

THE CASA GRANDE VALLEY.

Information for Those Seeking Homes in the Garden Spot of the West.

Pinal county was organized in 1875 from portions of Pima, Maricopa and Yavapai counties, and contains an area of 5,300 square miles, or 3,435,000 acres, one-third of which could be made productive by a systematic storage of the surplus water now running to waste. Next to Maricopa it is the most important agricultural county in the Territory. It is traversed from east to west by the Southern Pacific railroad, and a branch of the great Santa Fe system is now approaching from the north. The objective point of this road is a connection with the Sonora road, of the same system. The Southern Pacific is also building in this direction from Tempe, and it is confidently believed that work will not cease until the Deer Creek coal fields are reached and connection is made with another branch of that road running from Bowie to Globe and now completed to Fort Thomas.

A RAILROAD CENTRE.

At present it contains a population of about 100, but with the completion of these railroads and the San Carlos reservoir no city in Arizona can approach it for natural advantages, and a large increase in population will follow. Florence is at an elevation of 1402 feet above sea level, situated near the Gila river, twenty-six miles northwest of the railroad station of Casa Grande, with which it is connected by an elegantly equipped daily stage line. Going and coming stages run by the old Casa Grande ruins, and passengers are allowed a short time to inspect them. There are many handsome private residences in Florence, several brick stores, good hotel, an excellent graded school employing four teachers, churches, secret societies, a Commercial Club, two newspapers, and the handsome court house in the Territory. Here is held the United States Court for the district composed of Gila, Graham and Pinal counties. The streets are lined with shade trees, which impart an air of comfort on the warmest days.

PRODUCTS OF THE VALLEY.

Unlike the Salt river, the waters of the Gila are fresh and pure; the soil contains no alkali, is a deep, rich gray ash, especially adapted to the growth of the prune, olive, almond, pear, fig, pear, apricot and fruit of all kinds, which pay largely on the investment. It is also the natural home of alfalfa, which grows in the most prolific manner. The grape does exceptionally well in this valley, and wine and raisin culture is destined to become a prominent industry. Citrus fruits have been cultivated to a limited extent; there are a number of orange trees in the neighborhood of Florence which bear their golden fruit each year without protection, and a few date palm trees are also in full bearing. The season is from six weeks to two months earlier than Southern California, which gives fruit growers an appreciated advantage in

THE EARLY MARKETS.

The absence of fogs and nightly dews is a formidable obstacle to the destructive and unsightly scale-bug, and the fruits of the valley are all bright and clean. All the agricultural products of temperate and semi-tropic zones are easily grown here, the long seasons giving a succession of crops that double or treble the productive value of the land.

PRICES OF LAND.

Improved lands, with government title and water right, can be bought for from \$30 to \$50 per acre, according to location and improvements. In the immediate neighborhood and to the south of the Casa Grande ruins there are thousands of acres covered with a heavy growth of mesquite timber yet open to settlement. These are among the choicest in the valley. Water in inexhaustible quantity is found at a depth of from twenty to thirty feet; in fact, a river seems to be flowing underneath. Here is a splendid opportunity to take up and improve land with a pumping system of irrigation, which is said to be successful on small tracts.

However, with the completion of the San Carlos reservoir, pumping will be a thing of the past, and it is only mentioned here for the purpose of showing what can be done, and to magnify the further fact that what was once considered

AN UNINHABITABLE DESERT

is in truth the most productive land on the globe, and that there is water in abundance o'ring every foot of it under cultivation, only waiting for the magic wand of capital to develop it. There is no water-storage scheme on the Pacific coast that has one-half the natural advantages and so few engineering difficulties as the San Carlos reservoir. Here nature has built the sluiceway in ever-living rock, and all that is left for man to do is to put in the headgate, the bluffs which form the gorge being only separated by a paltry 200 feet. A country is drained through this narrow canyon 200 miles, or larger than Maine and Massachusetts combined. The rainfall is sufficient to fill the reservoir twice a year, and the land to be brought under cultivation is practically limitless. This may read like a fairy tale, but is every word true, and has been verified time and again.

CASA GRANDE RESERVOIR.

