire whose goddess is kind Pomona and where the golden globes of the orange grove are vieing in value with the nuggets of the mines. The "parched plains" of California have been redeemed and a swarming population find wealth in the soil. And the acres once deemed worthless are now valued at prodigious sums.

Between the Rockies and the Sierras now lies the most sparsely populated portion of the Union, comprised in that grand plateau that stretches away from the British possessions to the capital of Mexico. To this expanse has descended the name of "The Great American Desert." This designation has not lost its force; no doubt many consider this vast area in the light of a western Sahara. And, indeed, there is much in support of this view, for two of the transcontinental lines pass through the most desolate portions, such routes having been chosen for the furtherance of ease in construction. Yet it should be known

that nowhere else on earth has Nature been so profuse in her gifts. Mountains of grandeur flank fertile valleys, mines of wealth are everywhere, vast virgin forests invite the woodman's axe, grassy slopes feed countless cattle, ruins of Toltec cities attract the scientist, and to the south, under modern hands, an ancient vale of Eden is blooming in renewed beauty.

Take down your atlas or open your railroad folder and look in the south-central portion of Arizona, for the dot that marks the position of Phœnix, the capital city of the Territory. It is to this city and its environs we desire to direct your attention. Phœnix is a modern town, of such vigorous growth that twenty years will cover the period of its existence, yet in that time it has gathered to itself a permanent and prosperous population of 6,000 souls. Indeed, the sturdy infant is so young that a few ancient maps give it little prominence. On the latest Rand-McNally maps you can find it in all its glory. Beside its distinction as the capital of Arizona, it is also the county seat of Maricopa County, a local division embracing 9,354 square miles, an area about eight times that of Rhode Island, five times that of Delaware, twice that of Connecticut, and, approximately, equal to Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire or Vermont. That should give you some idea of the magnitude of "things out West."

Perhaps you have journeyed across Arizona and think yourself informed as to its resources? Did you ever visit Phœnix? No? Then truly, it is little you know of the subject. Make an excursion hither, by all means. Get off the Southern Pacific train at Maricopa station; the west-bound express arrives there at 6:30 A. M., the east-bound train at 11 A. M., so you will not be deprived of your rest. Maricopa is a rather rough looking place, but don't be prejudiced by that against the land to which it is the gateway. You know railroad junctions never are attractive to the traveler. A train of the Maricopa and Phœnix Railway is close at hand and before long you are speeding Northward. The Gila (*he-la*) River is crossed, a few Pima Indians appearing at the bridge to stare at the iron horse; the summit of the slight "divide" is soon attained, and your first glimpse is caught of the great Salt River valley. Rich grain and alfalfa fields stretch away on either hand, orchards and vineyards, set in frames of giant shade trees, dot the scene, and

the verdure of the landscape is rendered even more delightful by contrast with the ashy gray of the sage brush plain left behind. A brief stop is made at Tempe, and then, after rolling slowly across the long bridge, a westerly direction is taken and the train steams up and away for Phœnix, landing the traveler there at 1:03 P. M. Here at the depot you will find at least one familiar feature, in the mob of hotel runners and hackmen, who differ little from their brethren in the East. You need not fear to step into any one of the waiting conveyances, for Phœnix has attained an enviable reputation for her hostelrys. Once comfortably established, look about you and then rejoice that you have been persuaded to visit this beautiful land.

THE CITY OF PHOENIX.

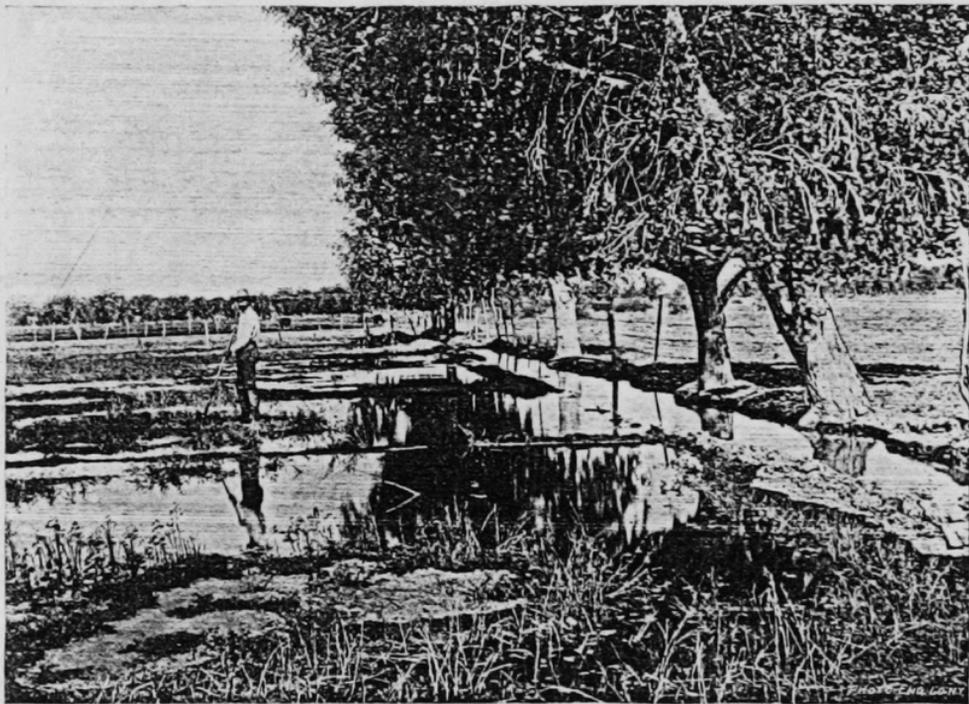


PHOENIX is a modern town, "with all modern improvements." Peopled by a progressive, American class, on every side are to be noted the evidences of thrift and enterprise. Here are none of the sleepy semi-Mexican features of the more ancient towns of the Southwest, but, in the midst of a valley of wonderful fertility, has risen a city of stately structures, beautiful homes, progressive and vigorous. Situated as it is, in the very center of the population of the Territory, included in a tract of farming land unequalled for fertility or extent, around which lies one of the richest mining districts of the globe, the capital city of what will soon be the great "State of Arizona," discerning men see clearly before it a future second to not even Denver. With the completion of any one of the competing railroads now pointing toward it, the progress of the city will be accelerated to a degree that will, in the estimation of even the most conservative, double its population within three years. Its advantages for investment are therefore apparent. For the business man and the manufacturer there are many lucrative openings; for the family man and the homeseeker, for educational and social advantages, for economy in living, there can be no place more admirably situated. In point of improvements, aided by the many natural advantages, much has already been done, and from the tree and vine-embowered hamlet



RESIDENCE STREET SCENE IN PHOENIX.

has risen a city ranking in completeness with many Eastern cities of thrice its population. Beside living water, which flows along every street, an efficient water works system is in operation. Illumination is supplied by gas and by arc and incandescent electric lights, the last named being most generally used. A complete telephone system has been lately established. There are six miles of street railway, furnishing cheap transportation to all parts of the city. A well-equipped fire department insures immunity from destructive fires. The County Court House and the City Hall each occupy a block in the center of the city, fronting upon Washington Street, the main thoroughfare. The grounds of both are tastefully laid out, with blue grass lawns, shade trees and flowers. The City Hall is in use as a temporary Capitol, the upper story being divided into two halls, for the use of the legislative bodies, the main floor being for the most part occupied by the Territorial offices. Three model school houses are filled by the rising generation. Church organizations are maintained by the following religious bodies: Episcopal, Baptist, Christian Baptist, Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal, South, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, and Seventh Day Adventists. All, save the last named, are well provided with church accommodations. Sabbath schools and a number of sectarian and charitable organizations are also maintained. The secret orders are well represented. There are four lodges of the several degrees of Masonry, four of the Odd Fellows, and one each of the following orders: Workmen, Select Knights, Knights of Pythias, Grand Army of the Republic, Chosen Friends and Good Templars. The last-named organization conducts a public library. The news is disseminated by three daily and weekly journals, the *Herald*, *Gazette* and *Republican*, all energetic in disseminating information relative to the resources of the county. A reference to their columns is ever interesting to the stranger. The ordinary mercantile avocations are well represented, many of the stores carrying very extensive stocks and pushing their business to points in all parts of the Territory. In addition, there are two manufactories of artificial ice, three planing mills, three lumber yards, an iron foundry, a large roller-process flouring mill, four banks, four hotels and a number of well-appointed lodging houses, etc. There are three public halls and a public park on the outskirts. The



IRRIGATION BY FLOODING.

professions are well represented. Need is felt and much profit would be found in the establishment of a canning factory, a public fruit drier, beet sugar factory, a large creamery, a pork-packing house, sampling works and a steam laundry. Any of these enterprises would return large dividends.

SCHOOLS.



