

THE  
Pecos Valley  
New Mexico

THE  
Pecos Valley  
New Mexico





Sheep-raising and Fattening Lambs are Paying Industries in the Pecos Valley, New Mexico.



Herefords and Alfalfa.—A Scene on the Slaughter Ranch, Pecos Valley, New Mexico.

## THE PECOS VALLEY OF NEW MEXICO

By F. L. Vandegrift

THE PECOS VALLEY OF NEW MEXICO, famous for orchards, meadows, fields and thoroughbred cattle, where the United States Reclamation Service, in the spring of 1907, opened two irrigation projects — the first Government work of that kind to be completed — has become a part of the earth's agricultural domain within the memory of the generation of young men now coming upon the stage of life. In its native state it was barren and inhospitable, and when the Spanish conquerors overran the country, more than three centuries ago, they avoided it and chose the perils of *El Llano Estacado* (the Staked Plains) instead.

Coronado came upon the Pecos River in its upper sources when he made his famous journey in search of the mythical land of gold in the far northeast. He called it the Cicuye, after an Indian village of that name, where he had been in camp. Castaneda, in his narrative of Coronado's journey, makes passing mention of it —

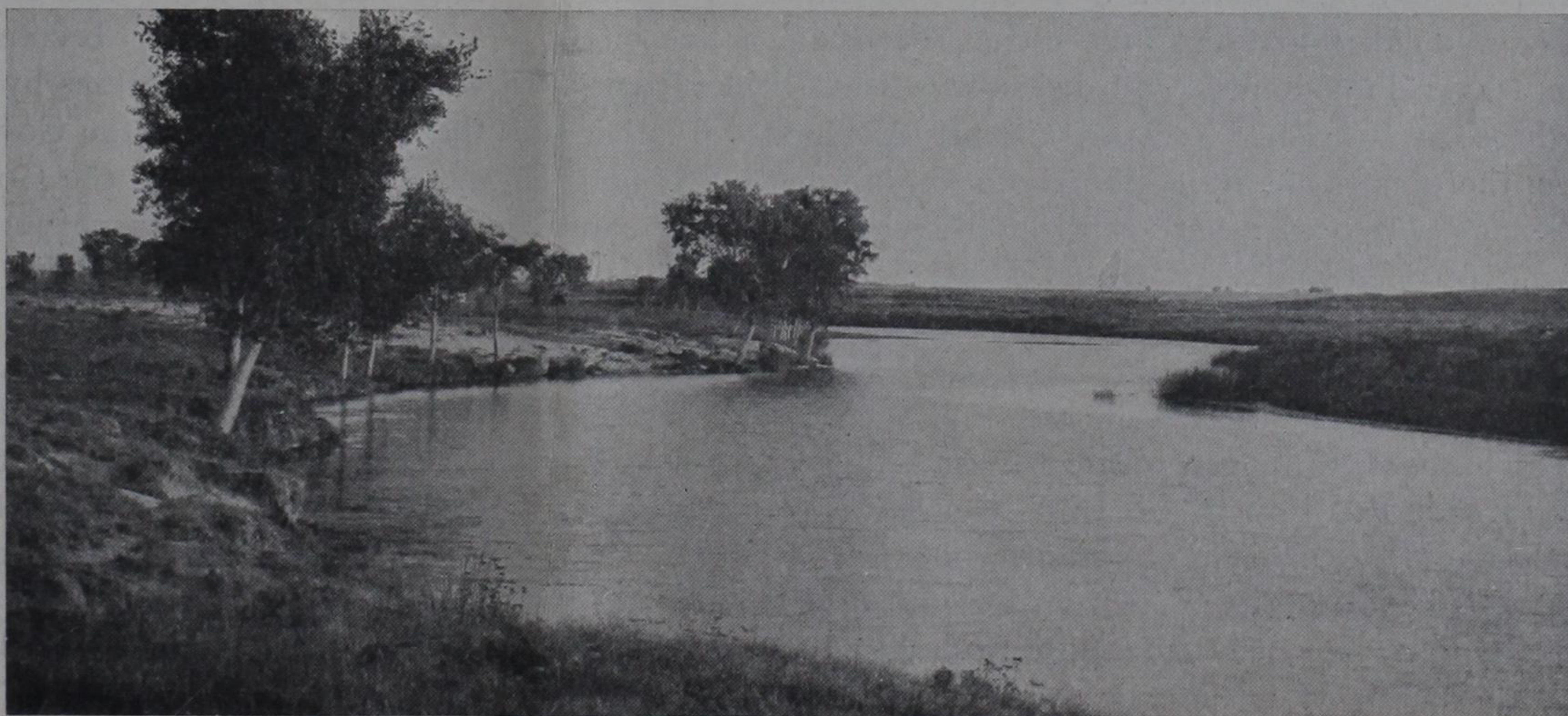
“ . . . Proceeding toward the plains, which are all on the other side of the mountains, after four days' journey they came to a river with a large, deep current which flowed down toward Cicuye, and they named this the Cicuye river. They had to stop here to make a bridge so as to cross. It was finished in four days, by much diligence and rapid work, and as soon as it was done, the whole army and the animals crossed.”

This crossing was in the mountains, and about one hundred and fifty miles southward is the plain, or mesa, where the valley widens and becomes the “Pecos Valley” of this story. If the Spanish troopers had come this way, they might have been persuaded by the opportunity of water and open mesa to

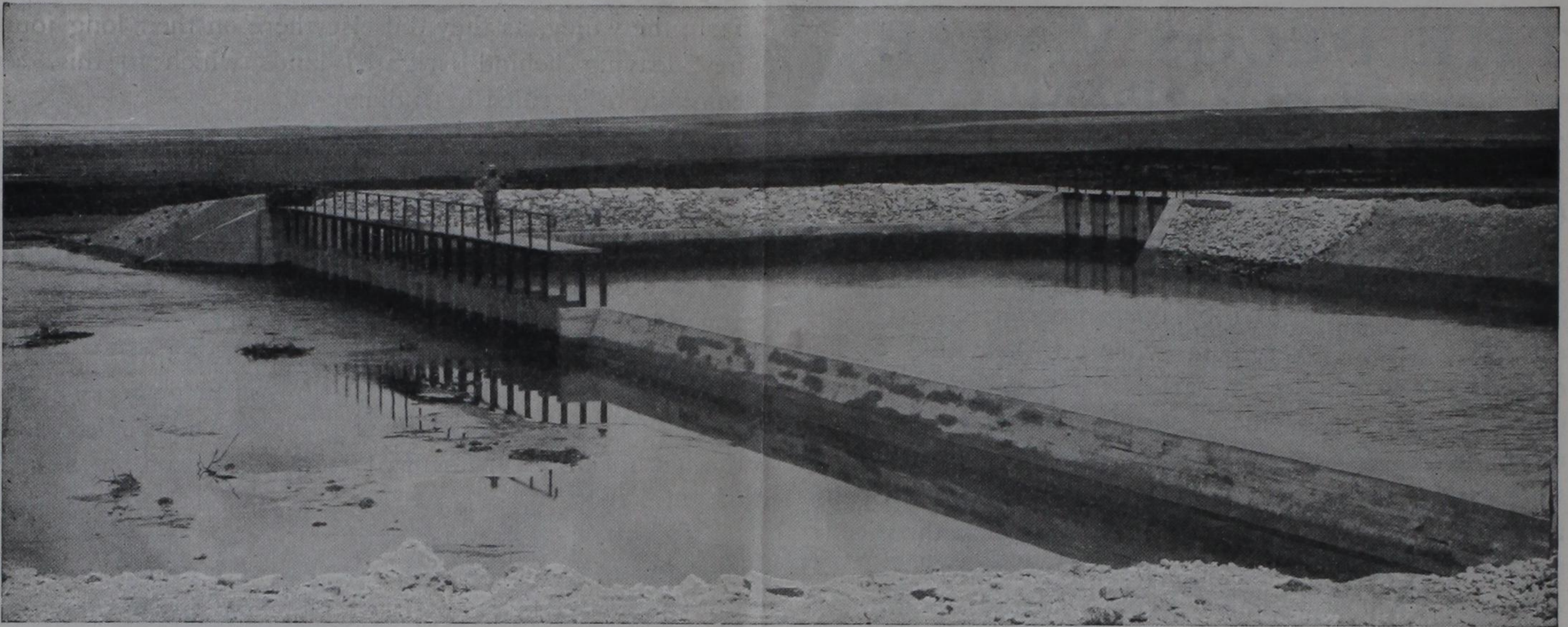
farm the valley, as they did elsewhere on their long journey, leaving behind irrigated lands which to this day continue to be tilled by Indians.

But they passed it by, leaving it for sturdy John Chisholm to establish the first irrigation here, thereby pointing the way for the United States Government, nearly thirty years afterward, to put the stamp of confidence upon the value of the lands of the Pecos Valley for farm purposes, and upon the permanency of the several sources of water supply, by the investment of nearly a million dollars in two irrigation projects in the valley. The opening of these projects was celebrated by the territorial government of New Mexico on the Fourth of July, 1907.

