

THE OPENING WEDGE FOR "SOLDIER SETTLEMENT"



*THE GILLESPIE DAM OF ARIZONA, BUILT ON SOLID BED ROCK, TOTAL LENGTH 1,800 FEET.
ONE OF THE LARGEST DIVERSION DAMS IN THE WORLD*

Compiled and Presented with the Compliments of
THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

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FOREWORD

A great deal has been said and written about Soldier Settlement and the means that should be employed to put the ex-service man back on the soil. The American Legion, Department of Arizona, is presenting you this little booklet with the idea of pointing out a concrete, practical and feasible means for making a start in the right direction. If the plan goes through it will mean the throwing open to settlement by ex-service men of approximately 80,000 acres of the most fertile land under the sun, located in one of the most healthful sections of the United States and within hailing distance of one of the most remarkable series of undeveloped hot mineral springs in the world. This is not a private promotion. It is a means whereby Uncle Sam can help the disabled ex-service man to regain his health, and help the partially disabled as well as the strong to help himself by becoming an independent worker of the soil. If you are at all interested in this cause it will pay you to read on, remembering that the plans herewith have been *thoroughly investigated* by the American Legion, Department of Arizona, and *found meritorious*, and are the subject of resolutions of recommendation to the national convention. If, upon reading this pamphlet, you are convinced of the soundness of this proposition, go to your member of the resolutions committee and get him to vote for a resolution by this convention endorsing the plan. All your well wishes will count for nothing unless you do.

RESOLUTIONS

Unanimously Adopted by the State Convention of the American Legion, Department of Arizona, at Prescott, August 8, 9 and 10, 1921.

Whereas, There is a body of land, comprising some 80,000 acres, lying approximately 65 miles southwest of Phoenix, Arizona, along the Gila River, which said body of land is particularly adapted for agricultural purposes and lies in one body, and is owned by the Gila Water Company, of Phoenix, Arizona; and

Whereas, There are a number of natural hot mineral springs located at Agua Caliente, Arizona, situated approximately 25 miles west of the aforementioned body of land and easily accessible from said body of land, and being privately owned; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Arizona Department of the American Legion in convention at Prescott, Arizona, on August 8, 9 and 10, 1921, that they pass a resolution and that the national convention of the American Legion, which convenes at Kansas City, Missouri, October 31 and November 1 and 2, 1921, be urged to pass a similar resolution, petitioning Congress to investigate this matter, with a view to purchasing same, if feasible, for the use and benefit of the disabled soldiers of the American Legion, thus affording homes and a means of livelihood and hospital facilities for thousands of our disabled veterans; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of said resolutions be forwarded to each and every member of the United States Senate and House of Representatives at Washington D. C.

HERE KNOCKS OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU

Just a word, fellow legionnaires, about Arizona. No state in the Union offers better opportunities for soldier settlement than the Pioneer State. Millions of acres of undeveloped land lie out of doors, most of them the property of Uncle Sam. The soil is rich, the climate is a growing climate. But unless these are combined with water—irrigation—the result is nil. With water, everything is possible in the way of production. Proof? Look up the Salt River Valley reclamation project under the famous Roosevelt Dam, which furnishes the life-giving fluid to upwards of 200,000 acres under intensive cultivation..

Identical to the soil and climatic conditions of the Salt River Valley is the Valley of the Gila River, of which the Salt is a tributary. What the Roosevelt Dam is to the Salt River Valley, the Gillespie Dam will be to the Gila

Valley. The Gillespie Dam is not a project. It is a finished job—a reality, capable of placing under immediate cultivation 80,000 acres as fertile as those of the Nile, though in their present state, raw and undeveloped.

Will private interests profit by the exploitation of these wonderful natural resources or will they be turned into benefits for the men and women who risked their all and wrecked their health in a patriotic cause? Why not let the United States Government take over this enterprise in its entirety? before another dollar is expended—while land values are low. In a year's time they will have doubled, in two years, trebled, just as the Salt River Valley lands have doubled and trebled since the advent of irrigation. Here is the one best bet for "Soldier Settlement." Read the detailed statements that follow. Be convinced, then let's get together to put it over.