PERHAPS the character of the population of Maricopa County can best be shown by a glimpse at her school system. The county has a fair record indeed to exhibit on this important point. There are within her borders 41 school districts, employing 58 teachers and attended by about 2,000 children. The amount set apart for school purposes for 1890-91 was \$36,084.80. A high standard of qualifications is demanded for teachers, and the salaries are correspondingly liberal, the average monthly compensation being \$72.50. The valuation placed upon common school property is \$79,000. The public schools of Phoenix are the city's pride. Two large and modern school buildings have been lately erected, furnishing ample accommodations to the youth of the eastern and western parts of the city. The High School occupies an entire block near the center of the city. Work is soon to commence upon a Methodist university, the grounds being now in readiness in the northwestern part of the city. A commercial college is well attended and several private schools are maintained.

The Territorial Normal School, at Tempe, is a model institution, drawing students from all portions of the Territory, as well as from other States. It offers a three-years' course in the sciences, language and pedagogy, and is empowered to grant diplomas valid in all parts of the Territory. Tuition is free and the cost of living is small.



ON THE GRAND CANAL.

AS REGARDS CLIMATE.



It is truly said that life in the most densely populated portions of the Union is but a continued battle with the elements. Every phase of the weather, from the biting cold of winter to the steaming heat of summer, is alike to be dreaded. A truly pleasant day is a rarity, indeed. How different is the case in this part of Arizona! Not a day passes without the sunshine, and unpleasant periods are few and far between. Almost every day of the year may the husbandman labor without discomfort. The summer heat, though marked at a high point, has attached to it few of the discomforts that render the "dog days" almost beyond human endurance in the States east of the Rockies. So pure and dry is the atmosphere that the difference between the apparent temperature and the sensible temperature, during the summer, according to the Signal Service reports, is as great as 30 degrees. That is, when the thermometer here marks 110 degrees, the extreme limit, the heat is not more oppressive than at 80 degrees in New York, where no such variation exists. Upon this basis, curious as it may seem to some, it may be maintained that Arizona in July is cooler than the East. It is also to be noted that the summer temperature of the interior valleys of California is much higher than in the Salt River Valley. Here the breezes blow from cool plateaus, and the sun's rays are moderated by the altitude of over 1,000 feet upon which Phoenix stands. Sunstrokes and mad dogs are never known, and the harvest is gathered without serious discomfort to the laborers in the fields. Truly, it is doubtful if a superior climate can be found on earth.

As to healthfulness there is no question. To Phoenix as a sanitarium, yearly flock large numbers of strangers seeking for the precious boon of health, and rarely are they disappointed. There appears to be no class of diseases indigenous to the country, and the death rate is extremely low. Especial reference is due to the very low death rate among children. In the older States a mortality of 50 per cent. prevails up to the fifth year. Here the death rate of infants seems little in excess of that of adults. Almost entire



ACQUINEN PHOTO.



SEMI TROPICAL
TREES
IN THE VALLEY.

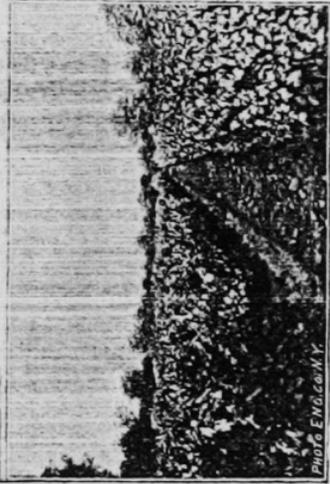
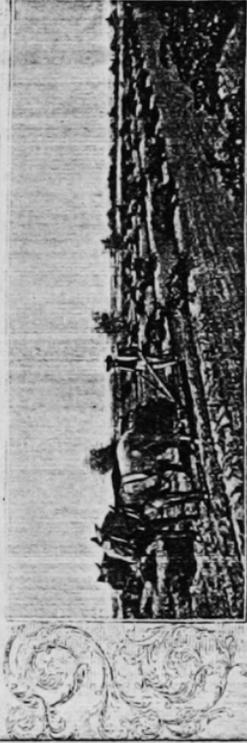
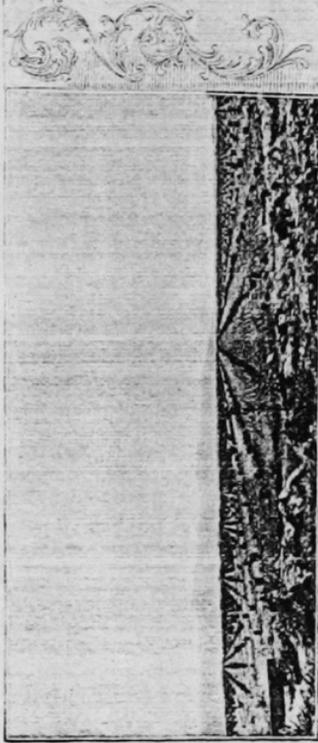
- 1-DATE PALM
- 3-FAN PALM
- 2-BANANA
- 4-TROPICAL SHRUBBERY

immunity from the usual infantile diseases appears to be enjoyed. Physicians of prominence state that the county is free from malaria, that there have been few cases of pneumonia and that less than six cases of typhoid fever have been known in the last two years. Rheumatic, consumptive and asthmatic patients are especially benefited. Most affections are prone to yield to remedies more readily than in other States, and the contagious and communicable class of diseases, such as diphtheria, scarlatina, measles, whooping-cough, etc., are much more tractable than in the region closer to the Pacific Coast.

FRUITS AND OTHER PRODUCTS.



HOWEVER blessed in other ways by bountiful nature, in the culture of the soil will Maricopa County ever find her greatest source of wealth. With 1,500,000 acres of arable land within her borders, adapted to the culture of nearly every fruit of the temperate or tropic zones, with a mild and benignant climate, with a vast supply of pure and wholesome water, surely there lies beneath the sun no more favored land than this, nor anywhere can more perfect homes be made. Nearly all this vast expanse lies within the Salt and Lower Gila Valleys. By a reference to the map it will be seen that these valleys are simply continuations, one of the other, occupying nearly all of the central and southern portions of Maricopa County. Of this vast area but about 150,000 acres are under cultivation. The soil is uniformly excellent, strongest near the water-courses and lighter and looser toward the bordering hills. It varies in depth, from forty to ten feet, with substrata of lime, "cement" and gravel. The heavier soil of the lower-lying lands has been deemed especially suited to the growth of cereals, while that contiguous to the foothills is preferred for both citrus and deciduous fruits. The annual yield of wheat and barley is large, though, year by year, the farmers of the Salt River Valley are turning more and more of their lands to even more profitable uses. The acreage of trees and vines is increasing with phenom-



1. A SIX MONTHS OLD VINEYARD:

2. CULTIVATING THE VINES:

3. AN OLD VINEYARD:

VINEYARD SCENES:

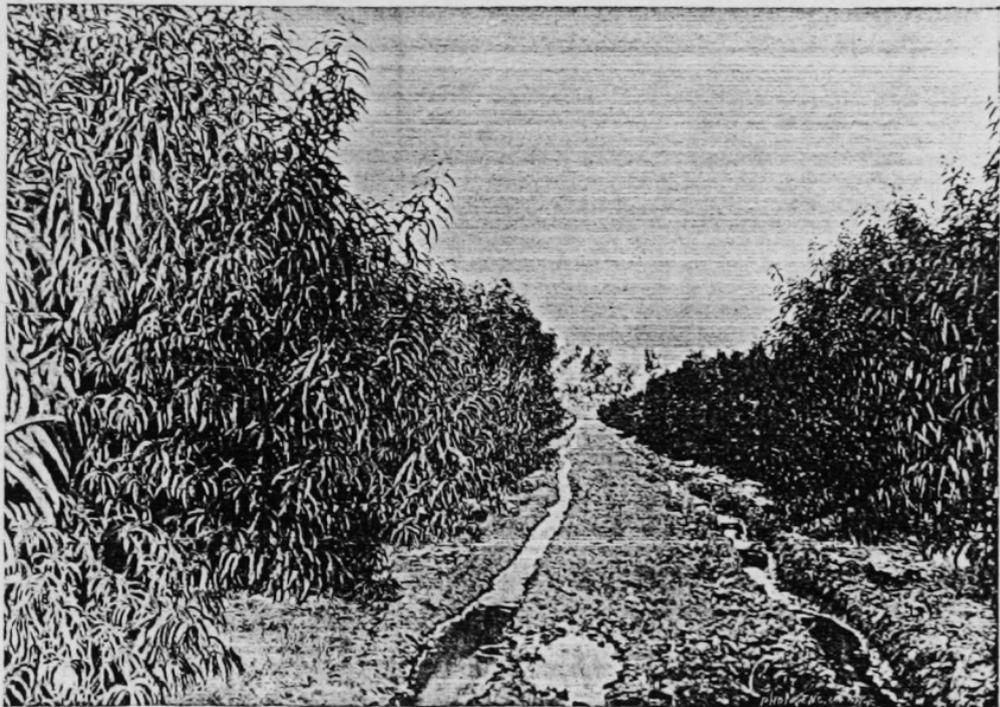
PHOTO ENGLAND N.Y.

enul speed, and the day is not far distant when the lands of this section will be held as too valuable to be cultivated to any but the most remunerative crops.