The Pecos takes its rise in the mountains north of the ancient city of Santa Fé. In that region there are some small irrigable areas along the course of the stream, but the “valley” of which this folder treats lies in the southeastern quarter of New Mexico, where it flows in a wide depression of the open mesa for a distance of 170 miles. Of this stretch only about 100 miles are farmed on a large scale, and it is to this portion that the attention of the reader is especially called. However, the homeseeker, traveling by the Santa Fe Railway, begins to get glimpses of farming in New Mexico all the way from Texico. From here the railroad drops over the border in an afternoon's run to the Pecos river, and twelve miles further along is Roswell, a modern little



A Tributary of the Pecos River



Gate of the Hondo Reservoir, Inlet Canal.

city of 7,000 inhabitants, sitting in the midst of gardens and embowered in trees.

At Amarillo, the capital of the Panhandle, the altitude is about 3,500 feet, and Roswell is only seventy-two feet lower; but at Amarillo the rainfall is sufficient for crops, and at Roswell water by artificial means must be added. However, the difference only is in method, for both localities are great crop-producers.

At the North Berrenda river, only a mile or two north of Roswell, the "Pecos Valley" of this folder begins, and it extends southward about one hundred miles. Below a large artesian area comes Carlsbad, a fine city of 3,000 inhabitants, and below that is Black River, where the Carlsbad reclamation project ends. Further on there is some irrigation, both in New Mexico and Texas. The valley here is irrigable, where the river can be controlled and kept within a permanent channel, so far as Pecos, the southern terminus of the Pecos Valley Lines of the Santa Fe.

Carlsbad is situated in the midst of 30,000 acres, which the new Government project will reclaim. It is here that the Fourth of July celebration properly was held, for the project restores to the inhabitants farm-lands and prosperity, which an irrigation project by private enterprise once made, only to be lost in a few years by the floods of an unruly river. While that plant sup-

plied water, the town grew and flourished in the midst of gardens and trees, but after the loss of the dam it languished and was on the eve of perishing, when the Government took over the plant and reconstructed it in a form that will endure forever. For this project and the one at Hondo are constructed of cement, iron and paved embankments, and they are so strong and so firmly fixed in the native rock that they will withstand the ravages of any possible flood.

Practically, the work of the Government is a guaranty that the water has come to stay. To be sure, the two projects finally become the property of the local water users' associations by ten annual assessments upon the lands, by which the Government is made whole; but, after all, the risk is the Government's, for although the lands are bonded to refund the money, this can not be expected if the water fails. Therefore, the Government practically accepted all the risk when it undertook the work, and to make sure that there was no risk, the engineers of the United States Reclamation Service carefully observed and measured the yearly flow of the streams and sounded the depths of the artesian deposit, from which deposit the Pecos itself and its local tributaries are partly fed. The other sources of supply of these streams were explored all the way to the mountains, and proved to be unfailing. The result of all the explora-

---

## *Water there was in abundance flowing out of the Mesa into the Pecos River*

---

tions and measurements was an order from the Interior Department to put in two irrigation plants — one at Carlsbad, where from two dams 30,000 acres of irrigable land will get water; and the other at Hondo, ninety miles north, near Roswell, where by water supplied from the Hondo river, 20,000 acres will be reclaimed.

The existing settlements of the Pecos Valley were begun within the last forty years, when a few Texans, following the Civil War, came with their herds and established themselves in the locality where the city of Roswell since has grown up. The adjacent uplands afforded a fine range for their stock, and by tillage, in a primitive way, they were able to grow sufficient crops to sustain themselves.

These settlers, however, made little progress. They made a living, but there was no development, and their methods and work gave to the valley no distinctive character. Water there was in abundance, flowing out of the mesa into the Pecos. These streams were perennial, deep, narrow, and nearly bank-full the year round. They might have been dammed easily and the water turned upon the soil, but the Texans were there only to grow cattle, and the native grass was good enough for them. Indeed, the value of these streams, other than for their animals to drink from, probably never occurred to them. These streams are on the map as the three Berrenda and the two Spring rivers, and they now water more than twenty thousand acres of farmland.

The first intelligent improvement and cultivation of land in the Pecos Valley was in 1878, by John Chisholm, who came from Kentucky and established a cattle ranch on the South Spring river, a stream flowing eighty cubic feet per second. At that time,

the whole area, except in spots, was vacant Government land, covered with nutritious grass. He saw the opportunity the water and the range offered, and in a short time he acquired 7,500 acres of land. Upon this land and the adjacent mesa he kept his herds.

He was four hundred miles from a railroad, but he set about to establish a home. He dammed the little river and turned water upon his farm. He planted an orchard and shade trees. Later he plowed fields and planted alfalfa, wheat, corn, Kafir, sorghum, and the like.

This was the beginning of farming in the Pecos Valley. The ranch now is the property of Hon. J. J. Hagerman, and it is one of the "show" places of the Roswell district. Mr. Hagerman added 450 acres of orchard, which produces apples which take the world's prize wherever they are offered. The shade trees planted by John Chisholm are now forests, and a smiling landscape of field, orchard, meadow and timber stretches on all sides from a beautiful country home. Other "show" places of the Roswell district are the ranch and fruit farm of Charles Marie de Bremond, the Milne Busch ranch, Capt. J. B. Gillett's "Leland Farm," Parker Earle's famous pear orchard, Barnett's orchard and the Slaughter thoroughbred cattle ranch. The Hagerman ranch is the largest, but all the older established places



Ranch Home of Mr. Francis Tracy, near Carlsbad, New Mexico.

---

---

*There are nearly half a million acres of irrigable lands in the artesian area*

---

---

are equally well cultivated with orchards, meadows and fields, and all shaded by trees which have grown since water was introduced by ditches or artesian wells.

All these places, in addition to water from the streams, get water from never-failing artesian wells. These wells begin at Roswell and extend to the upper end of the Carlsbad project. Without boring for it, this artesian water frequently comes to the surface by natural means, bursting into springs and forming large creeks, which flow into the Pecos. Springs from this artesian source appear even in the bed of the river, causing it, at low stage, to bubble and boil high above the surface. It is beautiful water, too; clear and blue as a mountain lake. In Roswell and other towns, the natural force of these wells sends the water into the lower stories of houses, and hydraulic rams force it higher. It is on tap also for the fire departments.

The artesian district is about sixty miles long and eleven miles wide, beginning six miles north of Roswell and ending three miles south of Lakewood. The original discovery of this water was by accident in Roswell. A man, hoping to find better sheet water than his neighbors had, sank a well deeper than the others, and at 250 feet encountered a strong artesian flow. Since then about six hundred wells have been drilled and now are flowing. They range between 150 and 1,200 feet deep, and they flow from a few gallons to 2,000 gallons per minute. A

flow of 450 gallons a minute during the growing season will irrigate from 40 to 60 acres, depending somewhat upon the character of soil and the amount of rainfall. This season (1907) there have been about 12,500 acres irrigated from the wells. Not counting the wells used in Roswell for domestic and municipal purposes, the artesian wells now flowing in the valley would irrigate between 20,000 and 30,000 acres. The cost to bore and equip a well is from \$300 to \$3,000, according to depth.

But the artesian supply is limited only by the number of wells. There are nearly a half a million acres of irrigable lands in the artesian area, and it all might be watered simply by boring wells. The first well was bored about sixteen years ago, and, although many have been bored since, there has been no diminution of the flow.

The artesian water has been traced from Roswell nearly to the Carlsbad dam, and Mr. C. A. Fisher, an expert of the Reclamation Service, officially reports to the Government that it contains 660 square miles. This is 422,400 acres, of which only 12,500 acres are under cultivation.

Writing of the artesian area, Mr. Fisher says, in a report published by the Government in 1906:

The Roswell artesian basin is about sixty miles long and has an average width of eleven miles. At the north end it is relatively narrow, but to the south it widens somewhat. It comprises about six hundred and sixty square miles, the greater part of which lies along the west side of Pecos river.

In the vicinity of Roswell, the head of artesian water, as determined both by practical tests and by the pressures of a number of flows in the town of Roswell, is sufficient to raise water to an altitude of 3,586 feet above sea level, the exact elevation of the water level in the head of North Spring river. In order to ascertain the western limit of the area of flow south of Roswell a line of levels was surveyed, under the direction of Mr. W. M. Reed, a district engineer, from the head of North Spring river as far south as Engle Draw. From there to Seven Rivers the western boundary of the artesian basin was ascertained mainly from evidence of wells



Pecos Valley Herefords.

## Cotton produces a bale to the acre under the Carlsbad project

n the adjoining lowlands. It is possible that the artesian head increases to the west and that flows might be obtained higher up the slope than is indicated on the water sheet, especially in the valleys of Felix river, Cottonwood creek and Penasco river, but there appears to be no definite evidence of this. The eastern limits of the artesian area are indicated by moderately high bluffs, which follow the general course of Pecos river across the entire district.

