



HE very mention of home building in western Kansas and Nebraska will call up painful recollections today in more than one household in New England. The

disastrous attempt of years back to inhabit and farm these semi-desert prairles lends much interest to the first government irrigation works to be located in the Great Plains region-the Garden City project. Contracts will be let in May and the work will doubtless be completed in time for irrigation in the spring of 1907.

Unusual interest attaches to this project not alone because it is the first which involves pumping from underground sources, but because it is be-Total sources, but because it is be-lieved that its successful operation will usher in a new era for the great plain. The importance of this project is more fully realized when it is remembered that the division of the United States known as the great plains comprises 700,000 square miles or over one-quarter of the total area of the whole country. Over a vast portion of this region the of the total area of the whole country. Over a vast portion of this region the mettlers are few and far apart. It is the "short grass" country and is today furnishing forage and grazing for great herds and flocks. West of the 100th meridian the climate belongs to the semi-arid region and general farming without invigation is not successful axwithout irrigation is not successful, ex-

cept in years of unusual and timely rainfall. The history of this section has been marked by a number of disastrous failures, most of which resulted from a nucle of burntleared the allowatte or lack of knowledge of the climatic es-cillation, and from a fever of specula-tion in western mortgages. HOW THE EAST WAS BUNCOED.

During a cycle of wet years agricul-ture was extended far across the plains, the movement being greatly facilitated by companies formed to place loans and take mortgages on real estate. The east was the treasury from which the funds were dream. During the con-tinuance of several years of ample rain-fall the profits of these loan agencies were great, and undence was thrown the profile of these four agencies were great, and prudence was thrown to the winds. A series of dry years and the consecuent failure of crops forced the settlers to abondon theirs farms, and whole countles were practically depopulated. Today here and there on the plains the descried sod house or the substantial farm dwelling framed against a level landscape, lone-some reminders of the pioneers' failure. Occasionally the remains of dozens of structures mark the site of what was once a prosperous to a or county seat. once a prosperous to an or county seat, but what is now only the haunt of the coyote or the gaunt gray wolf. Mort-gages were foreclosed and the makers of loans became burdened with large areas of lands practically valueless. Attempts were made to construct irrigation works to insure crops, but the results as a rule were not successful



(Photographed for the Descret News.) GOVERNMENT IRRIGATION-AIDED COMMUNITY NEAR GARDEN CITY, KANSAS.

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Some of the pioneers is is able to be the interval of the pioneers is is able to be the pioneers is is able to be the ditches failed they sunk whis and irrested from these small fitches were phen-omenal, and sufficed to this many of the farmers over the years of fronth. Farmers over the years of drouth. Farmers of is and so acres in gardens and for this kind not only tenation irrighted from wells now support whole families in comfort. Sys-tematic irrighted for this kind not only tembraces intensive outlituation, small farms and orchards, but it increases and specializes production, calling into play the educated brain and the trained hand and massing the cultivators into

and and massing the cultivators into highly organized communities. The well in Kansas has been a most potent factor in establishing a number of the best communities in the state. of the best communities in the state. These facts are recited to explain why the Garden City project is attracting a public interest greater than would follow the construction of a project of this kind in other sections of the west. The water for this project must be re-covered from the underflow waters of the Arkansas valley, which lie in grav-el deposits existing below the bed of the river. The plans of the government provide for the sinking of several hun-dred wells from which the water will be pumped and discharged into a coe-locting conduit. These wells will be scattered along a line nearly five miles long. long.

BIG PUMPING PLANT.

BIG PUMPING PLANT. The power is generated at a single central plant situated on the railroad, and is then distributed by electricity to the wells. Applications for water under this project have been made by the owners of more than 12,000 acres of land to be benefited and the community is very benefited and the community is very

ecthusiastic concerning the future success of irrigation in the Arkanase valley. One private pumping plant created three private ago in this neigh-borhood at a cost of more than \$2,000 supplied water to 1,000 screas in where. The first crop barrested was in where. The first crop harvested was now more than the original cost of

FAMOUS FOR ALFALFA SEED.

The Garden City country has long been famous as an alfaifa center and the location seems to be especially well adapted to the maturing of the seed erop of alfaifa which has always paid well there. Garden City alfaifa seed brings a high price all over the irri-gated west.

steed west. A sugar factory is now being con-structed at this point and a consider-able acreage has been promised to the factory which will be planted in sugar beets as soon as the project is com-pleted.

The important bearing which the suc-The important bearing which the suc-cess of the project has upon the future of millions of acres of the Great Plains is thoroughly appreciated by the land-owners. Vast areas are still the pro-erty of the railroads and they are giv-ing careful attention to the subject. With the development of numberless maning plants along the broad valleys with the development of numberless pumping plants along the broad valleys of the Plains' streams and the exten-sion of successful Jry farming over areas on higher levels, the Great Plains region will become the home of thou-sands of prosperous farmers.



cluster of roses in

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White Embroidered Dotied Swisses in pin dots, which are in greatest

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163C

24c

32c

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P

PEAU DE SOIE OR TAFFETA COATS-27 inches long, with loose back, full length or elbow sleeve, neatly trimmed with braid, all size



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