The reservoir of the Casa Grande Valley Canal company is the largest in the territory. It covers a surface of 1000 acres, with an average depth of 12 feet, and contains about eight thousand million gallons of water. It is situated fifteen miles southwest of Florence. A levee of earth has been thrown up across a depression in the plain 14,000 feet in length, 120 feet in width at the bottom and 25 feet in width at top, 2 to 1 slope on each side, and an average height of 25 feet. The waste is regulated by 4 cast iron pipes 3 feet in diameter, set in solid masonry, regulated by gates and towers. This reservoir cost \$150,000, and supplies water for 5,000 acres.

Meteorological Statistics.

Table with columns for Year (1880-1892), Month (July-February), and Mean Max. Min. temperatures.

Table with columns for Month (March-December) and numerical values.

SUNSHINE IS UNKNOWN.

In fact, in a residence of twenty-one years in Arizona the writer has only known two persons to be overcome by the heat, and they recovered. Their condition, however, was more the result of whisky than heat. The air is so dry here that a registered thermometer of 110 degrees is not as oppressive as 80 degrees in St. Louis or New York. The Signal Service bureau has recognized this fact, and reports the difference between the apparent and sensible temperature to be fully 30 degrees. At nearly all times there is a pleasant breeze; the nights are invariably cool in the summer, and out-door labor is performed without serious discomfort to either man or beast on the warmest days. Very seldom does the thermometer get below the freezing point in winter, and the gardens of Florence to-day are castor bean plants two years or more old.

STRUCK BY FROST.

Orange and lemon trees require slight protection during the winter for a year or two, until the wood is sufficiently hardened. While it is a popular thing for some to say that he is 'not here for his health,' it is an undisputed fact that for all pulmonary ailments no climate on earth is equal to Southern Arizona, and there are numbers of active, industrious citizens, with but one lung, who came here years ago, expecting to live but a few weeks. But for all that, the wonderful Casa Grande valley is something better than a health resort.

That portion of the great Casa Grande valley lying along the line of the Southern Pacific railway in the vicinity of Casa Grande and Arizola is at present, and with good reason, considered one of the most desirable portions of this magnificent Southern Arizona. Great changes have been made in the appearance of this part of the valley during the last ten years. It was about that long ago that the Florence canal was contemplated, and the work of actual improvement begun. It is useless to deny that under our present water system there is nothing like a sufficient water to irrigate this vast body of land.

THE CASA GRANDE VALLEY CANAL.

It is forty-three miles in length and covers 80,000 acres of land, about 7,000 of which are under cultivation. It is so constructed that it can be easily enlarged and its capacity increased. A reservoir covering 1,000 acres, having storage capacity of eight billion gallons, in the southeast corner of township 5, range 9, gives ample supply of water the year round to all farmers located below it, and those above suffer by a shortage of water during a few weeks in summer.

It is proposed to remedy this by the construction of a huge reservoir near San Carlos, which would store 35,000 acre-feet of water, capable of irrigating 10,000 acres of land. All of this land would be to the vicinity of Florence. The estimated cost of the dam is \$1,088,925. This survey was made by order of Congress, for which \$20,000 was appropriated. Mr. J. D. Schuyler, of Los Angeles, the noted irrigation engineer, fully verifies Mr. Lippincott's report, and strongly urges upon Congress the duty of constructing the work. A dam 200 feet in height, which Mr. Schuyler considers perfectly feasible, would store 550,000 acre-feet of water and the reservoir would have a life of sixty-three years without dredging. The report says: "In the event of the construction of this dam there will be built up in the valley of the Gila river where a desert now exists, a community of fully 40,000 souls and the creation of many million dollars of taxable wealth without permanent outlay on the part of the Government." A bill is now before Congress for the construction of the work, and there is little doubt of its passage when its merits become known.

HOUSE MEMORIAL NO. 4.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress Assembled.

We, your Memorialists, the Nineteenth Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Arizona, respectfully represent that the National Irrigation Congress, held in Phoenix, Arizona, on the 11th of December, A. D. 1890, unanimously adopted the following:

Whereas, the Pima and Maricopa Indians, tribes numbering in the aggregate ten thousand souls, have been deprived of the waters used by them in irrigation before the advent of the white race in America, through the appropriation of such waters by settlers on the headwaters of the Gila river; and

Whereas, through the loss of such waters the lands once cultivated by these tribes have become barren and worthless, and the members of such tribes have become a charge on the Government, and forced by the loss of their fields into lives of degradation and penury; and

Whereas, such tribes have from the earliest days been the friends and allies of the white race; and