"Here the fruits of one's labor grow day by day in ever increasing abundance."

THE GILA RIVER VALLEY

(Pronounce it Heela.)

The Gila River Valley project embraces a gently sloping area along the banks of the Gila River, presenting an ideal topography for irrigation farming. Near the center of the project is the town of Gila Bend, on the main line of the Southern Pacific railroad, which traverses half the length of the project. Gila Bend is a division point and the junction of a standard gauge line which runs southward to the important copper mining camp of Ajo. The company

has completed surveys for an extension into Mexico, which will place Gila Bend 133 miles by rail from a deep water port on the Gulf of California. This close connection with the markets of the world will give the Gila Valley project a commercial advantage over every other producing center in Arizona. The Gillespie Dam and canal system, all complete, will bring 80,000 acres under cultivation. This irrigation project is second only in magnitude to that of the Salt River Valley.

SOIL CONDITIONS

The soil, in the Gila River Valley, is equal in fertility to any found in the most famous garden spots of the world, not excepting the Valley of the Nile, the Polders of Holland or the "Black Lands" of Russia. It contains both the sandy loam and the gravelly loam, the latter lying closer to the hills and being especially adapted to the growing of fruit orchards. The sandy loam has a little gravel, less than ten per cent, and is a rich and easy workable soil for the growing of long staple cotton, cantaloupes, vegetables and all dairy feed crops, especially

alfalfa. The soil in this valley has a rich content of lime, potash and phosphoric acid, the latter of which is a most valuable constituent and practically eliminates the need of fertilizing.

The land here has just enough slope to facilitate proper surface irrigation, requiring little or no grading in the major part of its acreage. The absence of stones and rocks, usually encountered in the development of new lands, is a factor that militates for the saving of considerable time and labor. In brief, it is one of the most fertile farming areas in the southwest.

"Where hopes are bountifully fulfilled and failure is unknown."