In the Salt River Valley, proper, the cultivated area is divided up about as follows: Wheat, 25,000 acres; barley, 45,000 acres; alfalfa, 50,000 acres; vineyards and orchards, 20,000 acres; miscellaneous products, 10,000 acres. The grain yield, in about all cases where proper cultivation is given, averages about 14,000 pounds of wheat and 1,800 pounds of barley to the acre. Upon many of the grain farms, as soon as the yield is sacked, the plows are started for a fall crop of corn, which is harvested in October, in ample time for seeding the land to the next year's crop of barley. Despite this almost constant occupation, the soil in no instance shows evidences of impoverishment, for, in addition to the natural strength of the soil, its life is being continually renewed by the rich silt brought down by the rivers in their annual rises, and distributed over the land through the irrigating ditches.

Alfalfa, or lucerne, is a forage plant dear to the heart of the local agriculturist. Not a farm is complete without a liberal pasture of it. Dried or growing in the field, nutritious and available at all times, it furnishes an unsurpassed feed for all kinds of live stock. So prolific is it, that, when properly cared for, the average yield is not less than eight tons to the acre per annum, harvested in from three to five cuttings. When grazed, every acre will easily support two head of cattle or horses, or twelve head of hogs for the entire year. Tens of thousands of cattle are brought from the mountain ranges to the valley pastures, to fatten into prime condition on this wonderful clover. Baled, the hay is shipped to all points in the southern part of the Territory and southern California, besides supplying the not inconsiderable local demand. The baled hay sells from \$6 to \$10 per ton, according to the season.

Beyond a doubt, the chief industry of Maricopa County will soon be the raising of fruits. With the experience gained during the past few years, the fact is now patent that not even the most favored sections of California are better adapted to the growth of oranges than is this Salt River Valley. It is now but about three years since the first organized and definite movement toward orange culture was undertaken,

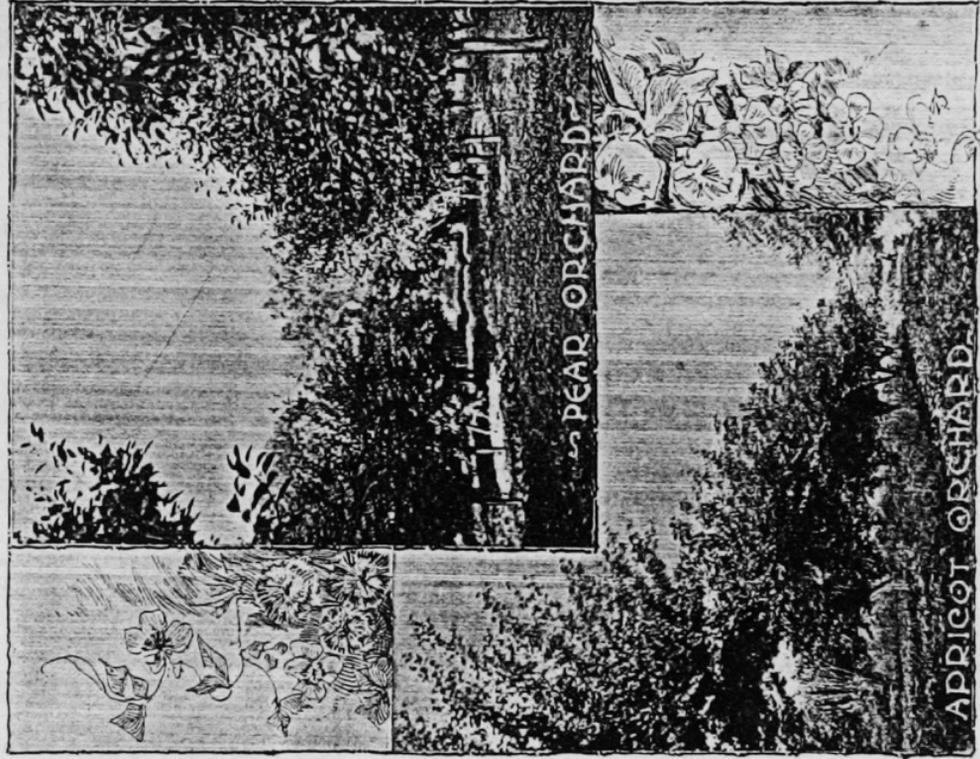


PEACH ORCHARD.

though there are a number of trees in the valley that have borne for the past ten years. The results have more than equalled expectations. The first orange orchard of any importance was planted under the Arizona Canal, about nine miles northeast of Phoenix, in the spring of 1889. It comprised sixteen acres, set out in the Washington Navel, Malta Blood and Tangerine varieties. All have prospered, the percentage of loss being almost inappreciable. The crop last winter was picked fully two months earlier than the first marketed from the groves of California, and the oranges, in flavor, appearance and size, were adjudged by experts to be of the highest class. There are now in the Salt River Valley fully 600 acres set out to oranges and lemons, 200 acres of which will be in bearing next season. This acreage of trees will be fully doubled within a year, and the time is near when Arizona oranges, shipped in car-load lots, will be common in the fruit stalls of the East. The advantages possessed by the Salt River Valley orchardist over his California brother are many. For his land and water he has paid not more than a tenth of the price of similar tracts in California; he is about 400 miles nearer to his market; he gains the top prices and the cream of the trade by reason of his earlier fruit; the air is dryer and more conducive to the development of a perfect fruit; the soil needs no fertilizer; his water supply is much more abundant; and, most important of all, he has absolute immunity from insect pests or the scale. According to the last report of the Fruit Inspectors of Maricopa County, there is no trace of tree or vine disease or pest within their districts, and a rigid inspection of all imports of young trees is maintained. Then, too, there is not the requisite moisture in the atmosphere for the development of any of these pests of the orchard.

There is not the slightest doubt that available orange land will double in value within two years, and all who desire to enter this most profitable occupation, should be early on the ground. Orange land, with water, can now be purchased for \$50 per acre; cost of plowing and leveling land, \$2 per acre; planting trees \$2 per acre; cost of trees \$1 to \$2.50 each; care of orchard, per acre, each year, \$10.

The second year from planting, the trees will bear some fruit; the third year a box to the tree will be produced; at six years, three boxes to the tree may be expected, and so on, until full maturity is attained

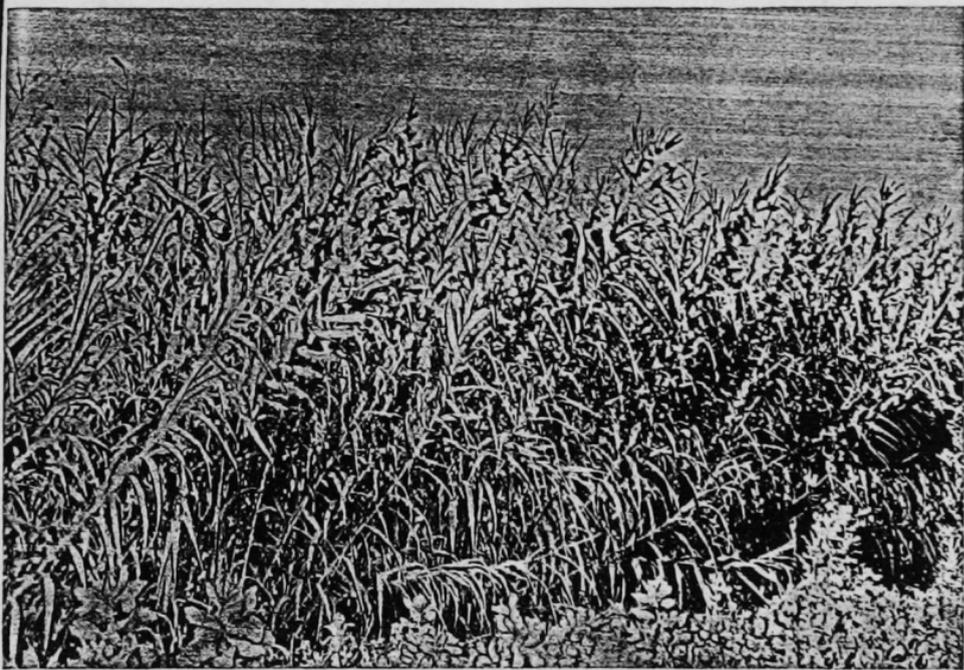


PEAR ORCHARD

APRICOT ORCHARD

with ten years' growth, and the product rises as high as five and six boxes to the tree. This estimate is upon Navel oranges, the average market price of which is \$4 per box. The usual number of trees per acre is 75. The gross revenue per acre would then be : at three years, \$300; six years, \$900; ten years, \$1,500. Deducting from this the cost of cultivation, interest on investment, etc., there is yet left to the owner of a few acres of the golden fruit, an income truly royal. These figures are correct and not overdrawn; they no more than represent the average in the orange districts of California. Yet, if you be pessimistic or incredulous, divide, if you choose, these figures by one-half, and, even then, where could be found a more profitable investment? It is a trite and true expression that the days of large farms are departed in the Salt River Valley, and that upon tracts of from ten to twenty acres, well tilled, will the land become a terrestrial paradise, filled with a teeming population.

