

ABOUT ARIZONA.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES—RAIN-FALL—PASTURE LANDS—STOCK-RAISING.

A correspondent with Lieut. Wheeler's expedition to make explorations west of the one hundredth meridian writes as follows to the New York Tribune—

Arizona presents more variations of altitude, and consequently of facilities for agriculture, than New Mexico. From the Valley of the Rio Grande, which near Santa Fe has an elevation of about 5,000 feet above sea level, west there is a gradual rise for some 300 miles until the summit of the Sierra Madre, having an altitude of 7,500 feet, is reached; thence there is a gradual descent to the Colorado river 400 miles west of the Sierra Madre, the latter river having, in the same latitude as Santa Fe, an elevation of but a few hundred feet above the sea. In the part of the area alluded to, which lies west of the mountains, there is every variety of climate, soil and scenery, depending principally upon comparative altitude.

The amount and time of rainfall is nearly the same here as in New Mexico; and here, also, no agricultural or horticultural enterprise is possible without irrigation. The middle, western and southwestern portion of Arizona—but little above sea level—is one vast desert, and boasts of only two streams (the Mojave is not worth mention), the Colorado and the Gila. The climate and soil on the borders of the Colorado river adapt its valley to the growth of some semi-tropical and nearly all the northern fruits and vegetables, except the apple and the potato. Cotton, sugar-cane, coffee and rice flourish along it; but hitherto the water of the river has not been made available for irrigation, long and costly acequias being required to effect this. Near its exit from the territory of the United States its bottom widens, and the river annually overflows its banks for miles. In ordinary years a vast amount of land could be planted after the receding of the waters to their natural bed, and would produce enormous crops. Some of the bottom lands are already thus cultivated.

The Gila is the most important river of Arizona, from a utilitarian point of view. It rises in the Sierra de Nueva of New Mexico at an altitude of about 5,000 feet above sea-level, thence flows west to the Colorado, a distance of not quite 500 miles, having an average fall in its last 300 miles of five feet per mile, an average width of 60 feet, a depth of three feet and a velocity of two miles per hour. Its banks are low, making it an easy matter to cut from it irrigating ditches, and it already supports a large population of whites and peaceable Indians, and is capable of reclaiming hundreds of thousands of acres of wasted lands. The valley, as well as the hill country on both sides of it, is rich in grass, and would be especially adapted to sheep, were shade trees more plentiful. This river drains a vast extent of country, and the numerous tributaries joining it at an altitude of 2,000 to 3,500 feet above the sea have fine bottom lands, are full of fish and the mountainous country inclosing them abounds in fine grass and timber and grain. The higher, barren mountains running parallel with the Gila are rich in the precious ores and coal, and may attract a large mining population, and thus furnish to the farmer a market near at hand. There is a prospect of the construction of the Thirty-second Parallel Railroad, which for many miles is to skirt the level banks of the river.

The plateaus and mountains of Arizona, comprising about one-sixth of its area, over 5,000 feet above sea level, are very rich in the best wild grasses, and are covered with fine timber, especially the White Mountain country, recently explored and opened to settlement. They are plentifully watered, and offer inducements for settlement by the farmer and stock-raiser, especially the latter. The portion over 7,000 feet high is, perhaps, too cold for winter pasturage, but in two days the stock could be driven to warmer quarters—to the Gila on the west or the Colorado Chiquito on the east. The Colorado Plateau is a pasture-ground of great excellence, hundreds of miles square, but lacks water and lies too high for farming purposes. It is totally uninhabited. Hundreds of springs and a few small

streams can be found which might make their owners the virtual possessors of all that country around them from one spring to another for perhaps fifty miles. Every foot of this great plateau is covered with fine grass and cedar or pine. Not far from the town of Prescott and along the Rio Verde is a very rich farming, grazing and timber country, which has until lately been subject to the depredations of the Apache Mojaves, but is now safe enough for settlement.

Many valuable mines have been worked in different parts of the Territory for many years past, but the depredations of the Apaches have so far prevented the country from assuming any great mining importance.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

In the Senate Jan. 19—

Mr. Mitchell, (rep.) of Oregon, introduced a bill to provide for the construction of the Portland (Oregon) and Salt Lake Railroad and Telegraph line. He said the measure was in the true interest of commerce and was approved by the people of the whole North Pacific coast, without distinction of party. The people of that section were actually suffering for cheap transportation; and the construction of the road would result in a great saving to the government in the transportation of troops, mails, &c.

Mr. Mitchell's bill provides that the proposed extension of the Portland, Dalles and Salt Lake Railroad, from the Columbia River to some point on the Pacific Railroad between Ogden and Kelton, shall be open for the free transmission of the United States mails and government supplies, in consideration of which the United States government is to guarantee the payment of interest on the company's bonds to the extent of \$10,000 per mile. The rates for freight and passenger traffic may be regulated by Congress, and they are in no case to discriminate against any particular class or individual.

By Mr. Hitchcock, (rep.) of Neb.—Granting to the American Fork Railway Company the right of way through the public lands for the construction of a railway and telegraph line from the town of American Fork, on the Utah Southern railroad, via American Fork Canyon and the Sultana Smelting Works, to Little Cottonwood Canyon. Referred to the committee on railroads.

The following is a more readable version of the notice of the Poland Territorial Judiciary Assignment bill, in the House of Representatives, Jan. 21—

Mr. Poland, from the judiciary committee, reported a bill authorizing the legislatures of the several organized territories, except Utah, at each regular session, to make an assignment of judges to hold court in their districts, and when the legislature fails to do so then the judges of such territory shall make an assignment, to continue in force until the close of the next regular session of the legislature. He explained that the exception of Utah was no discrimination, but that there the Governor made the assignment of judges. The bill passed.

—Syracuse (N. Y.) letter carriers are instructed to whistle on approaching houses, that house-keepers may prepare to open the door promptly.

—Economy is said to be carried to such an extent in a town in Michigan that the paper mills have been compelled to suspend operations for want of rags.

—"An old citizen" wishes to inform the public that "there's no use trying to break those iron coal-hole covers by sitting down on 'em." He knows.

—Grace Greenwood says: "It is hardly safe, now-a-days, to name a mountain or a baby after a man till he is dead. He may embezzle or take back pay, or become a railway autocrat; then you'll wish you hadn't done it." Well, if the women never do anything wrong, just name the babies and the mountains after them.

—A couple married themselves at Gidden, Iowa, in the presence of the congregation. They simply announced their intention, and kissed each other. This ceremony is frequently practised at Oakland, but is not here considered legally binding, and is not often performed in church.—Oakland Transcript.

Consumption, Scrofula, Etc.

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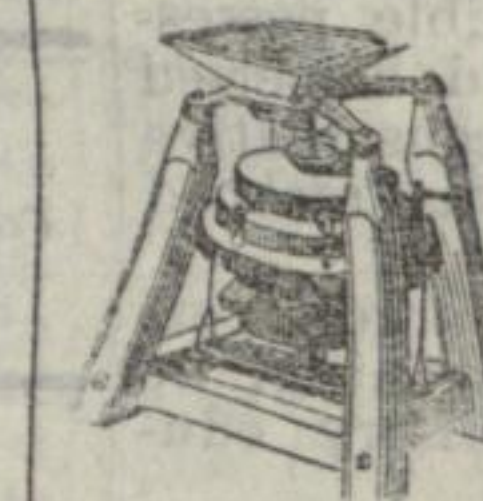
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