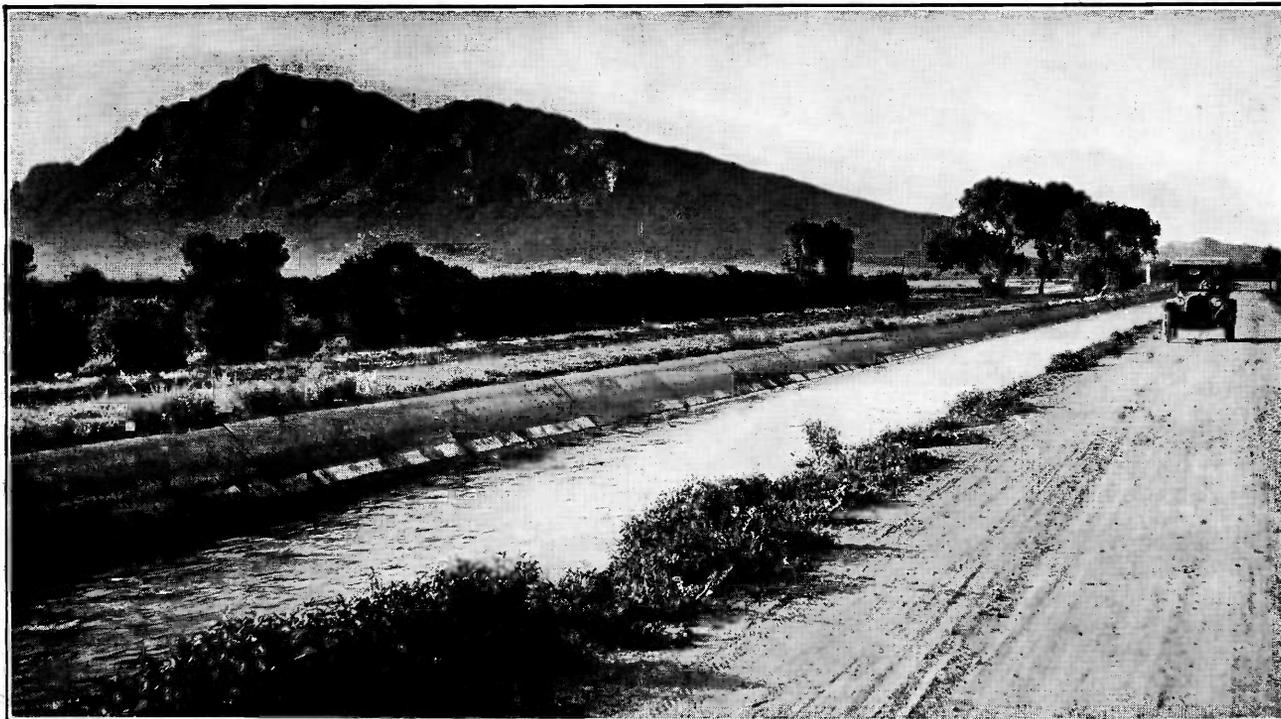


SHOWING HUGE SURPLUS OF WATER DIVERTABLE FOR IRRIGATION

PROVEN WATER SUPPLY

This picture shows the Gila River in flood at the Gillespie Dam. This huge volume of water is roughly estimated at 200,000 second feet, or several hundred times more than is necessary to irrigate the land under this project. The normal flow of the river at this point is the combined normal flow of the Salt River, the Agua Fria River and the Gila River, which in the driest seasons this country has experienced in many years, would cause a flow of water over the entire length of this dam sufficient to

fill the canal to between three and four times its capacity. The capacity of the canal at present is 750 second feet. All of the permanent structures on the canal are built for an ultimate capacity of 1500 second-feet, which means that at any future time the canal could be enlarged to take in additional lands without enlargement of permanent structures. A large body of government land is available and could be brought under this system, though at present not included in the project.



A CANAL SCENE

PERMANENT CONSTRUCTION

The Gila River Valley will be irrigated with the water from the Gila River through the Gillespie Dam, the construction of which represents the expenditure of a vast sum of money, time, labor and materials.

The main canal is 40 miles long and its construction required some of the most expert engineering in the country. From this canal, throughout the entire project, adequate lateral canals are being built with cement headgates in all of them.

The Gila River, from which the Gillespie Dam diverts its whole body of water, is the

natural topographical drain for an area of such vast proportions that its capacity is obvious to anyone who has the slightest knowledge of engineering. The Gillespie Dam is so constructed across the Gila River, with its concrete foundation down to solid bed-rock, that not only is the surface water controlled and diverted to its canals, but all of its underground water is likewise made available and utilized. This dam is 1800 feet long, and with its shoulders locked in the mountains on both sides, there is no opportunity or outlet for the water to go anywhere except to the canals provided by this project.

"Today a garden spot has been created where yesterday lay only a barren stretch of land."

CITRUS FRUITS

The altitude of the Gila River Valley is a very favorable factor in the growing of citrus fruits, it being 400 feet lower than that of Phoenix. Arizona oranges and grape-fruit ripen early in November, and the major part of the crops are shipped before most of the California and Florida fruits begin to come into the markets. This insures an early holiday demand for these products with their accompanying substantial prices. The earliest Arizona oranges often average from \$1.50 to \$3 per box higher than those which come from the competing districts. Lemons, too, will grow in this valley, and while no large orchards have yet been

planted, the combination of climate, soil and altitude assures a highly successful field for this product.