Like the orange, the fig grows as thriftily as though indigenous to the soil. In the neighborhood of Phoenix are the largest fig orchards of the United States, possibly of the world. Like the cottonwood, poplar or willow, the fig may be propagated from cuttings thrust into moist earth. The variety most common is the "White Adriatic," the true "fig of commerce." It flourishes with the utmost luxuriance, producing three full crops each Summer. But a tithe of the fruit is consumed fresh, almost the entire product being dried. A large packing house has been established a few miles to the northwest of Phoenix, devoted entirely to the curing of figs. The product is of the finest quality, samples shown at the Mechanics' Fair at San Francisco, having been awarded a first premium over those exhibited from all parts of California. The skins of the cured figs are very tender, the seeds small, and the flavor is pronounced superior to even those imported. Almost needless to say, the market for such an article is unlimited. At four years old the trees will yield at least eight tons of fruit to the acre, which, when cured, at ten cents per pound, would bring a gross revenue of \$1,600 an acre. It is doubtful if the cost would be represented by over 20 per cent. of this sum, leaving a net profit of \$1,250 an acre. Not bad interest on an investment of a few



SUGAR CANE FIELD.

hundred, is it? The fig growers of the valley are enthusiastic and are rapidly extending their acreage. One firm alone, has 160 acres set out and a number of eighty-acre plats are in bearing.

The apricot is extensively grown, especial attention being given to the early varieties. The "Pringle" ripens during the first week in May, giving the local orchardist a benefit of several weeks in the market over other localities. The fresh fruit is much in demand, and is nearly all shipped to points within the Territory and farther East. The business is expanding rapidly, and it is expected that car-load shipments to Eastern points will be begun next season. The yield per tree varies from thirty pounds at three years old to as high as 500 pounds at maturity. As the price is never less than two cents per pound, a gross revenue of at least \$800 per acre is thus secured. Including the price of land and water, cost and care of trees and interest on the investment, an apricot orchard can here be brought to profitable bearing at three years of age for not more than \$150 per acre.

With peaches these figures need little alteration, for, while the price of the product is less, the yield is greater. Dried peaches, of only fair quality, sold last fall for 12½ cents per pound, and several car-loads, purchased at that price, were shipped abroad. The demand was far greater than the supply. The peach season, too, is peculiar in its extreme length. From the middle of May until the last day of December there is not a day when peaches (of differing varieties, of course) can not be picked from trees in the valley.

In the culture of the grape, Arizona vineyardists enjoy especial advantages. In the manufacture of raisins the greatest degree of success is had. The soil of the Salt River Valley is peculiarly rich in the elements demanded by the vine, the growth of wood is thrifty, and the product uniformly excellent. The percentage of saccharine is so great that by actual weight 100 pounds of grapes have produced 42 pounds of raisins. Naturally a sweeter raisin is had than in less favored sections, and one requiring less time for curing. Indeed, upon the authority of the most extensive raisin grower of California, five tons of Arizona grapes will produce as great a weight of raisins as seven and one-half tons of California grapes



FIG ORCHARD. THREE YEARS OLD.

That is, in the Golden State 100 pounds of grapes will not average over 28 pounds of raisins. No damp or foggy nights retard the curing of the raisins and the delicate bloom of the fruit is preserved. Then, too especial stress is laid upon the fact that Arizona raisins can be marketed nearly thirty days ahead of the California product, and would reach the East ahead of even the Spanish raisin. Thousands of acres of raisin grapes, comprising the Muscat of Alexandria, Muscatel Gordo Blanco, Malaga and Sultana, are now in bearing. The packing is done by the growers themselves, with excellent results whenever care and knowledge are combined. Raisins can be relied upon, at present prices, to give a net profit of not less than \$300 an acre, after the vines attain their full maturity, at about eight years old. From three-year-old vines, in many instances, a profit of \$100 an acre has been made.

Pomegranates flourish as though native to the locality, and the thorny bushes are often set out as hedge plants, being for this purpose fully equal to the osage orange. The fruit is large and appetizing, and is readily salable. Chicago firms have made liberal offers for car-load shipments to that point.

Almonds are a success, flourishing under the same conditions required for apricots. French and Golden Drop prunes are being extensively planted, being considered by many the most profitable of fruits. The olive is much affected as an ornamental tree, but none of those set out have attained the bearing age. Bananas and guavas do well and have borne freely. Strawberries, large and delicious, are on sale in the local markets nine months in the year. In fact, to repeat, there seems to be no fruit of the Temperate or Tropic Zones that does not find in this peerless Southwestern land a congenial home.

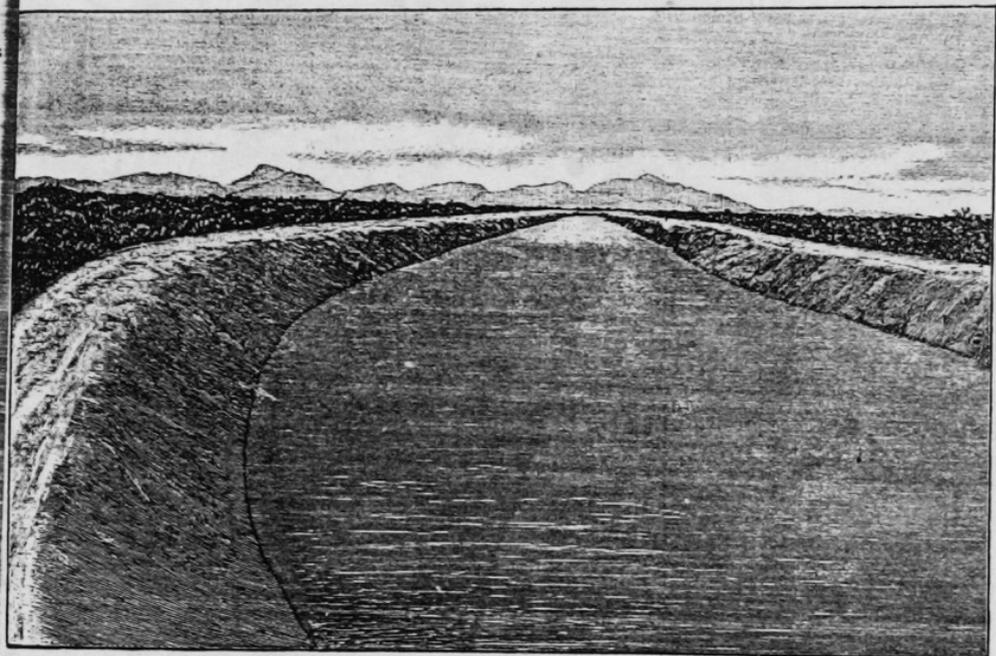


ORANGE ORCHARD. TWO YEARS OLD.

THE PRECIOUS FLUID.



It must be remembered that this country, so full of agricultural possibilities, was, but a few years ago, a level plain whereon was naught but the scantiest vegetation—mesquite, sage brush and grease wood, illy supplied with moisture by the scanty rains of the region. But capital and industry soon found the grand field that lay dormant, and in the desert have shaped the oasis. By irrigation alone could these results have been accomplished. There are now within Maricopa County about 280 miles of main canals, covering an area of about 300,000 acres. Most of these canals are supplied by waters diverted from Salt River. This noble stream, which has nearly one-quarter of Arizona within its watershed, furnishes an abundant supply of the purest of water to the canals of the valley, diminishing its flood only at a time when the necessities of the husbandman are the least. A glance at the accompanying map will give a clear idea of the irrigation system of the county. Upon the North side, the Arizona canal is to be especially noted. It is the largest artificial waterway in the Territory, over 40 miles in length, 36 feet wide upon the bottom, and with a carrying capacity of fully 40,000 miners' inches. This canal closely skirts the mountains lying on the northern edge of the valley, marking the highest limit to which water can be diverted from the river, though capable of indefinite extension by means of aqueducts over the dry "creek washes" that lie to the West, redeeming from the desert a grand expanse of territory, almost every acre of which could be made to contribute to the highest uses of agriculture. This grand prospect, however, shall be consummated only when the river's flow shall have been equalized by means of storage reservoirs. About thirty miles above the head of the Arizona Canal, Nature has kindly left to her appreciative sons a river gorge barely 200 feet in width, though a thousand in depth, through which rushes the waters of the Salt. Here, as shown by official survey, a dam 180 feet in height would create a lake over 20 miles in length, 2 miles in width, and averaging 80 feet in depth. No grander artificial reservoir would exist upon the globe, and gained at a price truly insignificant in compari-



ARIZONA CANAL, UPPER VALLEY.

son with its benefits. Until the perfecting of such an enterprise the outlying lands of Maricopa County must perforce lie dormant.