Mr. W. M. Reed, supervising engineer of the Reclamation Service, officially says of the artesian water:

The flow of these wells varies from a few gallons to 1,800 gallons a minute, depending principally on the locality. At Roswell the flow of an average well has been variously estimated at from 500 to 700 gallons a minute, while near Artesia the highest flow recorded exceeds 1,700 gallons.

For fruit the Pecos Valley is ideal. In addition to climate, soil and just enough water and no more, the long growing season enables the trees to recover their strength for the succeeding crop. It is not unusual for an apple orchard to bear a full crop in the fourth year of its growth. Pecos Valley apples are known from Texas to London. Besides apples and pears, prunes, grapes, plums, cherries and peaches are produced in abundance and of superior quality in the Pecos Valley.

Alfalfa is the mainstay. It is not unusual to cut five crops in a season, and the yield is six tons to the acre in a year. Indeed, less than five cuttings is the exception. It not only is fed to cattle and horses in the valley, but it is shipped to Texas, where the demand is heavy; both for local consumption and for export.

Indian corn, milo maize, Kafir corn and millet grow well. Wheat, barley, rye and oats, if sown in the fall, yield fine crops. They are ready for harvest by June 10. This gives time for a forage crop in the fall, or for a nitrogen plant which may be plowed under to fertilize the soil. This may be done in time to sow grain in the fall for the next crop.

Cotton produces a bale to the acre under the Carlsbad project. There are cotton gins at Carlsbad and Florence — the only two in New Mexico.

Irish potatoes can not be depended on in the Pecos



Ranch Home, Pecos Valley, New Mexico.

Valley, except in a few places. Hondo lands raise good potatoes. But sweet potatoes and all the rest of the garden vegetables are grown to perfection. Celery is another great product, and it is so fine that it is shipped all over the country.

There are great profits in live stock. The best beef animals in the world grow here, and there are ranches which advertise thoroughbred cattle by the carload. The "alfalfa-fed hog" of Pecos Valley is equaled only by his cousin of the Panhandle and South Plains Country of Texas. A big pond for hogs to wallow in, and an alfalfa patch for them to feed upon, is a combination that can't be equaled. The best grades of sheep are grown here, and consequently the world seeks out Pecos Valley mutton. Poultry is another aid to prosperity. For women who are dependent upon their own exertions, the "helpful hen" is a provident friend. Chickens and a little ground for garden and orchard will keep a family.

The altitude is about 3,400 feet above the sea, and more than 300 days of the year are sunshine. The climate is healing for invalids, restful for the aged and infirm, and invigorating and inspiring for all who want to make the most of life. Unimproved lands under the ditch or in the artesian area may be bought for from \$15, \$20 to \$30 an acre. Improved lands are worth from \$60 to \$500 or more an acre.

In the valley about 42,500 acres now are under cultivation by irrigation, not counting the Carlsbad district, where farming has been suspended in a large degree until

*The altitude is about 3,400 feet above sea level; more than 300 days of the year are sunshiny*



Irrigating an Orchard in the Pecos Valley, New Mexico.

the season of 1907, when the new water became available. Sometimes local authorities put this figure higher. Of this land, 12,000 acres get water from the Northern Canal, which, fed by South Spring river, runs from Roswell, in Chaves county, almost to the Eddy county line; 4,500 acres which are supplied by the three Berrenda rivers; 6,000 acres which are supplied by the North and South Spring rivers; 12,500 acres which are supplied by artesian wells, and 7,500 acres in isolated spots. The three Berrenda rivers and the two Spring rivers are less than ten miles long, and undoubtedly are of artesian source. They are narrow, but deep and swift flowing, and their waters are pure and wholesome. They are famous bass streams.

In addition to the land lying within the artesian area (about 425,000 acres), there are the 50,000 acres of the Hondo and the Carlsbad projects, and the lands of the Spring and Berrenda districts. Besides these areas, are lands which, sooner or later, will be irrigated by pumping the shallow sheet water beneath them. Added to it all is a vast range of gramma grass for cattle, and so,

altogether, the Pecos Valley, irrigable lands and range, is an inviting field, not only for farmers, but for all industrious men who go to make up town and country.

And it is not a frontier country. Advanced civilization already has come — free and parochial schools and the higher educational institutions; churches, public libraries, handsome homes, waterworks, electric lights, pavements, and all of the other things that go to make life attractive. Carlsbad, population 3,000, the county seat of Eddy county, at the lower end of the valley, and Roswell, population 7,000, the county seat of Chaves county, at the upper, with thrifty towns between, keep pace with towns of like size in the eastern States. Connecting the entire valley with the markets of the world is the great Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway System.

Carlsbad is the center of a large stock country, extending from the Texas line on the east to beyond the Guadalupe Mountains on the west, a distance of one hundred and fifty miles. Here graze cattle, horses, sheep and



goats in large numbers. The clip of wool, for instance, marketed here the spring of 1907, is 350,000 pounds, and mohair 50,000 pounds. The sales of steers the same season will exceed in value \$350,000. But the stock business alone has not made Carlsbad. Irrigation has done its share. Under the canals of the old Pecos Irrigation Company were some 12,000 acres of irrigated land. On Rock Arroya, Black River and other places, irrigation has been practiced successfully for years. But irrigation development has just begun in earnest in the territory tributary to Carlsbad and the future is full of promise. The United States Reclamation Service has acquired the plant, and work on the Carlsbad Project is practically completed. This and other enterprises now being started will bring the irrigated acreage up to over 50,000 acres. This means an increased farm population and an increased production of agricultural products. The farmers in this section are peculiarly well situated; a mild, healthful climate, fertile valley lands, a sure and stable water supply and an ever-increasing home market for their products. Carlsbad is located in this district and will reap the benefit from this development.

Again, the mineral resources are undeveloped. But the past year has shown activity in this field as well. Two Acme cement factories are developing fine gypsum deposits. A fertilizer factory, with a capacity of ten cars per month, is taking guano from caves in the Guadalupe Mountains and shipping the finished product to California and other States. It is of high grade and finds a ready sale at \$40 to \$50 per ton. The supply is inexhaustible. Copper, oil and other prospects are being investigated, with indications of early development. Here is good building stone and clay suitable for the manufacture of brick and tile.

The Carlsbad Springs have unquestioned medici-

nal value and some day they will be utilized for the relief of suffering humanity.

Again, the Pecos river, flowing through Carlsbad, furnishes an abundance of power. Two power dams are now operated. But the fall is great and the opportunity for any number of dams is here. Raw material may be produced cheaply for the creamery, the canning factory, the broom factory, the cotton gin, the oil mill, the twine factory, the distiller, the wine-grower, etc.

The resources of the territory around Carlsbad are attractive and its development is certain. This means that Carlsbad will continue to grow.

The "thrifty towns between" are Dexter, Hagerman, Lake Arthur, Artesia and Lakewood. There are no brighter towns in Kansas, Oklahoma or Texas than these. They all are trade centers, and, since the population is intelligent and cultured, demanding the best, the stores and other accessories of well-ordered communities are first-class. Artesia has a population of 2,000, and, as its name implies, was made by artesian wells. Dexter has 800, Lake Arthur 800, Lakewood 500 and Hagerman 400. Before leaving this subject, it is proper to mention the coming towns of Arno, Dixieland and Pecos, which sit in the midst of irrigation and prosperity in the Texas section of the Pecos Valley. This portion of the valley is coming into cultivation fast. Wherever agriculture car



One View of the Carlsbad Project.

*Some farmers, as in other sections, do better than their neighbors, but all make good money*

get a foothold in that rich soil, orchards, meadows and fields are taking root, and with economical and intelligent use of the supply of water, the cultivated area will widen.

Of the productive quality of the soil, fabulous tales are told — and proved; of a year's crop of Hagerman's 450 acres of apple orchard selling for more than \$100,000; of Parker Earle's ten acres of pears selling (one crop) for \$15,000; of five cuttings a year of alfalfa, selling for \$10 and sometimes \$12 and \$15 a ton. These are some of the miracles performed by soil, sunshine, water and intelligent industry in Pecos Valley.

It is said that the fruits of the valley sell in the eastern markets at from two to four times the price of the eastern or the Mississippi Valley fruit. In 1906, when Missouri apples — and Missouri apples are good — were selling in St. Louis for 50 cents per box, Pecos Valley apples were selling for \$1.25 to \$1.75 per box. Parker Earle, who for many years was president of the American Horticultural Society, says that the great enemy of the pear all over the Union is the "blight" that has almost extinguished the pear-growing industry. Here there is no blight or sign of it, and the pear seems to have here a size, beauty and flavor unknown elsewhere.

Experiment has also demonstrated that the keeping qualities of the fruit grown in the Pecos Valley are extraordinary. Ten days or two weeks on the way to market leaves the peaches of this high, dry, sunny, irrigated country unimpaired, while the luscious products of regions nearer the sea level are often ruined in three or four days.