Whereas, the people of the United States have pledged themselves by solemn treaty to protect such tribes in their property and property rights; and

Whereas, the Government of the United States has and now is engaged in the expenditure of hundreds of thousands of dollars for the construction of works of irrigation for the reclamation of lands belonging to other Indian tribes; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Congress do approve the proposed construction, under the plans of the U. S. Geological Survey, of the Buttes reservoir, in Pinal county, Arizona, recently reported, to again reclaim the lands of these tribes, believing that by so doing the Government alone honorably redeem the broken pledges made by it to these people, and thus preserve from further waste and degradation two of the surviving Indian tribes of the American continent that have always been the constant friends of the white race.

Resolved, That we approve the proposed construction of such reservoir and canals just and philanthropic, but as economical and good policy, as is a comparatively expensive the expense of maintaining such facilities as Government charges will far exceed the cost of the irrigation works required to make them a self-supporting and self-respecting community.

New, therefore, your Memorialists, the Nineteenth Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Arizona, desire to go on record as earnestly endorsing the above recommendations of the Sixth National Irrigation Congress for the following reasons:

the indefensible position of doing nothing or allowing any one else to improve this great natural reservoir site.

2. We firmly believe that the interests of humanity dictate that the Indians should be gathered on the reservations, have lands allotted to them in severalty, and that they be furnished with farming implements and an inexhaustible supply of water for irrigation of their lands, to the end that they may become self-supporting. By this means will a home life be furnished for the Indian and he will more rapidly advance in civilization as a consequence. He will abandon his nomadic life; his children will be kept at home and educated in neighborhood schools, instead of being sent to large Indian schools at a distance where they are kept (as it would seem) for mere purposes of show. After being instructed in the arts of civilization for a time they are returned to savagery, to become more unhappy and discontented than if they had never received the questionable advantages. We feel that the present policy of the Indian department is all wrong in this regard.

3. The Pima and Maricopa Indian reservation contains 350,000 acres of as fertile land as lies within the boundaries of Arizona, and is admirably adapted for homes for these people, as well as the wandering Papagos, who are now compelled to prey upon the herds of our farmers and ranchmen for subsistence.

4. The construction of a storage reservoir at the Buttes by the Government offers a plain business proposition for the correction of these evils.

Resolved, that the Secretary of the Territory be instructed to transmit a copy of the foregoing Memorial to our Delegate and Delegate-elect in Congress, and also a copy each to the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

UNCLAIMED FORTUNES.

Large Amounts of Money That Are Awaiting Claimants in the London Courts.

A large number of heirs to considerable sums of money left by decedents during the last year have not yet been located, says a London exchange. To mention a few out of the many still sought, it may be stated that the next of kin of Baron de Gavelled Geunny, who died at Pinar in 1842, are sought, and there is a lot of money waiting for the missing heirs of Joseph Sullivan, formerly of Cork and late of San Francisco.

Six thousands pounds sterling await James E. Higgins and his children. He was last heard of in New York and beyond that the veil seems impenetrable. A dying mother left her child, named Robert Purkis, in the care of friends three years ago. There is money for that child if he can only be found. A Doncaster race meeting in 1894 saw the last of W. J. Clarkson, so far as is known. Money awaits him now.

As far back as 1789 Peter Sullivan lived in Waterford. In 1900 the court of chancery is looking for his descendants.

Scarcely less curious than the long list of missing persons is the table showing the strange resurrection of long-lost companies. For instance, the West New Jersey stock has paid no dividend on its stock since 1692, but representatives of the shareholders are now being sought. There are shareholders in the Waterloo Bridge company whose addresses are unknown who are entitled to funds.

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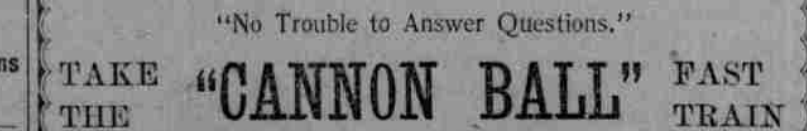
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Table with columns for From East, Read down, To East, Read up, and train numbers.

LIMITED TRAINS.

Table with columns for No. 4 Chicago Ltd., No. 3 California Ltd., and train routes.

LOCAL TIME TABLE.

Table with columns for Southbound No. 1 and Northbound No. 2, and train routes.

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