Yet, for the lands now "covered" by canals, the water supply is ample. In no instance is it less than one-half inch to the acre. This is in decided contrast to the supply deemed sufficient in Southern California, where rarely more than one-sixth of an inch per acre is used, and from that down to one-tenth. To those unfamiliar with the nomenclature of irrigation, the explanation is due, that forty miners inches is equal to a flow of one cubic foot of water per second.

MINING.



ROUND Salt River Valley rise rugged mountains, rich in mineral treasures. The Cave Creek Hills, on the north, are literally threaded with veins of gold, silver and lead ores. The character of the gold-bearing rock is all about the same: free-milling upon the surface, running into sulphurets as depth is attained. There are hundreds of fine prospects, though only a few properties have been developed to any considerable extent. The most important of those now being worked is the "Phœnix," a property located about thirty-five miles north of the City of Phœnix. Its ores are reduced by a thirty-stamp mill, to which will soon be added sixty stamps, the whole to be driven by water power, secured by a pipe line from Cave Creek. In the neighboring district of Winifred, the principal mine, the "Union," is being extensively developed and is making shipments of high-grade ores and concentrates to Eastern smelters.

In the northwestern part of the county, vigorous development work is being done upon a number of very valuable copper properties. The great "Vulture" gold lode, in this section, has world-wide celebrity. Though hundreds of thousands of dollars have been extracted from its depths, it is understood that the vast deposits of auriferous rock has scarcely been exploited. Its 100-stamp mill is now, from some unknown cause, idle, but operations will probably be resumed at an early day.



SIXTEEN-FOOT FALL, ARIZONA CANAL.

Along the northern border of the county, in the bed of the Hassayampa, and in the many small streams that flow into the Agua Fria, are found placer gold deposits, worked during the wet seasons, and productive of many thousands of dollars monthly. On Humbug Creek extensive hydraulic works are now in operation upon the gravel banks that line the stream, and, it is stated, with the greatest degree of success. The tall Bradshaw Range, whence these streams proceed, is a vast storehouse of Nature's most precious treasures. Though situated in an adjoining county, nearly all of its more important mines have Phœnix for their supply point, and trade to the extent of many thousands monthly is derived from this source. Phœnix also derives a large revenue as the supply point for a great expanse of mining country in the counties to the east, west and south.

Rich free-gold ledges are numerous in the Superstition Mountains, in the eastern part of the county, and in the Salt River Mountains on the south, giving many excellent opportunities for the developing hand of capital.

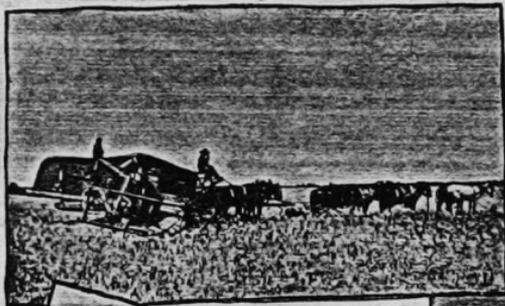
Lime of the best quality crops out in all parts of the county, most of it partaking of the nature of a hydraulic cement.

Eight miles east of Phœnix lie several deposits of red sandstone, which is quarried to supply only the local demand. It is easily quarried, cuts freely and has formed a desirable adjunct to the building material of the county. Near the Arizona Canal, north of the city, is a large ledge of limestone and marble that would also furnish beautiful building stone, though at present undeveloped.

TRANSPORTATION.

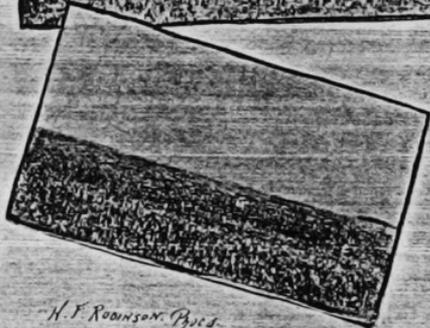


UNTIL four years ago the progress of Maricopa County was retarded by the lack of adequate transportation facilities. The completion of the Maricopa and Phœnix Railroad, however, placed the City of Phœnix in rail communication with the outside world, and over this road have the products of the Salt River Valley been since shipped to lucrative markets abroad. At the



GOLDEN GRAIN:

1. COMBINED HARVESTER & THRESHER:
2. A SQUARE MILE OF GRAIN:
3. READY FOR THE MARKET:



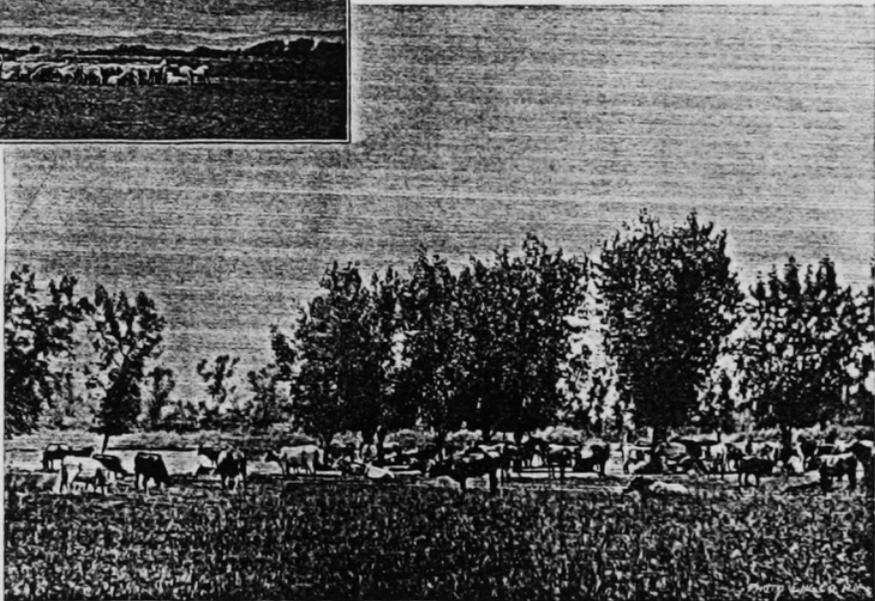
H. F. ROBINSON, ARTIST.

last session of the Legislature was passed a limited tax-exemption law, under the stimulus of which an era of activity in railroad construction is dawning for Arizona. In all of the lines projected Phoenix figure as the central point, and would, were all the enterprises to materialize, be well provided indeed. From the north construction has commenced on the Santa Fe, Prescott and Phoenix Railroad, which is to connect Phoenix, *via* Prescott, with the Atlantic and Pacific Railway. This project, which is backed by ample capital will soon furnish a north and south line to the Territory, and connection between the two great trans-continental lines that traverse the Southwest. This railroad, penetrating a wonderfully rich mining section, will open up a vastly enlarged market for the products of Maricopa County, and will give to the orchardist a shorter line over which to ship his fruit to the cities of the East. Over it will be returned the lumber of the northern forests, reducing the price of building material fully thirty per cent. These benefits, conjoined with the inestimable advantage of railway competition, will give a wonderful impetus to the growth of the peerless valley of the Southwest and the Queen City of Arizona. Articles of Intention for an extension of the Prescott and Arizona Central Railway to Phoenix have lately been recorded, and a third railroad from the North is projected in an extension of the Arizona Central, or "Mineral Belt," road to Phoenix, from its present terminus, seventy-five miles south of Flagstaff. An English company has been organized to construct a railroad from Nogales, on the Mexican border, by way of Tucson, to Phoenix, and tide-water connection is promised by a railroad from San Diego, now under construction. These enterprises, even in their incipiency, are indicative of the importance of the Capital City of Arizona, and an acknowledgement of its central position and of the grand resources of the tributary country.

LIVE STOCK.



FOR a man familiar with the occupation, there is no business more lucrative than the rearing of fine stock upon the alfalfa fields of this section. Under the mild sky and with the abundance of nutritious food, the growth of young animals is almost beyond credence, and the cost of their



STOCK IN ALFALFA FIELD.

rearing really nominal. With these favoring conditions, it is not remarkable that upon the streets of Phoenix are to be seen as fine specimens of equine beauty as Rosa Bonheur ever sketched. A large number of high-grade stallions are kept within the valley, and the impress of blood and spirit is apparent upon the younger generation of horseflesh. The current supply of horses comes almost entirely from the farmers, who, all, in the blithesome spring, usually have a few colts to market. The young animals are weaned at five months of age, placed upon alfalfa pasturage and kept there until three years old, when, being fully grown, they are considered fit for breaking and for work. The cost of raising is represented by the worth of, say, the occupation of half an acre of alfalfa for three years. Well broken to harness a four-year-old is worth in the market from \$100 up. Cow-ponies and rough animals from the mountains, of course, range much lower in price. A number of farmers prefer to raise mules, which sell readily, at three years old when well broken, for \$150 a head.

In the raising of cattle there is an almost equal profit, upon a much less investment, and through the medium of beef the farmer may take his crop of hay to market in its most compact shape.