Cantaloupe Field, Pecos Valley, New Mexico.

The main-traveled road to Pecos Valley, the only road indeed, is the great Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway. Take it at Chicago or Kansas City. For additional information about this region, ask any Santa Fe agent, or write to C. L. Seagraves, General Colonization Agent, A. T. & S. F. Ry., 1117 Railway Exchange, Chicago.

Farming in the Pecos Valley, if done with the intelligence and providence practiced in Illinois, Indiana or Ohio, will pay twofold. There never has been one instance of failure in the valley. Some farmers, as in other sections, do better than their neighbors, but all make good money if they only half try. Below are some instances of Pecos Valley farming.

H. Crouch, of Eddy county, makes affidavit of his alfalfa profits in 1905 and 1906 as follows:

TERRITORY OF NEW MEXICO, } ss.  
COUNTY OF EDDY.

H. Crouch, being duly sworn, deposes and says: In the fall of 1904 I sowed 40 acres of alfalfa on my farm one and three-quarters miles southeast of Artesia. In 1905 I cut said alfalfa four times, securing an average of three tons per acre for the year. The following winter I pastured the land. I had sixty head of horses on the field. The price paid for winter pasturing is \$2 a month per head. I pastured the crop about three months, the total value of said pasturage being about \$360. I cut four crops from said land in 1906, securing eight tons per acre for the year. I could have cut the alfalfa a fifth time had I not pastured late in the spring and then allowed one crop to remain on the field uncut much longer than usual, in order that it might ripen. I sold the crop at from \$10 to \$13.50 a ton delivered on the cars; not a ton was sold for less than \$10.

The cost per acre of raising the four crops I estimate as follows:

Irrigating .....	\$ 1.50
Cutting .....	2.00
Baling .....	14.00
Hauling to car and loading on same .....	4.80
Total .....	\$22.30

Had I sold all my crop for 1906 at the minimum price I received (\$10 a ton), I should have received \$80 an acre — profit of \$57.70 per acre for the year, without counting what I received for pasture during the winter. H. CROUCH.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 25th day of February, 1907.

GEORGE U. McCRARY, *Notary Public*,  
Eddy county, New Mexico.

S. W. Gilbert, president of the  
First National Bank of Artesia,

**"I have become a convert to the apple business, and am now planting a 640-acre orchard"**

tells a story under oath about oats:

TERRITORY OF NEW MEXICO, } ss.  
COUNTY OF EDDY.

S. W. Gilbert, being duly sworn, deposes and says: In the year 1906 I raised a crop of 2,720 bushels of oats upon 40 acres of land, six miles south of Artesia. The gross income from this crop was \$1,425, the total expense necessary to raise such a crop \$382, leaving a balance of \$1,043, which is a clear profit of more than \$26 an acre.

S. W. GILBERT.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 26th day of February, 1907. L. W. MARTIN,  
Notary Public.

W. M. Walterschied also swears to an oats crop:

TERRITORY OF NEW MEXICO, } ss.  
COUNTY OF EDDY.

W. M. Walterschied, being duly sworn, deposes and says: That last year he raised, by actual weight, 78 bushels of oats an acre on a field of nine acres, near Artesia. He further says that because he planted alfalfa with it he sowed but one bushel of oats to the acre.

W. M. WALTERSCHIED.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of March, 1907. GEORGE U. McCrARY, Notary Public.

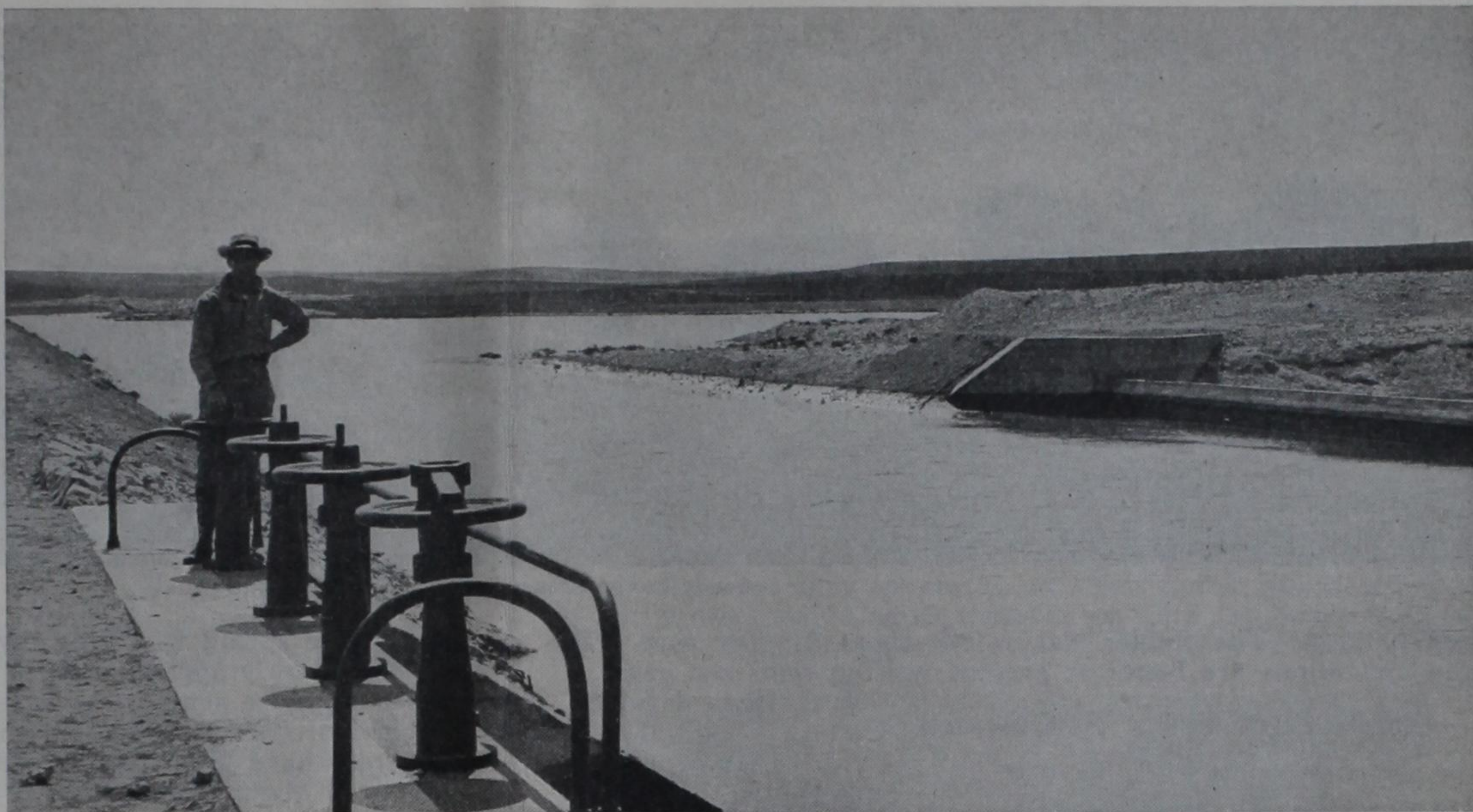
The Roswell Commercial Club refers in its publications to S. P. Johnson, of that vicinity, who cultivates three acres of ground. He makes from this a good living and saves a surplus of \$1,200 to \$2,500 a year.

It also quotes a R. F. Barnett, who in 1904 wrote:

"I planted forty acres of apples eight years ago. I have been in the cattle business nearly all my life, and never took much to any other pursuit, but I thought I would make a little venture in apple-growing. The trees began bearing at three and four years old, and last year I sold six acres of my orchard *on the trees*, the buyer to gather them, for \$2,000, or \$333.33 per acre. And then I did not get what they were really worth. Still, \$2,000 on six acres, and that with practically no work at all, is not a bad proposition. I have become a convert to the apple business, and am now planting a 640-acre orchard."

Still other residents of the valley express their views in the following letters. Some of the letters were written three years ago:

Near two years ago we came from Texas, and bought an improved farm of about 200 acres  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of the town of Roswell. We found a welcome among a most refined and hos-



Outlet Gate, Hondo Irrigation Canal.

pitable people. We found flourishing churches and the little city as the educational center of the region. We found also a climate pure, clean, delightful and healthful. We think our soil well adapted to all kinds of grain. Our two crops of corn made since coming here have been about 40 bushels per acre. Our alfalfa is supposed to make from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a ton per acre at each cutting, cutting it from 4 to 5 times per season. Fruit-culture and its products are probably the most attractive and profitable features of our section.

We have on our place an artesian well flowing 750 gallons to the minute, which with proper storage reservoir should irrigate 80 acres of land, and this well is small in comparison to many in the valley.

We think the future outlook of farming interests in our valley flattering indeed. A. B. WASKOM.

Roswell, Pecos Valley, New Mexico.

I have traveled much of my life to almost every portion of the United States, and will say that this beautiful Pecos Valley seems to me to be one of the garden spots of the world. I have lived here four years, coming from St. Louis, Missouri, my native city. Although critically ill at the time, I have been restored to robust health by this dry, invigorating climate. The climate is so perfect, both winter and summer, that the people here practically live out of doors. The delicious fruits of every variety and vegetables which excel; these wonderful artesian wells, beautiful alfalfa fields purple with blossom, all make this valley seem as we imagine the Garden of Eden to have been. When we come and see the beautiful Pecos Valley, we exclaim: "The half has never been told!" M. E. McCLENNY.

Roswell, Pecos Valley, New Mexico.

Last year I planted, one mile east of Artesia on new land, 18 acres in Kafir corn. June 18 I threshed 41,400 pounds of grain from said field. I sold the grain at from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per hun-

*"I consider this the finest climate I have ever known"*



Scene in the Pecos Valley, New Mexico.

dred pounds. The fodder was worth about \$10 per acre. The crop indications are better at present writing than last year.

Artesia, Pecos Valley, New Mexico. J. C. HALE & SON.

I located on my farm, about five miles southwest of Lakewood, in 1897, and have raised good crops each year since. My corn crop last year averaged 51 bushels to the acre, and I had in about 37 acres. I also had a fine crop of Irish potatoes last year, and prospects are good for this year. Have above 8 acres in. I have never planted any small grain, but am satisfied it could be grown as well here as in Kansas.

I consider the Pecos Valley as good farming land as can be found in the West.

Trusting this information will be of service to you, I am,  
Yours truly, PETER CORN.

Lakewood, Pecos Valley, New Mexico.

I came to the Pecos Valley from the "black lands" of Texas, and have found it a very agreeable place to live. I have been able to save some money from farming and hog-raising here; in fact, consider this the best hog-raising country I ever saw. Last year my corn yield was about 40 bushels to the acre, and sold it for \$20 per ton in the shuck, or 70 cents per bushel. My alfalfa crop this year is fine, and will yield nearly two tons per acre. Irish potatoes I consider a sure crop. A man can by cultivating 40 or 50 acres in this section make a good, comfortable living, providing he diversifies his crops. I have raised some of the finest peaches that I ever saw, both as to size and flavor. Apples and prunes also do well. Garden vegetables of all kinds can be profitably grown.

Now, just a word as regards the healthfulness of this country. Before coming here I rarely passed ten days without being compelled to resort to medicines, as my system was thoroughly impregnated with malaria. Now I seldom, if ever, require medicine, and am entirely free from malaria; in fact, I have not paid \$2 for doctors' bills or medicine since I came here, four years ago. This speaks volumes for the climate of the Pecos Valley.

Lakewood, Pecos Valley, New Mexico. M. T. WILDER.

I have been a resident of the Pecos Valley for the past thirteen years, and upon arrival purchased the old "Ballard Place," about three miles east of Roswell. This farm comprises 53 acres, and when I bought it I was told that starvation was staring me in the

face. The spring following my arrival, I set out an orchard of 7 acres, mostly apples, peaches and pears, and this past spring I added 15 more acres of orchard. Three years after planting the original orchard, I harvested enough apples for my own use, and the trees have annually increased in bearing until last season I harvested about 2,000 boxes of apples, and my peach crop netted me about \$400. My pears brought me in about \$100. I have but a few cherry trees, but their yield has been profitable and the fruit exceptionally fine. My peaches have taken premiums both at the Buffalo and St. Louis World's Fairs. I am engaged in the dairy business, and have also on my farm an apiary of about 50 stands, which furnish my family all the honey they require and net me between \$100 and \$200 annually.

Before closing, I wish to state that I came to this part of the country from Maine in search of health for myself and family. I consider this the finest climate I have ever known, and since coming here I have been practically restored to perfect health, and I would advise any person suffering from lung trouble to try a sojourn in the Pecos Valley.

GEO. N. STEVENS.

Roswell, Pecos Valley, New Mexico.

We wish to call attention to the statements of a few of the number who are in a position to state from experience of the resources and advantages of the Pecos Valley. Mr. J. H. McIntire came here last May from Wichita Falls, Texas, and bought a 20-acre tract, 18 acres of which is in orchard. He sold the fruit from the 18 acres for \$2,200 and paid \$200 for labor. In talking to me he stated I sold my fruit a little too soon, as I could easily have realized \$2,800 to \$3,000 had I waited a week longer, as buyers stated they would have paid me a price that would have netted me the above figures. Mr. McIntire paid \$5,000 for the 20 acres.

Mr. Parker Earle, of Roswell, who for sixteen years was the president of the American Horticultural Society, and has for the past nine years lived in Roswell, says: "The pear situation in America generally is a rather discouraging one. There is one unconquerable disease—the dreaded blight that has swept through the orchards of all of the old States like a desolating fire. It has almost extinguished the pear-growing industry. The acreage in the entire country is not increasing, hence I believe there is a fortune awaiting men who will go into pear-growing, the best kinds in the best way, in the best place. I was hunting the best place for a good many years. I believe I found it nine years ago, when I came to this valley. The soil here is just right. The climate is the best I know of for this fruit. We have no blight; no sign of it; no expectation of it. The bark

**"People who come to the valley at THIS time can not say they are too late"**

on every limb, of every tree, like the apple trees here, is as clear and bright as a piece of polished mahogany. Every leaf is green and varnished and stays so until the frost brings it down in the fall. I have never seen such healthy trees anywhere else, and the fruit we grow is clear and fair skinned. It has the delicate satin finish of the best California pears. In the mouth they are unsurpassed. I do not know of anything so attractive as growing pears and apples near Roswell."

Mr. R. F. Barnett, of Roswell, planted 40 acres of apples eight years ago. His orchard began bearing at three and four years old. He sold 6 acres of his orchard on the trees (1903 crop), the buyer to gather them, for \$2,000, or \$333.33 per acre; \$2,000 on 6 acres, and that with practically no work at all is not a bad proposition. Mr. Barnett is planting a 640-acre orchard.

The three A's are the watchwords of the valley — apples, alfalfa, artesian water.

Apples and alfalfa are the money crops of the valley, but all kinds of vegetables and garden-stuff grow in abundance. Our celery, tomatoes, cantaloupes and watermelons can not be beaten, not excepting Michigan on celery, Maryland on tomatoes, Rocky Ford, Colorado, on cantaloupes, or Georgia on watermelons, and all that is necessary to convince any one is for them to make a trip to the valley and see.

Stock-raising is another profitable industry of the valley, and up to a few years ago was the chief industry. Sheep, hogs, cattle, horses, mules, with alfalfa for feed, can not help but be profitable on the finest feed in the world.

The dairy business is another important industry. With a first-class creamery in Roswell, a man in that line of business has his choice of selling his milk or selling his cream to the creamery.

The poultry business is also very profitable, with eggs averaging 25 cents per dozen the year around. There is a good opening in this line near any of the towns down the valley. It can be carried on successfully in connection with any of the above industries and will prove a money-making proposition from the start.

Bee-culture is very profitable here, with wild flowers, fruit, tree-blossoms and alfalfa-blossoms to feed upon. Alfalfa is in bloom all during the spring, summer and fall, and no honey surpasses in flavor that made from alfalfa-blossoms.

Lands in the vicinity of Roswell are worth from \$100 per acre to \$500 per acre. Equally as good land can be had unimproved at points farther down the valley at from \$6 per acre to \$25 per acre, and from \$25 to \$100 per acre with water either from canals or artesian wells. People who come to the valley at this time can not say they are "too late," as the propositions down the valley within 60 miles of Roswell and one, two, three up to seven and eight miles of good towns and good market, railroad and shipping point, are still good ones. Hundreds have located here during the last eight months.

A. G. McELHUMEY.

Roswell, Pecos Valley, New Mexico.

I have been a resident of Hagerman, in the Pecos Valley, for ten years. When I came here I bought 10 acres of land with water-right at \$40 per acre, and planted a few trees each year. The first year I planted only about 50 trees, some pears, apples, peaches and cherries, and have gathered and sold over \$100 worth of cherries this season from half an acre.

From 4 acres I gathered 1,000 bushels of apples last fall, and they averaged me 80 cents per bushel.

Pears grow abundantly and sell for 2 cents per pound.

Prunes grow well and sell at good prices. We always have a ready market for them.

I have been offered \$300 per acre for my place, including 10 acres that I bought in 1898 that has young trees planted that are not bearing yet.

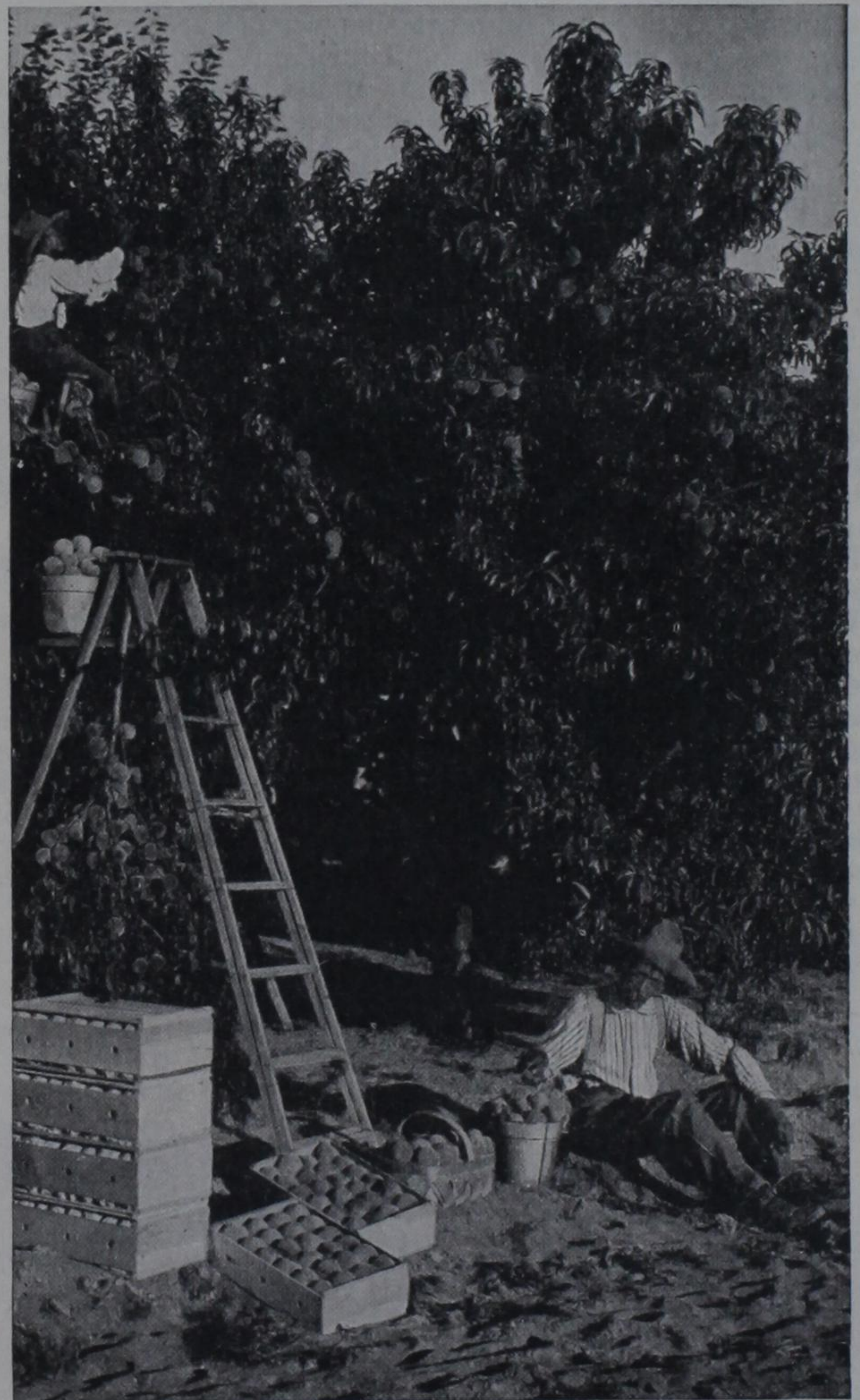
I was seventy years old the 28th day of January, and am well and do most of the work on my place. The winters are never so severe but that I can work out almost every day.

W. D. AMIS.

Hagerman, Pecos Valley, New Mexico.

This is a semi-desert that is being turned into beautiful and practical homes, and this is being done rapidly because of the great profit to be gained by development. A locality must be valued according to its natural resources, for in proportion as these are numerous and valuable, then in that proportion does it exceed in value those localities where these valuable resources can not be developed.

Nature has given us, free, the sunshine with the other components of a wonderfully fine climate; a rich soil, and very productive, when you supply the water. The cultivation, refinement and luxury of our surroundings here are as clay in the hands of the molder; we can shape them to our fancy, and draw on our endless clay a short measure of time and have what our tastes and our minds will conceive. With wealth of soil and these



President Roosevelt Gets the Peaches from this Tree.

*"Much of our soil here allows the alfalfa roots to penetrate twenty feet or more"*

everlasting fountains, you can count your hopes of flower, foliage and growth before they are hatched, if they are backed by our Pecos Valley sunshine for an incubator.

It costs from \$7 to \$10 per acre to obtain abundance of water to thoroughly and perpetually irrigate our lands. Land is selling at from a third to a tenth of its intrinsic value; that is to say, its selling price and its producing value are all in favor of the investor. It is a country of gushing, generous opportunities, and while it stimulates the enthusiasm of capable, appreciative natures, it is unheeded by the fumbling thoughts of the sluggard, and they go over it as a coyote would the nectar of the gods.

Our town of Artesia is on the Pecos Valley Railroad (Santa Fe Line), five miles west of the Pecos river. A station was established at this point in February, 1904. The first month's freight receipts were \$4,000. December freight receipts were \$16,000—more than any station on the road save Roswell. The First National Bank, owning and occupying a well-built two-story brick, opened for business in March, 1904, with eight depositors on the books. Now, another handsome brick structure, owned by the stockholders, is The Bank of Artesia, organized in the last few months, and now doing a good business.

It is a beautiful, sloping stretch about Artesia; the land very rich and productive, and our artesian water hard to beat in any country for drinking water. In the vicinity of Artesia we now have developed artesian water for about twelve thousand acres, and a good part of this is producing crops this year. Our alfalfa that was sown last fall is yielding heavily for the first year. Some plants of this alfalfa were dug up a few weeks ago, and they showed a growth of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet of stem and 4 feet of tap-root. Much of our soil here allows the alfalfa roots to penetrate 20 feet or more, and it is usual for a field that has been set in alfalfa for two or three years to have the soil filled to a depth of from 8 to 12 feet with this mass of sub-soiling material, that as soon as decayed, after the alfalfa is plowed up, leaves a wealth of fertility that any farmer or orchardist can readily appreciate; and the advantage it has, as a deep-soil renovator, over the ordinary red clover, is very generally recognized. Our oats is yielding from 50 to 80 bushels per acre, and in some instances has weighed 42 pounds to the bushel.

Hundreds of acres have been planted in orchards, both last season and this season, and they are doing beautifully.

We have mean, disagreeable winds during part of the spring-time, but those who have any sense of appreciation feel a hundredfold compensated by the other three seasons of the year, with a genial gift of probably the best climate on earth. Cyclones are simply unknown here. Our elevation of about 3,400 feet, and the lack of humidity in the atmosphere, are probably the main reasons for this freedom from destructive storms. We have the Sacramento Mountains, of from 7,000 to 9,000 feet elevation, to the west of us from 40 to 80 miles, which are ideal for summer camp-

ing and hunting parties, and the peak of the White Mountains, 14,000 feet high, is 150 miles northwest. A tour of these mountains is enjoyed each season by quite a large number of people. Artesia, Pecos Valley, New Mexico. GEO. P. CLEVELAND.

In the fall of 1904 I sowed 45 acres of oats in my alfalfa, as a nurse-crop, thinking I would have some winter pasture and protection for my alfalfa. I put about two bushels of oats to an acre and the seed was very inferior. Early in the spring of 1905 it became apparent that I would have a good crop of oats. I threshed 2,508 bushels of oats after selling some in the sheaf and feeding some myself.

This crop made about 70 bushels of oats an acre. The oats were sown about the middle of September, and some were not irrigated until late in the spring. I am selling the oats at 50 cents a bushel, and expect to sell most of them at a higher price for seed. It is my opinion that oats are a profitable crop to raise here, as they need most of the irrigating in the winter, when you need the water least for other crops. They are harvested and ready for the market by the time you need the water for your corn. S. W. GILBERT, Pres. First National Bank.

Artesia, Pecos Valley, New Mexico.

I will try and give a few facts in regard to the Pecos Valley, its resources and possibilities. Not as an authority, but as I understand them. As I stated, what I say will be open for investigation; that is, in the Greenfield neighborhood, where I am most familiar.

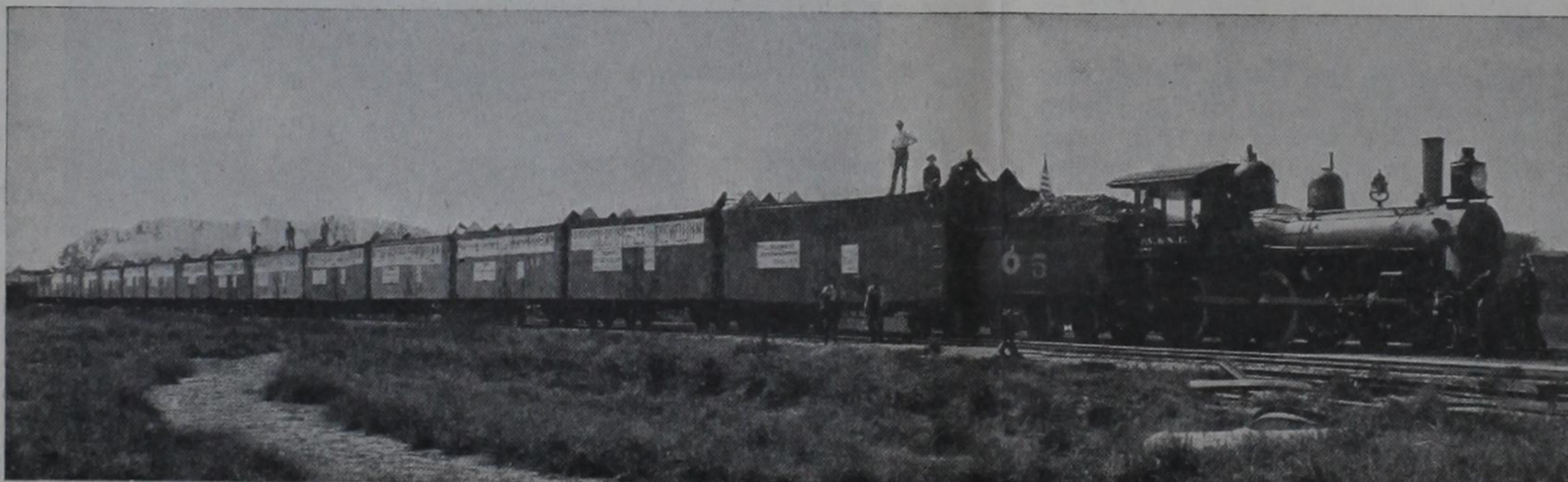
Alfalfa, the main crop at present, will yield four crops per annum with proper care and plenty of water. It will produce about one ton per acre each cutting and allow plenty of time to grow a short late crop for winter grazing, which is quite an item where stock is kept. Two acres will keep a cow or horse in fairly good condition almost the entire winter. On an average, we realize from \$7.50 to \$10 per ton f. o. b. station, which will pay all operating expenses and put from ten to fifteen per cent on alfalfa land at \$100 per acre.

This is the natural home of the apple, some well-loaded individual trees bringing as much as \$10. Suppose we get an average of from \$50 to \$150 per acre; \$200 to \$300 per acre is nothing unusual. Plums, pears and cherries bear well, with a fine flavor; also grapes where they have been tried. Cantaloupes and all garden truck I have tried, grow to perfection and command the highest price wherever shipped. In my opinion this land will soon be considered more valuable for small farming and gardening than for alfalfa.

All kinds of stock thrive here, especially hogs. No doubt this is the place to fatten sheep for eastern markets. Mild winters give us an advantage over the colder States in many ways. We need no shelter for stock, while Kafir corn, Milo-maize, alfalfa—

everything necessary to put fat on a sheep—grows and grows in abundance right here on the ground.

As for land values, I can only refer to what I have stated above; do not know what this land is worth. It is selling at \$10 to \$30 and \$40 per acre without water-rights. Well-improved properties with water-rights are selling at \$75 to \$300 per acre, according to location and improvements. There is a good representative class



A Pecos Valley Apple Train on the Santa Fe.

of people in the valley who are anxious to see more people come here, and I advise those who contemplate coming to take time for a more thorough knowledge of the country and not allow themselves to be railroaded through the valley and sold land at range delivery, as is sometimes the case. These people as a rule soon become dissatisfied and usually do the country more harm than good. On the other hand, find a man who bought here after investigation and you will find him satisfied with his location for a home and with himself. These are the people we want.

In regard to climate, much has been told about "Sunny New Mexico." The fact that the Government Marine Hospital for consumptives is located in New Mexico should be proof sufficient for those in delicate health. In the West it is a question of water, and I know of no other place like the Pecos Valley, where, if one can not secure land with water-rights from a canal, he can drill for artesian water.

Shallow wells at a depth of from 25 feet on the low valley, to 75 feet or 150 feet farther away from the river, will furnish water that can not be exhausted with any pump now in use.

Hagerman, Pecos Valley, New Mexico. A. G. MILLS.

I have no hesitation in presenting the following statement of facts for the careful consideration of observant homeseekers:

First of all, the climate is remarkable in its mildness and its absolute purity.

The winters are tempered by the favorable southern latitude, and are without extreme cold or blizzards.

The summers are tempered by the altitude and are without extreme heat. Some rather warm days will be had in June and July, but they will be exceptional, and there is no tendency to prostration from heat. The dry air is always invigorating, and men work in the sunshine during the hottest weather without discomfort.

The nights are always cool and refreshing, and some covering is always essential to comfort.

Malaria is never found in the air, with its debilitating and pernicious influence. But in its stead ozone abounds and health and vigor prevail.

In short, the climate is as nearly perfect as the imagination can conceive, and is a source of constant comfort and pleasure to the inhabitants. Thus the first and most important consideration to the homeseeker is provided more perfectly than can be found elsewhere.

Should the emigrant seek a location suitable for the raising of live stock, he can not find one more desirable than in New Mexico.

Good native grasses grow in abundance and the water supply is well distributed.

The pasture lands are held in common, and any one may free-graze his herds and flocks *ad libitum*.

Should he wish to breed and grow live stock of superior quality the conditions are peculiarly favorable.

The irrigated farms, with their forage products and perpetual pasturage, conduce to the cheapest and best possible development. Nowhere do live stock thrive or develop better than in the Pecos Valley of New Mexico.

Should the stranger seek a location for the conduct of a general farming business, with good markets for all his products, he would never find a better than from Roswell to Carlsbad.

With an irrigated farm his products would be varied and the yield per acre large, while a market close at hand would consume all he could produce at remunerative prices.

For illustration: He can produce 3 to 5 tons of alfalfa hay per acre, worth \$8 to \$12 per ton in his home market; 50 bushels of corn, worth always 60 to 80 cents per bushel; immense crops



An Artesian Well in the Pecos Valley, New Mexico.

of potatoes, worth 1½ to 2 cents per pound; 800 to 1,200 pounds of beans per acre, worth 4 to 6 cents per pound; 18 to 30 bushels of wheat, worth \$1 per bushel.

Many other farm products are grown successfully. In his garden he can grow in perfection all varieties of vegetables. Cabbage, onions and beets grow superbly, as also do cauliflower, cantaloupes, watermelons and tomatoes.

In his orchard he can grow in perfection all varieties of fruits and berries adapted to a temperate climate; and it is surprising how finely they develop and with what fine flavor.

His poultry and dairy products would be a valuable source of income at profitable prices. Spring chickens command 30 and 35 cents each, eggs 20 to 30 cents per dozen, and butter never sells at less than 30 cents per pound.

These examples of production and prices are taken from the experience of my neighbors and myself.

For the creation of these products and the enjoyment of such privileges a small farm only is wanted, and a moderate amount of pasture lands.

The farm must be capable of irrigation, with water supply furnished by an irrigation plant at annual and moderate cost, or with water from natural springs or artesian wells.

The springs are numerous, and overflowing wells may be had over a large district of country. They furnish a constant and cheap water supply and are extremely desirable. Besides, the water is at all times within the control of the owner. Choice lands with water supply can be bought for \$40 and upward per acre, according to improvements and distance from railway.



Aqueduct that Spans the Pecos River, near Carlsbad, New Mexico.

Lands in the artesian belt, without water yet developed, can be had at \$10 to \$20 per acre, according to same conditions.

The water supply from artesian wells is being rapidly developed, and is an interesting and valuable feature of this country. The area in which they can be had is very large and the supply apparently inexhaustible. The depth and flow varies from 200 to 900 feet, and from 400 to 2,000 gallons per minute. The cost approximates \$1.50 to \$2 per foot of depth. The deeper wells generally furnish the greater supply.

The water is uniformly pure and wholesome. The Pecos river is peculiarly well adapted to irrigation purposes, and furnishes a liberal supply at all seasons. The fact of its source being in the mountains, and being fed by innumerable springs along its course, renders it independent of rains. Throughout its course it is in an arid region, wherein irrigation is essential to agricultural pursuits. Its importance, therefore, to the immense surrounding country can not be overestimated. Its relation to the great Southwest has forcibly been compared to the Nile in its relation to Egypt. For these and other reasons which might be named, the Pecos Valley country offers great attractions to emigrants, and will soon be occupied by a prosperous, healthy, happy and teeming population.

M. V. JOHNSON.

Lakewood, Pecos Valley, N. M.

The experiences given above afford an indication of the facts and possibilities of irrigated lands in this valley, and more are not given because of want of space.

In connection with the question of occupation and use of irrigated lands in the vicinity of Roswell, the Roswell Commercial Club furnishes the following:

- 14,000 acres in bearing apple orchards.
- 8,200 acres in apples not bearing yet.
- 2,500 acres will be planted in apples this year.
- 24,600 acres in alfalfa.
- 3,000 acres in corn (Indian).
- 2,000 acres in oats.
- 4,000 acres in milo-maize, cane and rye.
- 25,000 acres in diversified crops.

83,300

Elida is a new town situated on the Pecos Valley & Northeastern Railway, in Roosevelt county. It is a live, up-to-date town of 800 inhabitants. There are fifty business houses covering almost every line of trade. The several dry-goods stores carry a large and assorted stock of goods. Their daily sales range from \$100 to \$1,000 each. The three lumber yards do a good business and employ many hands.

The cement plant located at this place is a large establishment and the quality

of cement is the very best. It certainly is destined to be a source of wealth to the town and country. It supplies work to many and makes building material very cheap.

There is one large church building in Elida and another under construction, and an \$11,000 school building is being built.

Elida has grown from a mere name to its present condition within the last two years.

For twenty-five miles in every direction the loam is of a deep red quality and almost every foot of it is tillable. It produces corn, Kafir corn, milo-maize, sorghum, oats, wheat, alfalfa, fruits and vegetables of all kinds.

The water varies in depth from twenty to two hundred feet, quantity almost inexhaustible and quality the very best.

The rainfall is about twenty-four inches per annum, which, with the quality of the soil and clay sub-soil, is quite sufficient to produce crops.

Elida is only 140 miles southwest of Amarillo and 100 miles west of Quanah, Texas.

The altitude is about 4,000 feet, and as the climate is ideal both winter and summer many people come here for their health.

Persons seeking a home or wishing to make an invest-



ment will do well to investigate Elida and the country surrounding it.

Portales is the county seat of Roosevelt county and has a population of 2,000 people. It is situated on the Pecos Valley branch of the Santa Fe. It is 116 miles southwest of Amarillo, Texas, and ninety miles northeast of Roswell, New Mexico. During the past two years this section of New Mexico has received a great influx of homeseekers from all parts of the United States. There have been not less than 7,000 homestead filings during this time and there is not a dissatisfied resident in the entire lot.

The great rush to this country began only a year or two ago, but it was quite a well-settled country for a period of six or eight years previous to this, which means that there are a great number of deeded farms now on the market. These farms have been proved up by the typical frontiersmen who have been moving west as civilization advanced. There are also 22,460 acres of deeded land, owned by a company, that have just come on the market.

While the opportunity to secure a free home in this county has passed, the prudent business man will recognize the fact that his opportunity for a safe investment is better now than under former conditions when the future was uncertain.

It has been demonstrated beyond question that this is a good agricultural country and that it will produce good crops of corn, broom corn, cotton and small grain. It is especially a fruit country, being the natural home of the apple and grape. We have some of the finest young orchards here that one could wish to see, and they have not been irrigated by other than the dews from heaven. There is not a vegetable or vine that does not flourish here.

Water of the very purest quality and in inexhaustible quantities can be had at a depth ranging from ten to fifty feet.

### **The Difference Between Farming Under Irrigation and Under Rainfall**

Long ago the United States Government set the pace and formed the popular conception of the proper size of a farm; 160 acres. This unit remains to-day, over nearly the entire Union, the popular view of the quantity of land one western farmer ought to own and use.

The coming of irrigation has changed this view. In the Pecos Valley forty acres is as much as one man and his family can profitably cultivate and fully use. The time will come in all rich and productive irrigated countries when ten, five or three acres will be considered a profitable holding for a family, yielding (as it often does even now) more profit for the year's work than a quarter-section can be made to yield in Indiana or Ohio.

What can a man do who acquires and uses the large irrigated farm of forty acres? Twenty acres of alfalfa in the Pecos Valley will yield 110 tons of hay, worth, at present prices, \$1,100. Ten acres of apples and pears will sell on the trees for from \$2,000 to \$3,000. Celery, vegetables and garden truck will take ten more acres, paying a much larger income proportionately than any other part of the farm. The canning factories make a local market for all garden vegetables.



Poultry Round-up; Scene on Tansill Farm, in the Pecos Valley, Southeast New Mexico.

The reason why irrigated farming runs to the high-priced products of intensive farming is because there is no question of may or may not. There is almost *no* question of results. The ground that you may wet or may leave dry, as you please, is a commodity that is limited in scope. The man who has it is fortunate above his fellows. He leaves such products as corn to be raised elsewhere on cheaper land and amid greater uncertainties, and devotes his opportunities to the production of crops that are higher-priced and are in more general demand in the centers of population. This is the idea of farming that has to be acquired by every man who contemplates a change from the old way to the new; a change from the idea held by all his ancestors who made the great central western States what they are to that of the men who are to some extent, and as Americans imitate, imitating the methods of the Japanese. It pays. It requires a smaller original expenditure of capital. It pleases and encourages the tiller of the soil with the knowledge that every stroke of labor counts.

Unimproved land sells at from \$15 to \$40 the acre, including that under assured irrigation from Government works. Land in the artesian area, without wells, but with a fair certainty that they will flow when bored, is worth from \$20 to \$30 the acre. Lands under the Carlsbad irrigation system, unimproved, are easily worth the same price. Some owners of unimproved lands under the Hondo Government work hold them at \$25 cash and upward. All these lands, with one year's occupancy, become worth from \$100 to \$200 the acre. Land with a good stand of alfalfa readily sells for \$100 to \$250 the acre. Land in good culture, with bearing orchards, carries a price, if it can be bought at all, running into hundreds of dollars the acre. The lesson is that **THE TIME TO BUY IS NOW, AND THE LAND TO BUY IS UNIMPROVED.** The time will come when the story of parts of southern California will be repeated, where there are agricultural holdings in considerable number that would sell for \$1,000 the acre.

There is this to be borne in mind: *The returns from farming irrigated lands in a southern climate are so large and so certain that there is a sense in which it is not absolutely material what the original cost to the purchaser is.*

## **Changes and Improvements in the Pecos Valley**

The gardens and orchards around Roswell and Carlsbad are by residents already looked upon as old; as the realizations of early hopes, efforts and experiments that are not now for sale. To the stranger the general sensations are those of a new country. The flowing wells, outside of the original ones bored in Roswell, are less than six years old.

Along the line of the railway new towns have sprung up within the past few years, as Dexter, Lake Arthur, Artesia, Dayton, Lakewood. All these are modern towns. The "tough" frontier town was never known in the valley, and the church and the schoolhouse are the first public buildings and among the first of any kind. It is going to be a country of numerous small towns; shipping places for produce; and each will in a short time be surrounded by gardens and orchards and an astonishing material wealth. This process will be hindered only by the fact that nature can not be hurried. The bearing fruit tree must be given time to grow.

## **Conclusion**

The Pecos Valley was, as already stated, originally a cattle country; all of it, from the mountains eastward a thousand miles.

This character it still retains, where the changes described have not been, or can not be, made. It belongs in the list of "short-grass" countries, all of which have the increased value of furnishing winter grazing.

The climate is in summer warm, having for the entire season the temperature central Kansas has for two months, and Michigan and Wisconsin have for one, but there never are warm and "muggy" nights, and although it is always warm in the sun it is cool in the shade.

For healthfulness, the entire region is a noted health resort. Malarial and lung diseases originating there are unknown.

There is a winter, and sometimes once in twenty years or more there will come a day or two days that are intensely cold. Usually, it is a country in which, for active men, overcoats are discarded and the umbrella is unknown. There rarely occurs a single day in an entire year in which the sun does not shine at all.

*The fortunate man will be he who sees his opportunity in time*

The rainfall is very slight. The irrigating farmer does not want it to rain. The sources of the water supply that he depends upon are far away, but far more to be depended upon than if they were from the sky that is blue above him every day, all day.

Finally, there is not room in one little book to give many of the extended statements of those who have lived in the valley for years. The way to get these and to get also the facts that are proven by sight, is to visit the country.

All that is here set down is written under the impression that the region attempted to be described in outline is a favored country. It is certain that this will be found to be true as the years pass. With all that the Reclamation Service has done and may do, and with all that the enterprise of individuals may accomplish, the acres of land in the semi-arid regions that can be finally reclaimed

to agriculture will be infinitesimally few, compared to the mighty whole. The fortunate man will be he who sees his opportunity in time.

# Homeseekers

On the first and third Tuesdays of

each month during 1909, round-trip excursion tickets to the Pecos Valley will be on sale from Santa Fe points, Missouri River and east and in Kansas. The rate will be very low; for instance—\$32.50 from Chicago; \$27.50 from St. Louis and Kansas City; \$35.00 from Minneapolis and St. Paul; also correspondingly low rates from intermediate points.

I will quote rates from your home station on request.

**C. L. SEAGRAVES,**  
General Colonization Agent,  
A. T. & S. F. Ry., 1117 Railway Exchange,  
CHICAGO





Fruit-Packing on the Hagerman Ranch, Pecos Valley, New Mexico.



Knee-deep in a June Crop of Alfalfa, Pecos Valley, New Mexico.