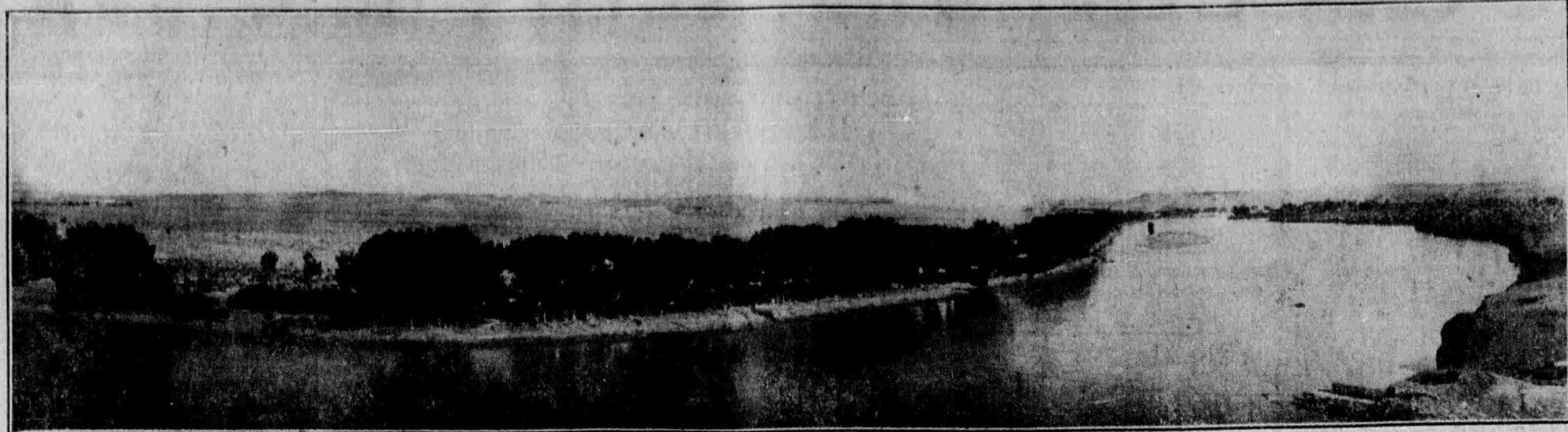


Development of a Great Fruit Growing District in Utah

"W"HEN Horace Greeley said "Go west, young man, go west," he had a little Grande man at his hand and his finger was on that district marked Green River valley," said Mayor Rod McDonald of Green River, Utah, to the Salt Lake newspaper men who spent three days in that district this week. Three days and they saw only a portion of the valley although they traveled from sunup to sundown every day. Carriages, automobiles and boats were all brought into service to show the visitors the new country and then only the richest portion was seen. That portion comprised some 15,000 acres. The whole district extends from a point 25 miles up the river to the San Raphael country to the south, an expanse of soil awaiting but the magic touch of man's hand to become 700 square miles of orchard and farms. Rather extensive? Perhaps, but the figures are conservative at that.

Green river district proper is a continuation of the famous Grand Junction, Fruita and Palouse fruit countries with a few additional attractions. The Colorado and Green river districts have identical soil, identical water advantages, identical shipping facilities, but the Green river has greater climatic advantages because of its lower altitude. This is productive of still other advantages among which earlier crops, mild, warm weather the year around, and absolute freedom from frost are most prominent. Such a thing as frost is unknown in the Utah district; precipitation, even, is remarkably light. It hasn't rained in Green River since October. Green River's winters consist of occasional light rain storms.

Everyone goes around without coats on in February and the dust lies deep in the country roads through the greater portion of the winter season. All of these facts are not taken from any pamphlet or circular or second



GREEN RIVER, UTAH, NOW ENJOYING A FRUIT GROWING BOOM.

tables and fruits are ready for market. The winter crop is no sooner out of the way and the proceeds in the bank than the early crop demands attention again.

The extreme fertility of the soil and the extreme mildness of the climate explain why Green River's past, present and future are all so full of wonderful things. Just a half dozen years ago the town was a railroad hotel, a water tank, a little station with a telegraph outfit on the two-inch plank table and the operator's bunk beneath it and three shooies were roaming had men

Coming back he said to the press boys, "The great handicap to Green River boosters is that they have not been able to tell the truth for fear of appearing reckless with it. To tell all would appear to the ignorant outsider to be playing upon the imagination. Now you boys have seen what there is down there. I advise you to confine yourself to a description of the land under irrigation for to deal with the future would be to put yourselves in a position that Green River residents themselves have tried to avoid. Now, the district is in its first days of infancy. I believe it is such a precious infant that to picture it as it will be in a few years would be to tempt scepticism."