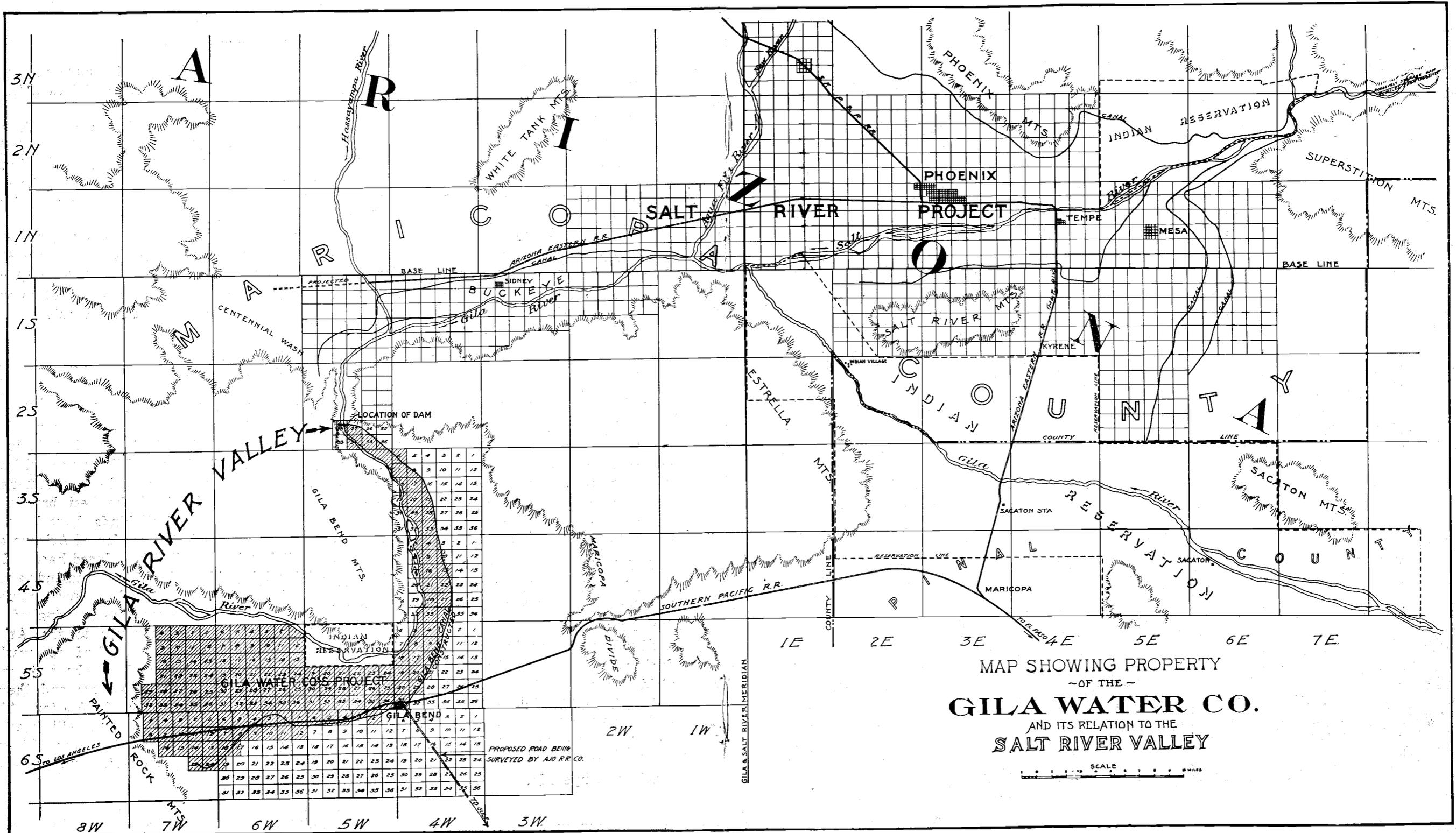
The Mexican Lime, a fruit very much in demand in the higher priced markets, will flourish in this region and the orchardist that applies a substantial acreage to these limes will enjoy a generous profit on his crops with very little competition.

No place in the known world will produce grapes of a better quality or sweeter flavor than this particular section of the southwest. Wine, raisin and table grapes can all be grown here, including the Thompson seedless.