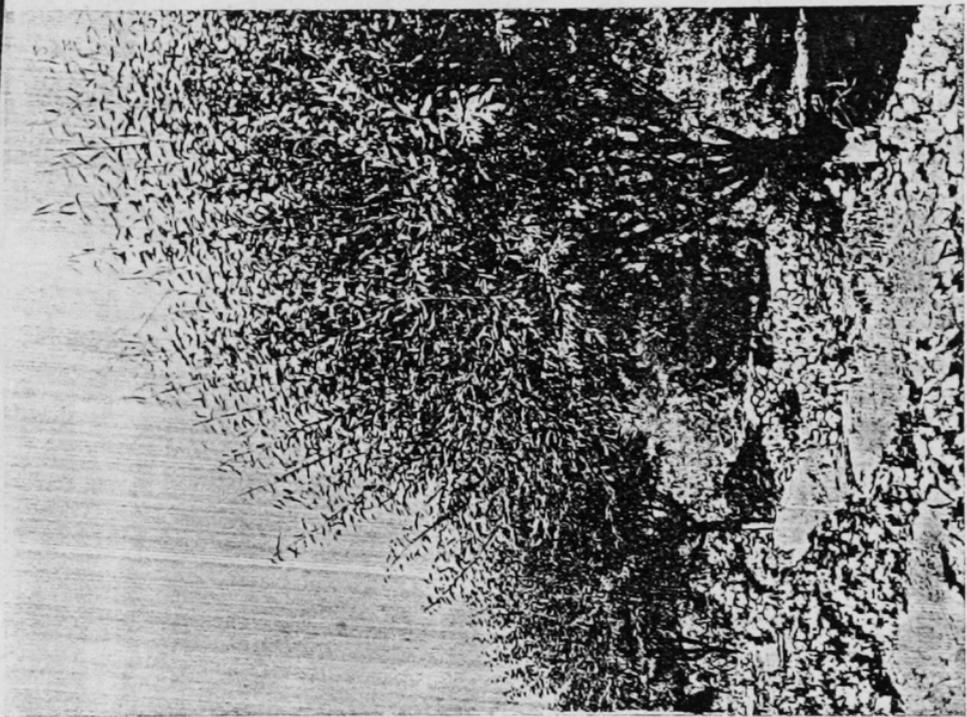
Sheep raising upon alfalfa has been tried and has been pronounced most successful. The yield of wool is especially heavy and quite clean, the lamb crop sure and the wethers quickly fattened. Two crops of lambs can be had in one season, as well as two crops of wool.

Hogs fatten easily on alfalfa and upon the stubble fields in the fall. They can nowhere be raised more cheaply. Large shipments of them have been made as far east as Kansas City.

THE BUSY BEES.



HE sweet store of the bee is a source of much revenue to the farmers of Maricopa County, and the excellence of the product is widely appreciated. Nearly all the honey produced is handled by the Beekeepers' Association, organized in May, 1890, for the purpose of pushing the interests of Arizona's apiarists abroad. There are now thirty-five members, resident in all portions of



ALMOND ORCHARD.

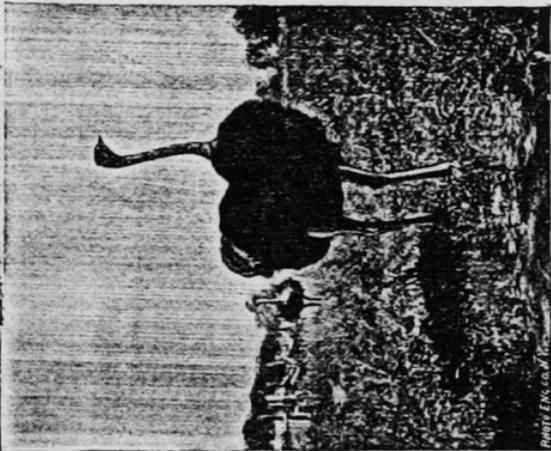
the Salt River Valley. The number of bees kept by each ranges from a few hives to 250, and the total number kept by members of the Association is not far from 3,000 stands. During the Summer of 1890 the Association secured favorable rates on honey shipments to Eastern cities and to London and Liverpool. One car-load went to Fort Worth, Texas, two to Medina, Ohio, and two to Chicago. The total amount shipped for the season was about 90,000 pounds, comprising both comb and extracted honey. Consumers and dealers were generally well satisfied with the quality. The experience of the Association has fully demonstrated the practicability and value of combination in moving the products of the valley. Up to July 10, for the season of 1891, there have been shipped four car-loads of comb and extracted honey, aggregating some 130,000 pounds. All of this has gone to Chicago. The interests of the shippers have become so large that it has been deemed advisable to send a special agent forward to look after them at the point of destination, and, if it seems advisable, to establish special agencies for the handling of the product. The honey produced in the Salt River Valley is mostly from the bloom of the mesquite or alfalfa, and is remarkable for its mildness of quality. Many consumers testify to its harmless effects, who hitherto have been accustomed to give Eastern honey a wide berth. The yield from the mesquite is mostly obtained in May, and is light in color. That from the alfalfa is obtained whenever the plant is in bloom, which period extends, with the successive crops, over eight months of the year. The color is of a light and dark amber and flavor good. At this writing, July 15, the third crop of alfalfa is in bloom and the bees are busy upon it most of the day. Owing to copious Spring rains, the mesquite has bloomed to some extent all Summer to this date, and has yielded more of its sweets to the bees than in former years.

OSTRICH FARMING.

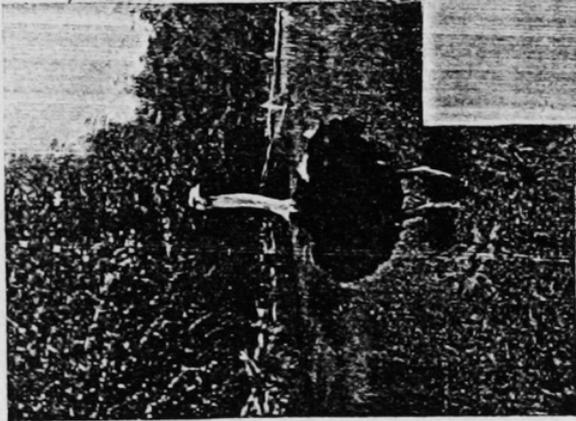


N industry in every way feasible in this county is the rearing and care of ostriches. "Fine feathers make fine birds," is the ancient saying, and one surely true as applied to this great biped of the desert. Its beautiful wing feathers will ever be popular with the gentler sex,

OSTRICH
FARMING



PAULY ERIC CO. N.Y.



and the market for the plumes is bounded only by the limits of civilization. About ten years ago a few were imported into Southern California from South Africa, and, the birds thriving well, their number has since been largely added to, both by importation and natural increase. The only herd in Arizona is owned by Josiah Harbert, who "pastures" them upon his farm near Phoenix. The word "pastures" is used advisedly, for in nearly all respects the appetite of an ostrich is similar to that of a hog. Perhaps, on reflection, that statement may be considered somewhat severe on the hog, for, surely, no self-respecting porker will swallow with evident relish, such trifles as large pebbles, pieces of glass, ten-penny nails, etc. The ostrich appears to consider, in the core of its microscopic brain, that all things on earth, animal, vegetable or mineral, were made to minister unto its appetite. It is omnivorous, more so than the Irishman's goat or the long-suffering burro. Still, the giant bird is well contented, indeed, when confined to a strictly alfalfa diet; it waxes fat and multiplies with commendable speed. They are but little more trouble to care for than an equal number of cattle, after having once been placed in a well-fenced paddock. Mr. Harbert's herd now consists of twenty-three and is well worth a visit. In this dry atmosphere and with an abundance of nutritious food, the birds are entirely healthy and return to their owner much profit. The best of the full-grown birds are valued at \$500 each. They attain maturity when five years old, and live, under favorable circumstances, to the ripe old age of 100 years. With the exception of a few plumes, they are black in color, feathered only on the body, carry their duck-like heads as far as eight feet aloft and weigh up to 300 pounds. The nests are hollows in the sand, four or five feet across, both male and female participating in the incubation. Each female will lay perhaps twenty five eggs in succession (laying one egg every second or third day), and with good care, may have three laying periods during the year. The chicks are stripped of their plumes when nine months old, and thereafter at periods nine months apart. The undressed feathers vary in price. They are now worth about \$50 a pound, though they have sold as high as \$300. A single bird usually furnishes about twenty fine plumes and a quantity of "tips" at each picking.

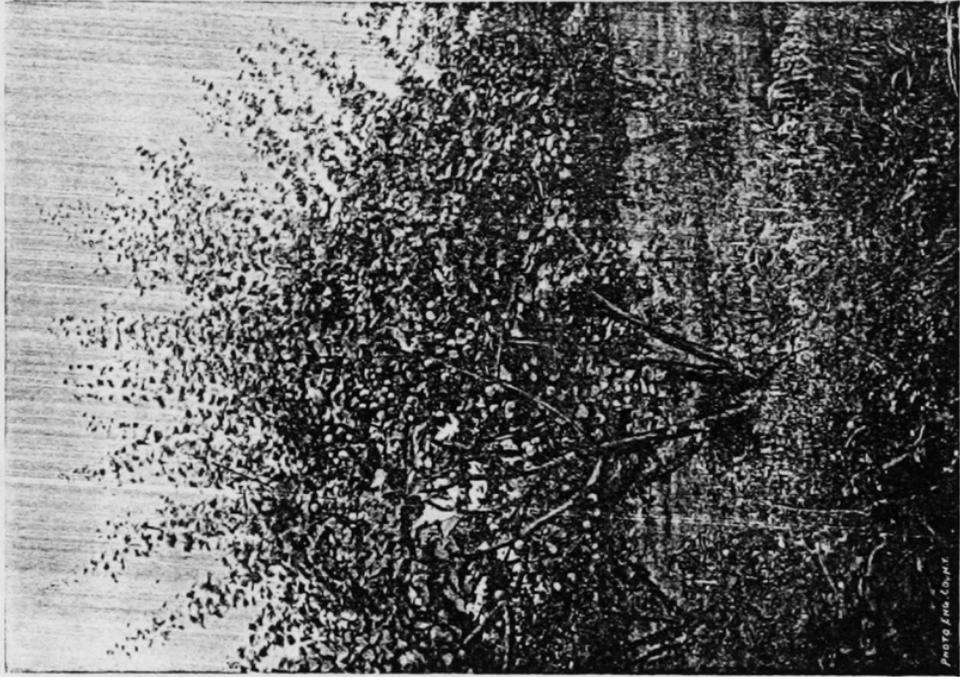


Photo. Geo. C. Hart

APRICOT ORCHARD.

THE ABORIGINES.



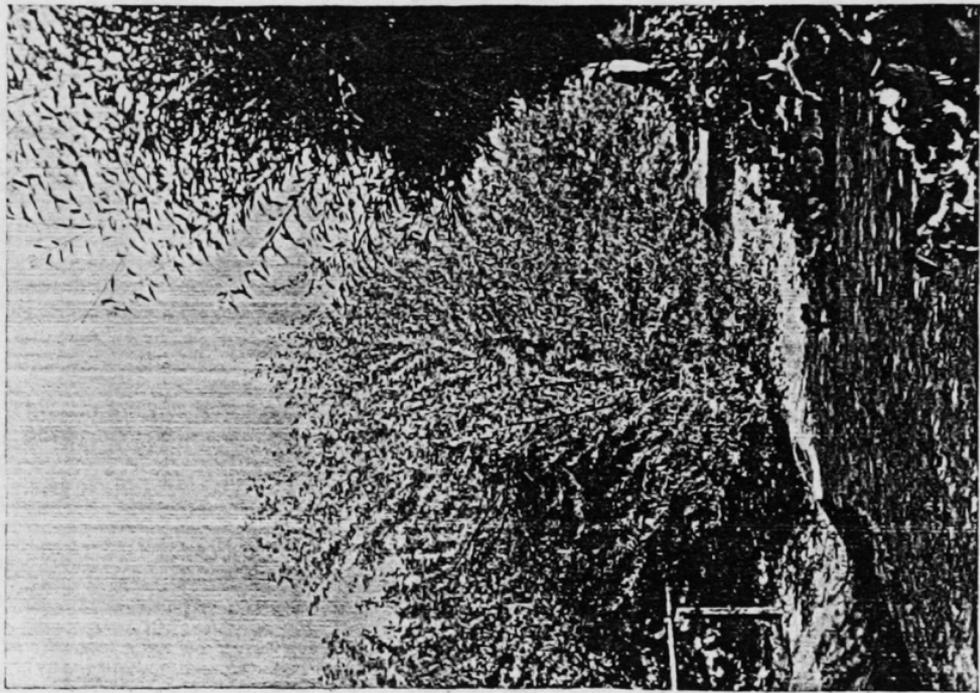
THE callow European immigrant is said to imagine that the wild Indian and the buffalo roam in the outskirts of New York City ; and, from the accounts of years agone, it is to be feared that many residents of the East believe Arizona to be in constant danger from Apache outbreaks. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The days of Apache rapine are gone, never to return. Savage warfare, however, has never disturbed Maricopa County. All the Apache raids have occurred in Southeastern Arizona, hundreds of miles away. Then, too, within Maricopa and Pinal Counties are several thousand Pima and Maricopa Indians, who have ever been the friends and allies of the white man. These Indians are self-sustaining and industrious beyond the generality of their kind, constituting a labor reserve that will yet be appreciated by the valley orchardist. A large Indian school will be in operation this fall at the western edge of Phœnix. Here about one hundred of the youth and beauty of the several tribes will be inducted into the mysteries of the white man's arts and industries, and an effort will be made to turn at least a portion of the native races from their present rude condition to one of comparative civilization.

THE ANCIENT RACES.



TO the archæologist, Maricopa County is a veritable paradise. The evidences of a dense population of the Toltec era are everywhere apparent and abundant. The ruins of a half-dozen great cities are conspicuous where the devastive plow-share of the modern farmer has not run, and the lines of the ancient canals can be traced upon the level plain for miles.

The researches of Frank Hamilton Cushing, representing the Smithsonian Institute, have cleared up much of the mystery that had for years surrounded these ruins. It is now established beyond dispute that the ancient inhabitants of the valley were Toltecs, the race that preceded the Aztecs and who were the builders of the grand temples that yet rear their heads in Mexico and Central America. The Zuni tribe



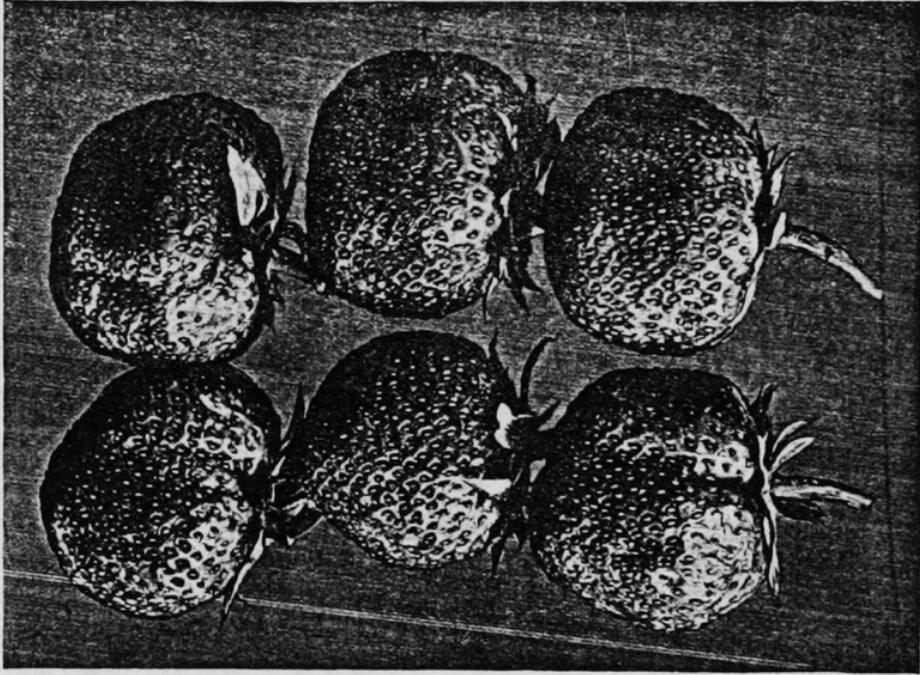
OLIVE ORCHARD.

in Northwestern New Mexico are descendants of these olden people, and the customs of their pueblo civilization are to-day in striking similarity with many of the evidences of religious peculiarities unearthed in Arizona. They lived in adobe or cement houses, often of two or more stories in height. Their main castles or temples were of grand size, defended by walls and towers. Their system of government would seem to have been a theocracy, similar to that of the Jews after the Exodus. They wove cloth, a few fragments of which have been preserved in clay. Of metal they seemed to know but little, though irregular pieces of copper have been found. They wove baskets and made pottery with much skill and an evident appreciation of beauty. That they were possessed of some engineering skill is evident from the manner in which their canals, several of them of great size, keep steadily to the line of their gradient. They cremated the majority of their dead, burying the ashes in earthen jars in family cemeteries, under about a foot of earth. In exceptional cases, burial or, rather, entombment, was practiced, over a hundred skeletons having been found, neatly walled up within the larger houses. From the evidence of their bones, the ancients were of tall stature, and their skull formation was similar in nearly all respects to the best type of Caucasians. What caused their departure would be as difficult a problem to solve as the date of their existence here. That they were a peaceful, industrious, agricultural people is evident, and the evidences at hand are that they were possessed of much skill and intelligence, and wrought great works with the assistance of only the rudest tools of slate, basalt and obsidian.

OLLA PODRIDA.



IN every farming community the assertion is often heard that "grain raising doesn't pay." Yet a number of instances can be specified in the Salt River Valley where fortunes have been made on modest pieces of land, through the cultivation of wheat and barley. For a single instance of what can be done here in the way of grain raising: A year ago there was purchased for \$9,000 a 640-acre farm. The farmer carefully cultivated 500 acres, planting barley. The har-



STRAWBERRIES SIX INCHES IN CIRCUMFERENCE.

vest this Summer gave him nearly 1,000,000 pounds of grain, which he sold for \$1 a hundred, thus returning to him the cost of the property in one year. The profit could not have been less than fifty per cent.

There is a forty-acre tract, the soil apparently of no especial excellence, that has a record for the past year of fourteen tons of alfalfa hay to the acre. This, at a minimum price of \$3 per ton in the stack, would return a gross income of \$1,680 for the tract, though, as frequently happens, that price is doubled in times of unusual demand.

There is another forty-acre piece in the same vicinity as the last that has been under cultivation for eight years and has produced, uniformly each year, a crop of forty bushels of wheat to the acre. In addition to this, as soon as the wheat was harvested the land has annually been seeded to corn, yielding sixty bushels to the acre, harvested in ample time for the winter's plowing. Not a pound of fertilizer has been applied and none is needed. The land to-day is as rich as when a virgin plain.

In connection with the above instance it should be noted that the land in the valley, though in some cases constantly cultivated for as far back as twenty years, shows no signs of wearing out." That much of this is due to the native strength of the soil there can be no doubt, but vast assistance is derived through the irrigation system. The waters of the Salt and Verde Rivers, the drainage of a vast watershed of mountain and valley, come down in freshets, at least twice a year, a yellow flood, full of life to the soil, each irrigation during these periods leaving on the land a rich deposit of silt, nature's own fertilizer.

The population of Maricopa County is about 15,000.

Wages for skilled labor range generally higher than in the Eastern States. The cost of necessaries is very little more; meat, flour and a number of other staples are cheaper.

There are many farmers whose wives make from \$20 to \$40 per month in raising chickens and turkeys, etc. Unimproved choice land with water, can be bought for \$30.00 per acre.

The elevation of Phœnix is 1,150 feet above sea level.

The valuation for this year, of property within Maricopa County, is nearly \$16,000,000.

Good well water is to be found at depths ranging from 10 to 60 feet.

It is a peculiar fact that small fruits have not been produced to any considerable extent in the county until the last few seasons. Prices for the product are not by any means exorbitant, but a small farmer near Phœnix has managed, the present season, to net from an acre of strawberries the sum of \$1,200. Some strawberries displayed by another grower were six inches in circumference.

Watermelons weighing in the near vicinity of 100 pounds each have not been few this summer.

As illustrative of the growth of vegetation in this valley, there may be instanced a grape vine that grew sixty feet in one season. And also a peach tree sprout that took on twenty-three feet of new wood in one year. And how would it strike you to see a two-year-old fig tree five inches in diameter at the base?

A magnificent opportunity exists for manufacturing industries a few miles northeast of Phœnix, where the Arizona Canal waters sweep over a limestone ledge to a level sixteen feet below, developing a force estimated at 1,500 horse-power. About 2,500 horse-power more is developed along the course of the Cross-cut Canal, which, in its course of only three miles, has a fall of 135 feet. The slope has been taken up in 24 falls, advantageously distributed, ranging from four to seven feet in height.

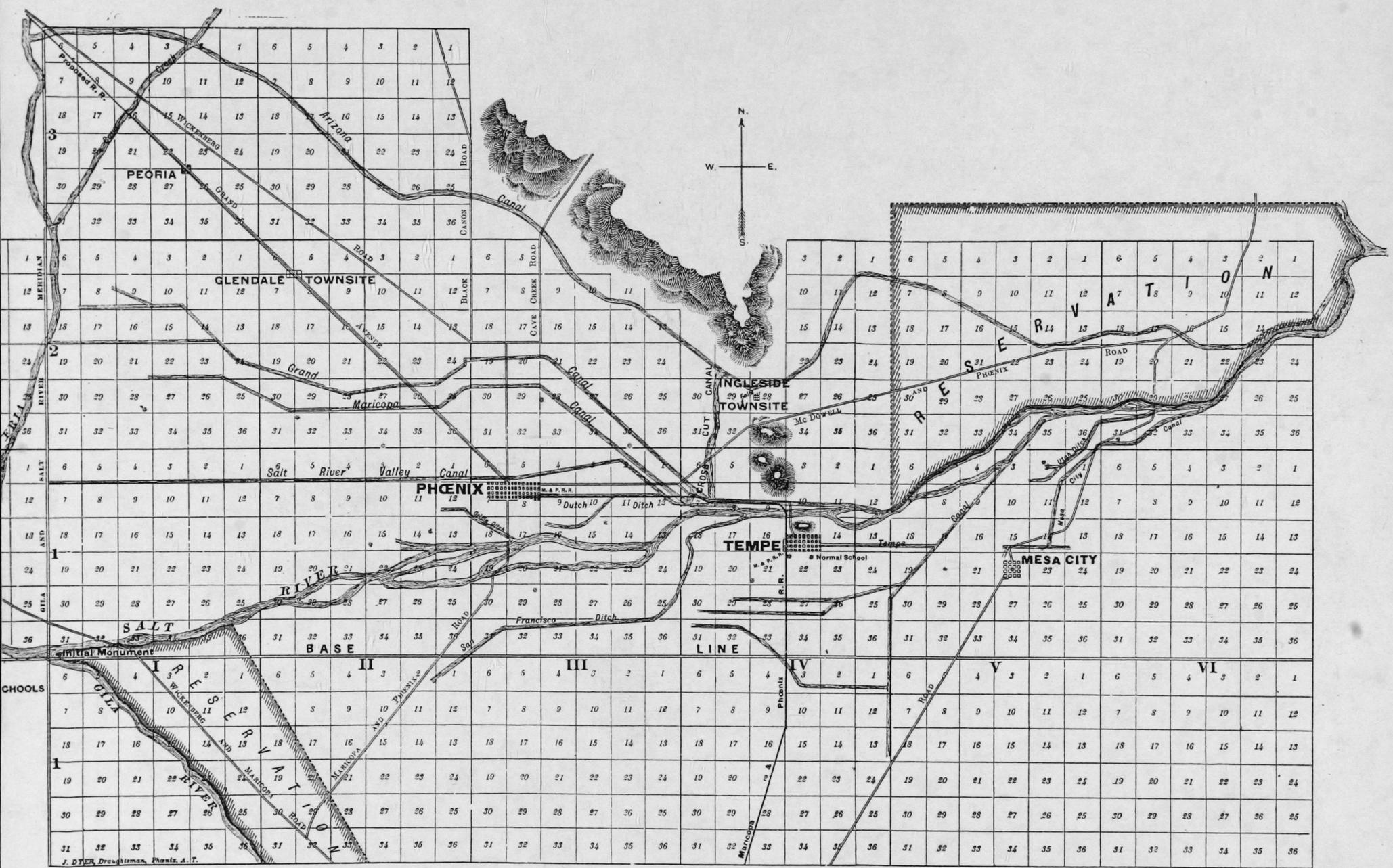
Several manufactories turn out a limited production of light wines of varying quality. The manufacture of a fuller-bodied wine has lately been undertaken, it being proven beyond a doubt that sherry, port, muscatel and other sweet wines can be made to the highest degree of perfection. This is owing to the strong percentage of saccharine in the grape, rendering the production of dry wines uncertain at the best. A good article of brandy is made.

TO THE HOMESEAKER.



THE foregoing pages have been written and this pamphlet has been put into your hands for a single purpose: To interest you in the peerless valley of the "Sun-Kissed Land." Do you seek a model home? Is a milder climate necessary to your health? Are you looking for a business opening, either mercantile or manufacturing? Do your thoughts incline to the profit and ease to be found in the culture of the orange and the vine? Do you seek for profitable investments? If any one of these queries fits your case, come and investigate the claims we have made. Come at any time. Summer and winter, spring and autumn, alike, have their charms. Nature has been bounteous with us. Here we have neither extreme of heat or cold, but a mild climate that restores health to the palest cheek. The cyclone never wanders this way and the farmer has no dread of drouth, mildew, frosts, hailstorms or hoppers. No wintry storms dismay him, and his cattle graze unsheltered throughout the year. The home of an enterprising and progressive people, it offers a welcome to the intelligent and industrious such as is rarely extended. The present population is too small to occupy the land and we look abroad for participants in our good fortune. Only the industrious and intelligent settler is desired. Here a square day's work is as essential to prosperity and success as it is elsewhere. Wealth is not to be gained in a month or a year, but, under the most favorable of natural conditions, to him who is diligent a competency is assured. This book is intended to advertise no particular venture or business scheme, but to lay before the world an exposition of the resources of a region as large as Massachusetts and as fertile as the valley of the Nile.

If further information is desired, address "Chamber of Commerce," Phoenix, Arizona.



F. DYER, Draftsman, Phoenix, A. T.