If every man and woman looking for a new country with splendid realization worked out in three years and unlimited promise, the coming years would be "shown," they would be "shown" gladly by the residents of the district. The idea now is to get settlers in, so vast projects can be pushed ahead. With increasing population will come great things. There is plenty of opportunities awaiting thousands of people and with the thousands of people settled in the country the opportunities will be all the more great. "Right now there is 30 miles of canal, the water which flows through this, is watering 12,000 acres of ground. As the land now idle, is taken up the canal will be extended and the pumping plants' power increased correspondingly. And if the government can be brought to realize what a wonderful country there is from a point 25 miles above the town to the San Raphael range on the south 100,000 acres will be irrigated with as much ease as plants and canals built by individual enterprise and with settlers money are now watering 12,000 acres. This is but one of the many plans for the future; it is its past and present that Green river is content to talk about.

EARLIEST SETTLERS.

Latter-day Saints were among the earliest in the valley. They had orchards but did not remain. They were followed 15 years ago by an occasional settler who took up ground from the government and were content to raise for themselves. Frank Cook, one of the oldest residents of the district, told of carrying water a quarter of a mile to his trees and plants and bushes and the coming of the district into its own, has come. Somehow well-to-do ranchers and farmers of such states as Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Indiana and others heard of Green River, Utah, and came west. They brought their hopes, families and a most important requisite in a new country, their money. They have been expending their money during the past three years in building dams and power plants and miles of canal. The day of carrying water a quarter of a mile by arm-power is forever past; today Mr. Cook and others run about their extensive holdings in automobiles to see how the process of ripening is proceeding.

TALKS FOR ITSELF.

The reason Green River, Utah, is just beginning to be given widespread notice throughout the United States is simply this: up to this time the men who were making another and better

Pullaside or Hood River territory out of a wild waste did not care to talk until they had something which would talk for itself. Today Green River, with its splendid residences and modern stores, sings a seductive song into the ears of those who make a visit. To attempt to describe a visit in the columns of a newspaper is as vain a thing as to attempt to scratch the Declaration of Independence on the head of a pin. For this reason the story of the trip the "News" man and others made the first of the week will cover a few of its most noticeable features, only.

Green River is 186 miles east of Salt Lake and 17 miles west of Grand Junction, Colo. The valley is in Grand and Emery counties, and has an altitude of 4,680 feet, the lowest on the Rio Grande between Denver and Salt Lake. It is bounded on the north by the turquoise, Book of Cliffs, on the south by the foothills and breaks of the Green River canyon and on the east and west by rolling shale hills all protecting it from rough antics of elements in high altitudes and on unprotected levels. Its soil is a rich sandy loam from 10 to 30 feet deep, with a gravel subsoil that furnishes excellent drainage. The soil is so mellow that even those stretchers which have never felt the touch of a plow are cut by the wheels of a light wagon. Water from the river deposits a quarter of an inch of rich silt over the valley every year so perpetual fertility is assured. The water supply is furnished by the Green river which at low water could furnish more than enough for 500,000 acres. Fed by springs and melting snow in the mountains the stream is of the best quality and as the ranges here in a process of noticeable disintegration the water is fertilizing to an extreme degree.

IRRIGATION A FEATURE.

In the neighborhood of 7,000 acres are under irrigation on the Green River side of the stream. A dam was built about five miles above the town and a double pumping plant built to raise the water to two heights, 42 feet and 90 feet with a gravity system furnishing still more. The gravity system waters 2,000 acres; the 42-foot lift, 2,500 acres, and the 90-foot lift, 2,500 acres. And in connection with this project, now doing splendid work, the people of Green River tell with pride how a \$100,000 bond issue was snapped up by the eastern company headed by Charles Taft, a brother of William Taft, Republican candidate for president of the United States.

On the east or Elgin side of the river a similar pumping plant with a capacity of 5,000 gallons a minute waters 17,000 acres. And down in Peacharosa, formerly Little Valley, five miles below the Green River and Elgin strips, another pumping plant is waiting 1,500 acres.

HUGE ORCHARDS.

The Green River tract and Elgin strip have seen 2,000 acres of orchards planted in the last two years; over 250,000 trees have been set out and are growing. The whole of Peacharosa is to be set out as fast as possible. Land is being taken up so rapidly that figures on this point cannot be given accurately. Land is selling from \$100 upwards; the price depending upon location and similar conditions. Orchards cost from \$200 to \$1,000. Peacharosa land can be bought at \$1,000 in annual payments of \$50 to be turned over with bearing orchards. All sorts of deals can be made. The bonafide settler of orchardist can get almost any kind of bargain. The district is hardly a poor man's country but the man with some money

and plenty of grit is welcomed and offered inducements over the country's natural and created attractions. Water rights on land under the gravity ditch are paid; on land under the other ditches water costs about \$2 with a small yearly maintenance tax. This, like the land, is largely dependent upon the would-be settler and various circumstances. These matters are secondary considerations; promoters in the new country ask to show settlers their country. "After you have seen, ask about prices," is their motto. At this the promoters are shrewd men for they realize seeing is buying as well as knowing in their country.

GREAT FUTURE.

Green River, Elgin and Peacharosa district—all commonly known as the Green River district—are destined to be the fruit and vegetable centers of the nation's greatest state. Apples, pears, peaches, apricots, plums, cherries, plums and all kinds of vine and bush fruits yield here heavily and they are delicious. Between rows of bush rows of cantaloupes, unexcelled by the famous Rocky Ford melon and watermelons, grow prolifically. The Waldorf Astoria and Rio Grande have been securing the output of melons of Green River, buying at 5 cents a pound, and an acre yields from 30,000 to 50,000 pounds. The melons ripen early and in cold storage keep until the following May. And the Lyon company, a big eastern commission firm, has just made a contract to take the product of 200 acres planted in cantaloupes. A 50-ton ice plant is in operation now. The output of the main line of the Rio Grande. The company is going to build a spur so these shipments may be taken direct from storage to refrigerator cars.

SUGAR BEETS.

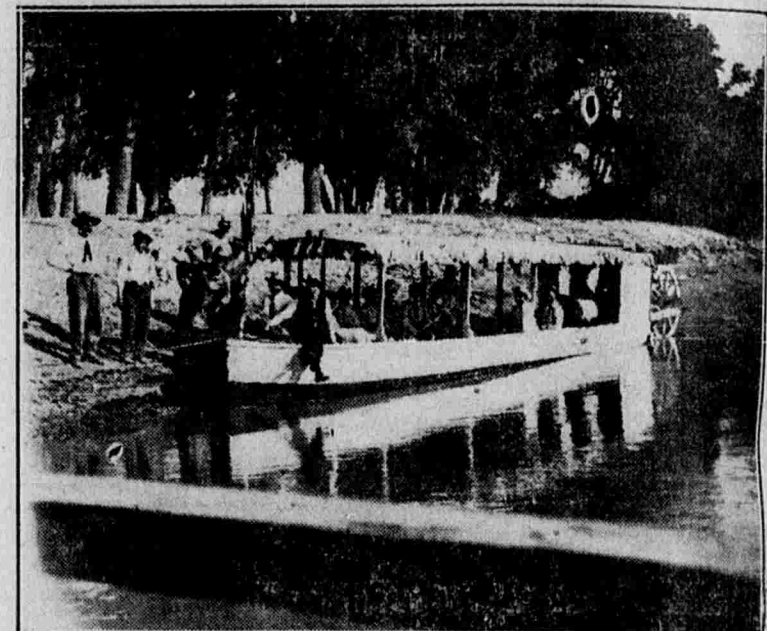
Sugar beets go from 17 to 19 per cent saccharine, according to a test made by Frank Cole, chemist at the experiment station, and from 15 to 25 tons growing to the acre bringing from \$5 to \$5.50 a ton readily make this industry a promising one. Sugar cane, cotton and nuts are raised without trouble in the wonderful valley. So valuable do the Green Riverites consider their land as fruit land that they pay \$15 a ton for hay rather than devote land to raising it. Corn attains perfection and returns from 50 to 75 bushels per acre. It sells for 90 cents shelled. They plant nut trees for shade in Green River and besides getting shade get almonds, English walnuts and other varieties.

MORE FIGURES.

Wheat goes from 40 to 60 bushels per acre and brings 85 cents per bushel. Winter watermelons yield 30,000 to 40,000 pounds to the acre and bring from 1 1/2 to 2 cents per pound. Oats goes 60 bushels to the acre and sells for 65 cents; rye and barley, 45 bushels, and sell at 80 cents. Alfalfa, it was found by the earlier settlers will yield five to six tons per acre and worth \$9 and \$10 baled. Peaches yield from \$500 to \$800 per acre in full bearing. Plums, apricots, pears and nectarines yield as handsome net. Apples bring \$1 per box and the Ben Davis tree, set six years, yields 10 boxes to the tree.

There is one apple tree in a 15-year-old orchard—one of the first planted—that is five feet in diameter, 50 feet in spread and yields 40 boxes every season. Grapes and other bush and vine fruits bring top-notch prices. The great advantage, to repeat a fact, worthy of repetition is the fact that Green River can have its products on the market two weeks earlier than any other district in the west—a big item in high revenue. Livestock does excep-

tionally well and this brings a need up for consideration. There are few cows in the district. Somebody with 10 cows and a desire to become wealthy is going to take ten good milk cows into the district and make a fortune. A thousand quarts of milk can be sold every day there. But these, to the Green Riverites are little things, which must come gradually. The big things are demanding attention now. In a short time the city will have a city water system; an electric light system and other ear-marks of the thoroughly modern city. The people down there are going to get around to these things



WHERE, SOME DAY, BUSY WHARFS WILL STAND ON GREEN RIVER.

just as soon as possible: they will welcome men with brains and money who will start them now. Time is precious at all times but Green River is one of the places where time can't be spent on a thing now unless it is going to yield several hundred per cent. Time is like land, down there, hay is valuable but peaches are more so, so men planting peach orchards haven't land for hay.

Everybody has money in Green River. The deposits in three first days of the town's new bank's life reached \$5,000.

SALT LAKE PARTY.

The party of Salt Lake men who made the trip, which consumed Sunday, Monday and Tuesday comprised: Lloyd Singler of the Peacharosa district and wife; A. F. Phillips of the Tribune and wife; W. P. Mailander, Chicago investor and wife; George L. Geiger of the Deseret Evening News and wife; L. P. Kirby of the Herald; Burl Armstrong of the Republican; Harry L. Youngerman, traveling passenger agent of the Rio Grande, and Ben Nevins, of the Rio Grande's traffic department. A banquet, presided over by Mayor Rod McDonald of Green River and attended by the district's guests and 20 of its leading men was a social feature of the visit. Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. Cooke and other prominent women entertained the visiting women while the banquet was in progress. After the banquet a

dancing party held all at the Opera house. Music was rendered by the B. H. Collier orchestra at the banquet and dance. This musical entertainment is a splendid one and comprises songs by Mr. Collier and wife; Geo. Brown, Jr.; Strauss and Mr. Sheldon. Those who attended and made short speeches at the banquet were:

Green Riverites—Mayor Rod McDonald, G. N. Stevenson, W. H. Pace, Doren Perrine, T. D. Spalding, E. A. Bricker, Thomas L. McCarty, Dr. O. F. Coleman, W. E. Loughrey, E. D. Roberts, Thomas Wimmer, A. D. Lewis.

Salt Lake—A. F. Phillips, George L. Geiger, L. P. Kirby, Burl Armstrong, Lloyd Singler, Mailander, Harry Youngerman.

PEACHAROSA CHRISTENED.

One of the pretty incidents of the trip was the christening of the 1700-acre plot formerly called Little Valley. The entire party went down the river to Little Valley in T. G. Wimmer's little launch, "Marguerite" and Mr. Wimmer, Andrew Wimmer and G. M. Carthy forming an able crew. At the landing Mrs. George L. Geiger broke a bottle of peach brandy, saying, "By this christening I name this valley Peacharosa." Pictures were taken of the party right after the christening.

From the moment of the arrival in the district until the town disappeared around a bend as the train pulled homeward, the visitors were shown every attention that could add to their pleasure and comfort. The whole district stopped its strenuous busy for three days and everyone was a tireless entertainer. As B. Bricker, who handled the ribbons on one of the teams through two days sun and a 80° temperature, said: "There isn't a man in this valley, nor a woman that is not a citizen this state ought to be proud to possess, for I never saw such a fine, hustling lot of people. I visited once and then threw up a profession, so I could be one of them."



JUST AFTER THE CHRISTENING OF "PEACHAROSA," FORMERLY LITTLE VALLEY.

hand in any manner: the townsmen have shown the Salt Lake newspaper men, the writers have seen for themselves. A year ago last February the writer, with a party of others, journeyed down to the district and waded around in—not snow or mud, but dust! Seeds were left in the hotel when trips were made over the country; after several months of ice and snow in this city the weather encountered there was simply magnificent.

PEACHES RIPE.

Salt Lake newspaper men made a second trip this week, as has been mentioned, and found crops well along and other fruits were picked from the trees and found to be luscious; had this year's trip been taken, say, within another month, the visitors would have been treated to cantaloupes, grapes, watermelons and other delicacies. But for that matter the visitor to Green River at any time in the year can go out into the garden and pick his favorite fruit because there are crops for every season. Early fruits and vegetables are being picked two weeks earlier in Green River than in other famous districts and the picking and shipping goes on until the winter veg-

made believe to quench their thirst when in reality they were only encouraging a more reckless one. Three years ago Green River was the home of one hundred settlers with some money and no end of grit. That's the past history of Green River. Today Green River has a population of one thousand settlers who spend evenings in a pretty little theatre and after dances or shows drop down to a modern pharmacy to enjoy a glass of soda water served in just as much style and fancy silver as one sees in effete Boston. The past of Green River saw a few orchards bearing heavily in the middle of thousands of acres of barren land; the present sees thousands of acres planted; the future will see what? The settlers and residents say, "Wait and see!" in three years there has been a growth of 900 per cent or 300 per cent average a year. And the district is now just beginning to grow.

ONE BIG HANDICAP.

Lloyd Sigler, a Chicago man a few weeks ago but now registering from Green River, Utah, was in charge of the party which went from this city to see the country which made the change from bad men's oasis to thriving fruit region in three years.

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