DECIDUOUS FRUITS

The growing of deciduous fruits, in the Gila River Valley, presents an opportunity of prolific promise. Peaches, pears, apricots, peaches and plums will grow exceptionally well in this sandy loam with water, sunshine and climate combining to make them bloom and bear. Peaches, of the large free-stone variety, grow to surprising proportions in his climate, and with intelligent selection of types, they will ripen from the middle of May into late December. Practically all fruits grown here are ready for the market from a month to six weeks earlier than the products of the western producing districts. The advantages of this earlier yield can readily be estimated even by those unfamiliar with fruit culture. The Arizona orchardist has first call on the eastern markets and the mining towns in this locality provide another market that no outside grower can reach or compete in.

Pears have always occupied a favorite place among the deciduous fruit growers of the southwest and they find a ready sale just as rapidly as they ripen. With proper cultivation and care, pears will grow here to remarkable proportions and all of the best brands will flourish. Plums, of all kinds, have been successfully grown in this section of Arizona since fruit farming was first introduced here and this juicy delectable fruit always commands a ready market and a generous price. For ornamental and profitable purposes the growing of olive trees offers an opportunity to the Arizona grower that he cannot afford to overlook. Olives thrive and ripen here about six weeks earlier than they do elsewhere and they invariably bring from \$75 to \$100 a ton. Single trees, with the proper care, will bear 300 pounds and better in a single season. The olive trees are free from the pests common to other localities.



MAP SHOWING PROPERTY
 -OF THE-
GILA WATER CO.
 AND ITS RELATION TO THE
SALT RIVER VALLEY

SCALE

GILA RIVER VALLEY

SALT RIVER PROJECT

GILA WATER CO.'S PROJECT

GILA BEND

PROPOSED ROAD BEING SURVEYED BY AJO R.R. CO.

2W 1W

GILA & SALT RIVER MERIDIAN

3N

2N

1N

15

25

35

45

55

6S

8W

7W

6W

5W

4W

3W

1E

2E

3E

4E

5E

6E

7E

A

R

WHITE TANK MTS

I

R

I

C

S

R

PHOENIX

PHOENIX PROJECT

TEMPE

MESA

BASE LINE

A

M

LOCATION OF DAM

GILA BEND MTS

ESTRELLA MTS

SALT RIVER MTS

INDIAN

RESERVATION

RESERVATION LINE

MARICOPA

SACATON STA

RESERVATION LINE

SACATON MTS

RESERVATION

RESERVATION LINE

SACATON

RESERVATION

RESERVATION LINE

LONG STAPLE COTTON

Already a number of very successful cotton crops are being grown in the area coming under this project. This cotton is a variety of fleecy staple, known as Egyptian and Pima, both of the highest priced long staple product. There is an ever increasing demand for long staple cotton by the manufacturers of fabric and cord automobile tires and great quantities of it are absorbed in the cotton thread and textile industries.

It has been proven beyond question that this land is especially adapted to the growing of long staple cotton and all conditions pertaining

to this product are provided for. The climate is all that could be desired, the land contains just the right elements, the water is here, gins will be conveniently accessible, pickers can be gotten cheaply from Mexico; money is usually loaned as soon as the crops begin to grow and the market almost comes to the farmer for his product. Most of the cotton in the southwest is contracted for at a guaranteed minimum long before the plants begin to fruit. Cotton seed that is planted in this section of the country is immunized against the pests and germs that so frequently play havoc with the cotton crops in other parts of the country.



COTTON CROP IN THE GILA RIVER VALLEY



THE FINEST AND HIGHEST PRICED COTTON IN THE WORLD

The above illustration represents a fortune in a product, the possibilities of which can not yet be estimated. The automobile tire industry discovered one avenue for long staple cotton which immediately created a demand, in this one field alone, in excess of the entire crops of the southwest. Other industries are fast recognizing the utilitarian values of its textile strength and its many advantages over the short staple of the south. The development of this industry is still in its incipency—the future for it holds many inducements with corresponding profits. The farmer who plants cotton in

the Gila River Valley will get his share of those profits.

While cotton can be successfully grown on freshly cleared land in this valley that has never borne any kind of crops before, the far-sighted farmer will devote a substantial part of his acreage to alfalfa, which grows four crops a year and brings as high as \$40 a ton, and enriches his soil for a successive crop of better cotton. Besides, this provides him with a splendid source of income with which to finance his cotton crop until the price offered for it reaches a figure that prompts him to sell at a generous profit.

"Here hearts are lighter, purses heavier and life is longer and happier."



ARIZONA MONEY-MAKING DAIRY HERD

MONEY IN DAIRYING

With the present prices of all butter-fats, anyone can appreciate the profits that will accrue to the man who applies himself to dairying. In our splendid alfalfa fields, which grow about five feet high, the dairyman can fatten rich, contented milk-giving cows on a basis of four head to an acre. The devotion of so much acreage to cotton has reduced our dairy products far below our needs, hence the opportunities in this line can hardly be calculated. The Durham stock is a good breed for general purposes, although all breeds thrive on this land and there are now several fine breeds of Ayr-

shires, Guernseys, Holsteins and Dutch Belted cattle that are piling up snug fortunes for their owners.

With the recent completion of the large Arizona Packing Company's plant, a steady market is locally provided for calves, yearlings and any surplus beef that the dairyman desires to dispose of at a good price. The convenience of transportation facilities throughout the entire project gives the dairyman a ready outlet for all of his products. Milo-maize or Egyptian corn grows very prolifically here, makes an ideal dairy crop feed and always finds a ready market at a good profitable figure.

DATES AND FIGS

The cultivation of date trees, in Arizona, was taken in hand in 1890 by a staff of government experts who obtained small trees and suckers from the best varieties grown in Arabia. There are now a great many very successful date orchards in this part of the state, some single trees bearing as high as 300 pounds of fruit. They blossom in May and the fruit matures in November. Dates seem to thrive in any kind of soil, even those that are alkaline in content. The fruit of our Arizona dates is especially large and sugary and finds a ready market at very profitable prices.

Figs thrive here, too, and while as yet no local provision has been made for the preparation of the dried product, there are great possibilities in this direction. The trees that have been planted here are all bearing abundantly and their fruit is delicious. Ripe figs are a delicacy only to be enjoyed in sub-tropical climates such as that of Arizona. Both the date and the fig trees provide excellent shade, enhance the appearance of an estate and are a profitable source of income requiring but little care and cultivation.



AN ARIZONA DATE ORCHARD

AGUA CALIENTE

The Gila River Valley of Arizona is nature's sanitorium.

This is not intended as a poetic expression but is a literal truth which can be proven to the satisfaction of anyone caring to investigate.

Blessed with the same climatic conditions which favor its sister valley of the Salt, with plenty of sunshine, plenty of uncontaminated dry desert air to drink, the Gila Valley secretes beneath the surface of its broad acres a magic water, a vertiable underground river of life, which holds forth hope and health to all who drink and bathe.

Superb climate all the year round and bubbling hot springs, highly mineralized and almost miraculous in their curative properties, is a combination for health, which should prove attractive to incapacitated ex-service men, and those seeking complete surcease from bodily ailments of any sort.

These mineralized waters outcrop at Agua Caliente, the Spanish name for hot water. The springs are 25 miles due west of the heart of the reclamation district described in this pamphlet, and 12 miles from the town of Sentinel, on the main line of the Southern Pacific railroad. They are reached in a day's ride from Phoenix by auto stage.

Though these springs are little known, and feebly patronized because of the lack of suitable accommodations and their heretofore almost inaccessible location, scores of ex-service men have been wonderfully benefitted by taking the treatments here. The baths are especially beneficial to men who have been gassed.

To cite one particular case, the patient gained 40 pounds in three weeks, and regained complete health by following the simple treatment which consists merely of taking frequent baths at high temperatures, and drinking as

much of the spring water as possible. The result is the complete eradication of bodily poisons of all sorts which have accumulated in the system as the result of gassing. Witnesses declare that during the treatment it was almost impossible to come in close contact with the patient on account of the obnoxious odors given off in the process of driving the gases from the system.

One could give a hundred testimonials from benefitted patients but for the fear of making this sketch read like a patent medicine advertisement or propaganda for a get-health-quick resort.

But that is not the idea.

The idea in setting forth these facts is to encourage investigation on the part of the government authorities as to the feasibility of developing these springs or by tapping the source at some other point provide the means for establishing a government sanitorium. In this connection we respectfully point out that the law gives the government the right to convert to its own use natural springs for the public good. There are wonderful possibilities in this direction.

In the meantime, the springs are here, 17 of them, bubbling steam and water; more can be had in the same locality by simply digging a four-foot hole in the ground and allowing the water to seep in. Developed or undeveloped, they will remain here for all time, for, be it known, that their curative properties were known to the Indian long before the advent of the white man, and it is this factor of permanency combined with location, that should make the land opportunities herewith touched upon of double value as a government soldier settlement project.

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

In Convention Assembled at Prescott, Arizona, August 8, 9 and 10, 1921,

Together with Roster of Officers and Delegates.

Commander
DUANE BIRD.....Nogales

Vice-Commander
PERRY M. LING.....Jerome

Historian
B. H. MILLS.....Nogales

Sergeant-at-Arms
J. E. FLANAGAN.....Holbrook

Executive Committee
G. V. HAYS.....Willcox
V. P. LUCAS.....Oatman
F. G. SARVER.....Superior

National Delegates
BILL BROOKS.....Chandler
ADOLPH BADER.....Flagstaff
LYLE ABBOTT.....Prescott
R. S. ADAMS.....Kingman
JACK REDMOND.....Bisbee
J. C. HAYNES.....Tucson
B. W. FREUDENTHAL.....Safford
F. K. STEINER.....Whipple Barracks

Alternates
GEORGE NILSSON.....Prescott
W. W. REID.....Douglas
BILL LEAK.....Kingman
H. H. MILLER.....Phoenix
L. L. GILBERT.....Humboldt
A. F. CARROLL.....Winslow
ERIC MONTHAN.....Tucson
R. L. McMILLAN.....Kingman

Disability Rulings

Whereas, the schedule of disability ratings now in effect in the bureau of war risk insurance does not clearly define the symptomatology and clinical courses of tuberculosis which

would determine an actual total and permanent disability;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the American Legion, Department of Arizona, through its executive officers, urge the enactment of legislation which would permit a total and permanent disability rating to bureau of war risk beneficiaries suffering from tuberculosis, based on a schedule of ratings sufficiently adequate to include the incurrence, progress, complications and effect of the disease.

Kenyon-Fess Bill

Whereas, there is now pending in congress an act known as the Kenyon-Fess bill, which provides, among other things, for:

1. Vocational training for American citizens who served in allied armies;
 2. Vocational training for ex-service men having a disability of 10 per cent or more, as well as those having a vocational handicap;
 3. Vocational training for widows and orphans of men who were killed in, or died as the result of, service;
- And, whereas, this bill has been approved by the national legislative committee of the American Legion; and

Whereas, these provisions will be of inestimable value to many of our disabled comrades who are not now eligible for vocational training;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the American Legion, Department of Arizona, assembled at its third annual convention at Prescott,

Arizona, urges the immediate passage of this bill; and

Be It Further Resolved, that copies of this resolution be sent to the various congressmen from Arizona, to the appropriate congressional committees, and to national headquarters of the American Legion.

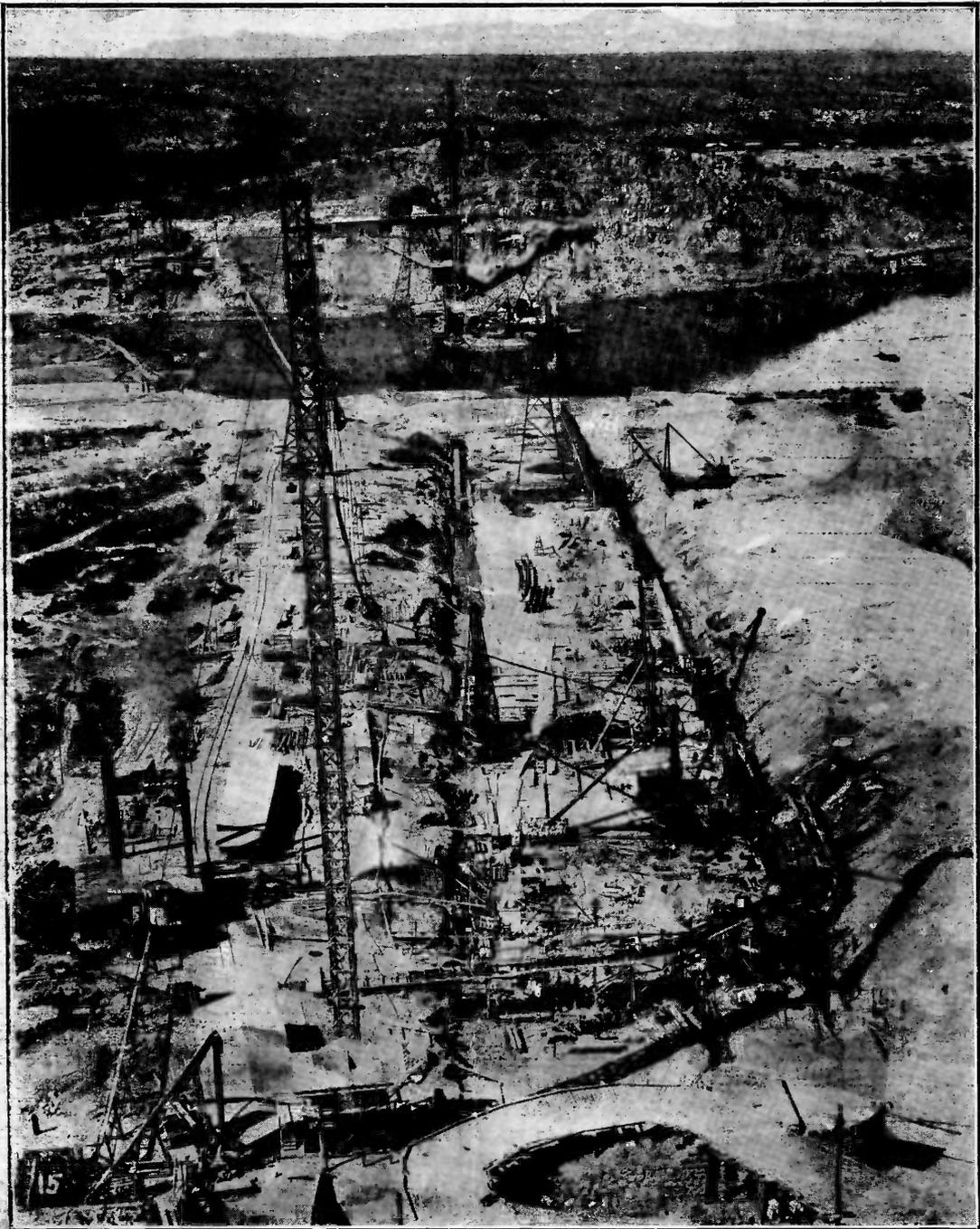
Homestead Act

Whereas, the homestead act as amended grants unequal privileges to men receiving compensation for wounds received or disability contracted in the line of duty; and

Whereas, ex-service men receiving treatment for wounds received or disability contracted in the line of duty are in danger of losing the homestead entries which they have made;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the American Legion, through its executive officers, endorse amendments to the homestead act, covering the following requirements:

1. To give ex-service men who have received a regular discharge from the service and who have later been awarded compensation for wounds received or disability incurred in line of duty the same priority rights given ex-service men who were discharged from service by reason of physical disability.
2. To exempt ex-service men receiving treatment for wounds received or disability incurred in the line of duty from all requirements of the homestead act, as amended, as to residence and cultivation during such hospitalization.



GILLESPIE DAM IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION