

GREATER TEXAS

The Lower Coast Country

and the

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY

Low in Latitude,
Ideal in Climate and
Rich in Resource

A land where the breeze from warm summer seas,
A breath of the tropic brings;
And besides the delight which it makes of the night,
Bears healing on its wings.

"IRON MOUNTAIN ROUTE"



FIRST EDITION

IRON MOUNTAIN ROUTE

"THE WAY TO TEXAS"

TWO Fast Trains operated daily between St. Louis and the leading cities of Texas, via the Shortest Line. No change of cars en route. Through Pullman Standard and Tourist Sleepers, Chair Cars and Day Coaches. "Our Own" excellent Dining Car Service, meals a la carte.

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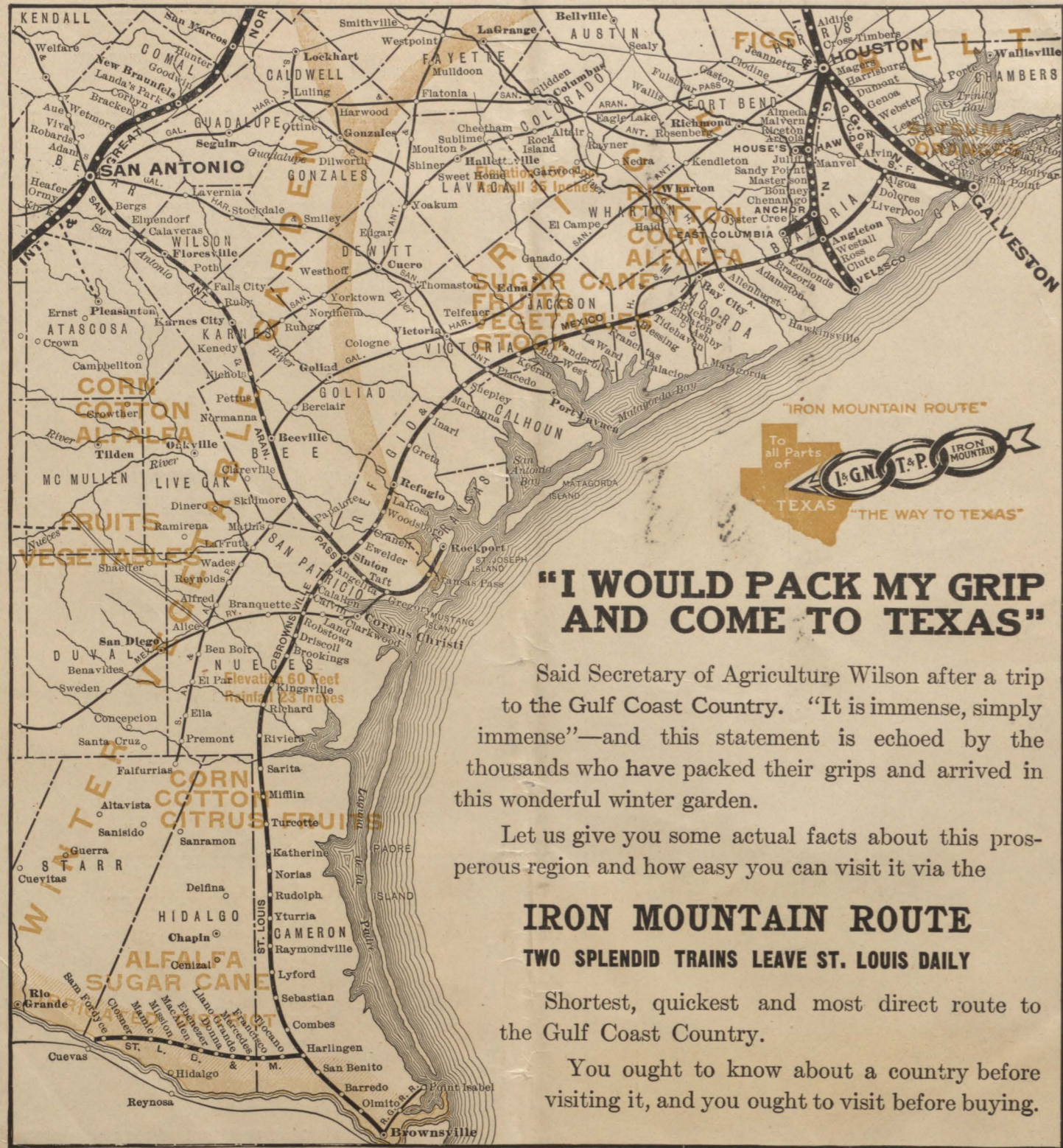
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"THE WAY TO TEXAS"



"I WOULD PACK MY GRIP AND COME TO TEXAS"

Said Secretary of Agriculture Wilson after a trip to the Gulf Coast Country. "It is immense, simply immense"—and this statement is echoed by the thousands who have packed their grips and arrived in this wonderful winter garden.

Let us give you some actual facts about this prosperous region and how easy you can visit it via the

IRON MOUNTAIN ROUTE
TWO SPLENDID TRAINS LEAVE ST. LOUIS DAILY

Shortest, quickest and most direct route to the Gulf Coast Country.

You ought to know about a country before visiting it, and you ought to visit before buying.

"IRON MOUNTAIN ROUTE"



Banana Grove near San Benito, Texas.

South-Westward the Star of Empire takes Its way to Greater Texas, almost the Last, as well as the Biggest and Best Chance, for Pent-Up People.

The boundary lines of Texas embrace, in round numbers, 170 million acres, equal in area and resources to countries supporting ten times the population.

What a variety of soil, surface and climatic condition may be found within the magnificent confines of this imperial commonwealth.

It extends from sea-level to 8,000 feet above; from where frost rarely forms to where snow flies almost every winter; from where a 50-inch annual rainfall removed by drainage to where irrigation is required.

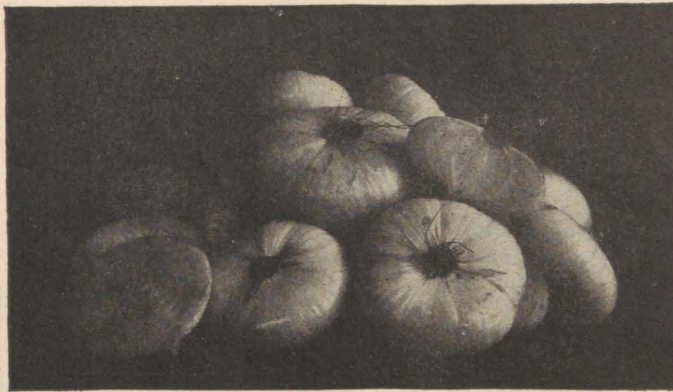
Grasp, if you are sanguine enough, the possibilities in these widely varying conditions, not forgetting that less than 20 per cent of this vast domain is in cultivation.

Who, so hard to please, that he may not find, somewhere in Texas, conditions to his liking?

Why the Rush to Texas?

The reasons are numerous and obvious. They would come, were the inducements greatly less, because as population increases,

"THE WAY TO TEXAS"



Crystal White Wax Onions, Lower Rio Grande Valley.

the unoccupied area of this and other countries is steadily narrowing. A feeling pervades the masses that people with no land, or with not enough to "go 'round" among the family, must bestir themselves to secure homes while values are within their reach. The cry of the cities: "Back to the Farm," but emphasizes the growing tendency to own a portion of the foundation of all value. Verily:

Since the Lord ceased making soil,
Six thousand years of sweat and toil
Have passed away; but don't forget
That He is making people yet.

And beside the limitless resource in fruitful soil, in mine and forest, in genial climate, and other things which render Texas ideal as an abiding place for man, there are yet inducements which place Texas in a class by herself, and about which enough is never said.

Low Taxes and Big School Fund

We refer to our extremely low taxes and splendid free school patrimony in cash and land. Compared with taxation in other States and countries, Texas people, especially Texas country people, do not pay much taxes. The rate is not only extremely low, but the valuation is low; while the tendency is steadily in the direction of a still lower rate. The State rate is only four cents on the \$100, while the county rate of most of the counties is less than \$1 on the \$100, and in many of them as low as fifty cents. Very few of the counties owe any money, while many of them have large cash balances in their treasuries.

Besides the millions of dollars of school money loaned at interest by the State, and besides the millions of acres of school lands, rapidly increasing in value, the counties have large school funds of their own, either in land or in cash realized from the sale of land, the same loaned, and only the interest available for school purposes.

At present the income from the State fund, at interest, permits the annual apportionment of \$6 for each child of school age in the State. Indeed, it is estimated that the time is not far distant

when Texas will send her children to high-class schools nine months of the year, and not pay a cent of school tax. And this matter of low taxes and big school fund interests the tax-payer whether or not he has children of school age.

All of which leads us to believe that, did the few American people, trusting themselves to an alien government in the frigid northwest, only know the truth as to our great State, they would make it unanimous and all come to Texas. That they and everybody else may know the truth is our aim in sending out, by the millions, our little booklets.

An Era of Settlement and Development

The sale of land, minus settlement and development is of no advantage to the railroad, the merchant, the farmer, or any other interest save that of the speculator.

Hence it is that the marked tendency in Texas of late towards peopling the waste places with thrifty home-makers, is most gratifying to all established interests. Even the land-men profit by it, in the sub-division and parceling out of the land in smaller holdings.

And through the agency of the railroads, the press and the promoters, new people, the cream of the citizenship of the older States, are pouring into Texas by the thousands. They are empire-builders, calculated to create the splendid civilization rendered possible by the magnificent extent and matchless resources of Texas.

A phase of the situation most pleasing to patriotic Texans, is the apparent disposition of so many of our Texas land-men, not only to make the country ready for new people, by grading roads,



Products of the Brownsville Country.



Assortment of Winter Vegetables, San Benito, Texas.

digging irrigation and drainage ditches, etc., but as well by coaching the newcomer to win out, on the ground.

Of the great number of people coming to Texas, the Coast Country, teeming with resource and abounding in beauty, is receiving a most generous share. From the railroad stations as centers, at which towns are building, the new homes of the settlers are everywhere seen to dot the grass-carpeted and flower-strewn savannahs of as fair a land as e'er fell finished from the hand of Him who "doeth all things well."

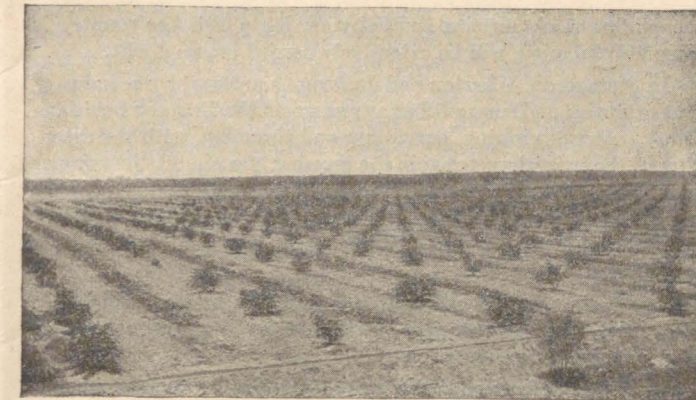
In a prior edition of our Coast Country booklet we attempted to cover the entire Texas Coast Country, from Beaumont to Brownsville. Owing, however, to its vast extent and widely varying conditions, we decided this time to devote a book solely to

The Great Peninsula

Formed by the Lower Gulf Coast of Texas and the lower Rio Grande River, which same, in climatic condition, has not a counterpart in North America, if its equal in excellence may be found upon earth. Florida has as low a latitude, but is more or less swampy, while its atmosphere is humid.

Southern California does not compare with it, either as a winter or summer climate, being rainy in winter, while in summer the nights are chill from air off the nearby snow-clad mountains. Besides, Brownsville, Tex., is some 500 miles further south than San Diego, Cal.

In short, where else on earth may be found, in combination, a low latitude, a sea-air and a dry atmosphere, the latter indicated by the necessity for irrigation? This applies specially to the extreme southern portion of the Peninsula.



Ten Acre Fig Orchard, Mercedes, Texas.

Up the Coast

Between the western half of Matagorda County and the eastern half of San Patricio County there is a strip of country embracing the Coast counties of Jackson, Calhoun, Victoria and Refugio, where, to the eastward or up the Coast, the rainfall ranges, approximately, from 30 to 40 inches, the mean being ideal for purposes of general farming as well as fruit and vegetable growing.

Here, indeed, is a section which should appeal most powerfully to people who would neither drain or irrigate. But it has been discovered, and is filling up rapidly with people from the Middle West, who are "carried away" by its rolling

prairie surface, rich soil, superb climate and other desirable conditions.

Passing down the coast we find a bunch of big counties, like San Patricio, Bee, Aransas, Duval and Nueces, where the rainfall ranges close to about 30 inches. Here farming is carried on safely and extensively, without irrigation, and where, likewise, are found many big and highly successful irrigation enterprises, and where both irrigation and "dry farming" are enormously on the increase.

While we shall have further occasion to mention the glorious region from Bay City to Corpus Christi, here is as good a place as any to say that there is no better stock country in the world, and certainly no territory of equal extent in the West or Southwest where more or better cattle may be found. This section embraces the great King, McFadden, Welder, Ward, Kennedy, Driscoll, Bennett & West, and other ranches, aggregating millions of acres, and most of which at present are being rapidly cut up and sold to the train-loads of home-seekers swarming into that country. However, at the present rate of settlement and development, ranching will soon be a thing of the past in all that region,



Prize-Winning Cabbage, Brownsville Mid-Winter Fair, January 1910.



Cauliflower, Lower Rio Grande Valley.

though fine stock farming and dairying, for which the country is splendidly adapted, will be extensively carried on, no doubt.

In Matagorda, Wharton and Jackson Counties the rice industry is as extensive and successful as anywhere on the Texas or Louisiana Coast. As rice growing, harvesting and threshing, with the exception of the irrigation of rice in the growing, are almost the same as small grain growing in the Middle West, and decidedly more profitable, is doubtless another reason why the wheat-growers of the prairie States take naturally to where rice has come to be a staple crop.

The value of a rice crop, generally speaking, ranges from \$25 to \$50 per acre; but the cases are by no means rare in which as much as \$100 per acre have been realized.

In all the region under treatment, corn, cotton, sugar-cane and other field crops are successfully grown, while the planting of oranges and fig trees is extensive, the success of the citrus fruit industry having been well established.

Speaking of citrus fruits in the Coast Country of Texas, Prof. H. Harold Hume, the well-known citrus expert of Florida, in a report to the Texas Department of Agriculture, after an exhaustive examination of conditions, gave it as his opinion that the industry is not only to be permanent, but highly profitable, being nearer to the world's markets than California, and much earlier on the market.

The Brownsville country may be said to embrace the extreme southern portion of the Peninsula, the lower portions of the counties of Star, Hidalgo and Cameron going to form it, with the city of



Two-year-old Vineyard, Mercedes, Texas.



Alfalfa, 100 Days After Planting, Plummer Place, Mercedes, Texas.

Brownsville away down south, where the Brazo's mouth is kissed by the warm Gulf Stream.

Here is where they put the silt-laden water of the Rio Grande upon the rich soil of the valley, and grow everything regardless. Here is where they grow 30 to 60 tons of sugar-cane to the acre and other things in proportion. Here is where they do not have to grow oranges on wild stock, or import pine apples and bananas. Here is where, last season, they loaded a car of cantaloupes the middle of May, and sold it on track for \$2,400. Here is the land of the great canals, with giant pumps, throwing into them 30,000 gallons a minute. Here is the country you have heard about and read about, and regarding which the wildest dreamer "falls down"

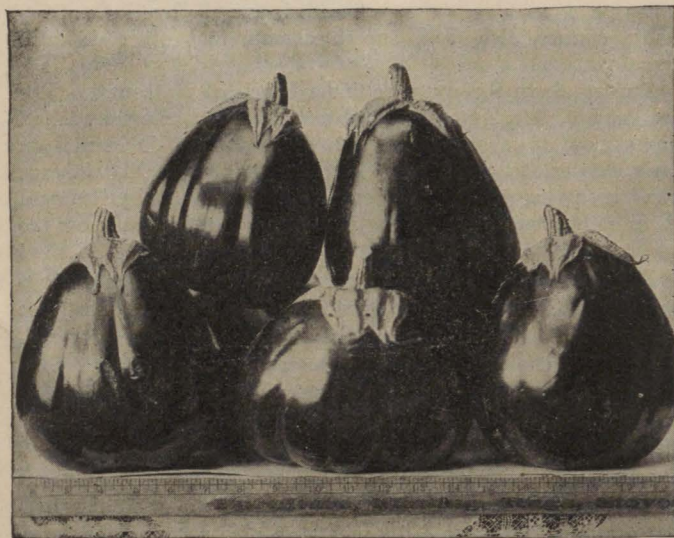
in adjusting his "front sights." More about it on other pages.

A Trip Down the Lower Coast

Along down the Brownsville line, below Bay City, is a vast stretch, further than the eye can reach, of gently rolling prairie land, dark, rich and loamy, which has only begun to be sold for development and settlement. In the counties of Jackson, Victoria, Calhoun and Refugio, neither irrigation or drainage are required, and, with so long a growing season, who can estimate the future greatness of this section?

At Bay City much civic pride is shown by the people, town and country, and they are making a beautiful town and country still more beautiful. The green prairies, the timber belts bordering the streams, and great rice irrigating canals, lend a peculiar charm to that section. The writer saw some Irish potatoes at Bay City, which recently dug, made at the rate of 350 bushels per acre.

At Sinton, the International Land Co. have just begun to sell the 60,000 acres purchased from John Welder, having already run one big excursion, selling nearly every member of it. Their carriage



Egg Plant, San Benito, Texas.



A Coast Country Corn Field.

and horse stock equipment for showing the land looks like a big livery stable. Geo. H. Paul, at the head of this deal, is putting in a 7,000-acre farm and orchard on his own account.

At Corpus Christi, which seems to be headquarters for the promoters who are transforming the lower Texas Coast, things are humming. Even this late in the season the city and country is full of prospectors, and the pleasure-seekers, desiring a breath of the breeze from warm summer seas, and a dip in the waves that wash as fair a strand as e'er was seen in any land, are coming in. Burton & Danforth run a boat between Corpus Christi and their seaside resort at Ingleside, mentioned elsewhere. Really, it begins to seem as if, in a time not far away, our glorious Gulf Coast, as a summer resort, will rival the world; while as a winter resort it will be without a rival on the earth.

The O'Connor Ranch of 70,000 acres, fronting on Matagorda Bay, a fine body of land, is being opened up for settlement. The towns of Port O'Connor and Sea Drift are being pushed and a railroad being built into them, having connection with the Gulf Coast line at Bloomington. It is understood to be among the plans of the promoters to combine the features of farm, orchard and garden development with that of a seaside resort, and the natural conditions present seem to render the O'Connor ranch peculiarly adapted to both. It is the section where the soil is rich, the surface right and the rainfall ample. The opening up of the O'Connor ranch for settlement is a great thing for a great region.

Crops look well all the way down. Above where they irrigate there has been plenty of rain, and while the system of cultivation is not what it should be, generally speaking, corn, cotton and truck crops, at this writing, are coming to maturity in fine shape, corn going into roasting ear stage, while some big fields of cotton near Sinton looked as if the weed was about ready to bloom. Water melons have begun to move in car lots, while some of the

finest cantaloupes ever sent to market were going out by express shipments from a number of stations. Roasting ear corn, as a shipping crop, is getting to be a profitable one for many Coast sections. All the way down, oranges will move by the train-load in a few years, as planting is heavy at many points. When the stuff goes north by rail and abroad by steamer, what a country this will be. How much will the land be worth?

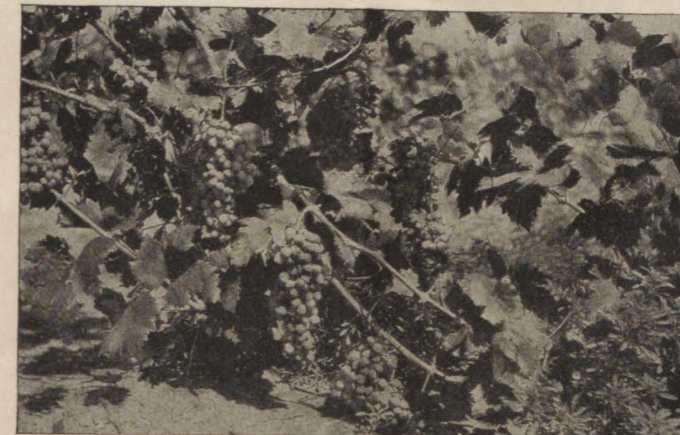
Leaving out the Rio Grande Valley to the west, most of the country between Corpus Christi and Brownsville is a nearly level, prairie plain, with a soil ranging from gray sandy loam to heavy black-waxy, the latter identical with that which has come to be worth \$75 to \$125 per acre in Central Texas. A prevailing type is a rich, dark, sandy loam, highly productive and easy to work.

The towns, being brand new, are as bright as white paint can make them, the buildings being of up-to-date character. This is specially true of those promoted by the large operators doing business in that country. Among the prettiest of these are Sinton, Sarita,

Riviera and Lyford. Around them all, and backing them most substantially, are a lot of thrifty, intelligent country people, growing, besides the ordinary field crops, such high-priced stuff as onions, watermelons, cantaloupes, cabbage, tomatoes, etc., and getting these things on the markets in the winter or early spring, values are obtained for them running into hundreds of dollars per acre often.

The beautiful young orange and fig groves coming into bearing at an age so young as to be almost beyond belief, portend an industry which promises to be over-shadowing in its magnitude.

The City of Kingsville, the metropolis of the great plateau between the Gulf and the "Bravo" is worthy of special mention, its



Grapes—10 Acre Vineyard, Two Years Old May 25, 1910.



Prize Winning Cauliflower, Brownsville Fair.

growth from bare prairie to a city numbering its population by the thousands, being typical of the mighty wave of progress in development and settlement which is rolling over the Empire State of the Great Southwest.

They have just completed a \$30,000 schoolhouse at Kingsville. You may easily imagine the rest.

While speaking of the upland towns I should like the impression to become fixed that they are backed by both irrigation and "dry" farming. At Raymondville I saw some of the finest tomatoes and other truck crops grown by irrigation upon the lands of a new colony promoted by the Gulf Coast Irrigation Co. There were also some fine large melons grown without irrigation.

I did not stop at Lyford, but in passing liked the looks of things. The Gulf Coast Irrigation Co., operating there and at Raymondville, have made a fine showing at and around both places. Elsewhere will be found a letter to the Company from a new-comer, a Missourian, Mr. A. L. Zimmerman, which affords some information on soil and climatic conditions upon the beautiful plateau between the Gulf and the river.

Brownsville and the Brownsville Country

Is in a class by itself, and the people down there gave the writer to understand that. In this book it would please them to have it treated that way, insisting that it is "different from every other country on earth."

They say the climate is incomparable, winter or summer, with that of anywhere else; that, to say the soil is richer than the valley of the Nile is not hyperbole, and that every time they put the silt-laden waters of the Rio Grande River upon the land they make it richer.

If they had started irrigation development with a few experienced irrigators, who did not have to learn how, it would have been better for the country and the people who came later and had to learn. But while many of them use too much water, and try to make the water do it all, they are learning, and at the same time show astonishing results in yield and cash returns.

I saw a man at San Benito, whose tomato patch looked like the seed had been sown broadcast and that it had been watered by the "flooding" system, and yet it kept two hands busy nearly all the time picking "toms." There was only a quarter of an acre, and he



Orange Tree; Mercedes, Texas.

told me that from it he had sold over \$100 worth, and they were still gathering the splendid fruit.

In time, the Brownsville country will support a very dense population, as so little land is required: (1) Because it is so fertile; (2) because they "make their seasons," and (3) because the husbandman may have something growing the entire twelve months.

In time, indeed, under the intensive system sure to prevail, it will be among the highest valued land in the world.

At San Benito, Harlingen, Mercedes, Mission, McAllen, Dona and other points, are thousands of acres under irrigation, supplied by great canals connecting with the river.

They furnish, moreover, fine examples of how quickly that magical combination of soil and climate and water and brain builds cities, churches, schools, hotels and phone systems, city and rural.

The new office of the San Benito Land and Water Co. would be a credit to any city.

Among the new enterprises under way in the San Benito country is a 2,000 acre sugar plantation and a sugar factory. The writer saw one field of 320 acres of cane, shoulder-high, the 7th day of June.

A ride among the orchards, gardens and fields of the San Benito section even now sets one to wondering at the evidences of its capabilities for diversification. And yet they will get money out of crops of which they do not even dream at this time; because everything grows there. Everything? Well, try to think of something they can't grow in the valley. I saw some broom corn growing there, the brush of which was rather too long for broom-making, owing to the richness of the soil. Mr. Frazier, who took me round, explained that this difficulty could be obviated by planting thicker, which gives a hint as to the possible yield.

While I was at Mission the first mature corn in the United States was harvested. It was from a 65-

acre field on the Newhouse-Decke farm, and the date was June 10th.

Speaking of Mission, I was there about a year ago when the hotel was about the only start for a town. Now I should say there are at least a thousand people, beside the country people close around.

On the side of the town away from the river was a wilderness of brush covering a ridge, with nothing to show development but some white stakes. Col. Conway took two or three Illinois farmers

and the writer out that way in his buzz-wagon, telling us he was going to put the water over that "raise." One of the Illinois fellows said to me on the side: "He'll never do it." You ought to see it now. To begin with, the town is built out to the "raise," and beyond is as fair a farm scene as any country can show. They were loading cantaloupes from the biggest "cant" field I saw on the trip.

Col. Wm. J. Bryan is improving his 160-acre farm at Mission for a winter home. He is an able and enthusiastic booster for this delightful region.

At Mercedes, McAllen and other places, there is the same growth of town and development of country backing for the town. Perhaps as good an example of the kind of home one can have in that section is found in that of Capt. W. A. Fitch, at Mercedes, mention of which is made elsewhere. The home of Captain Fitch also affords a hint as to the possibilities of diversification, where they "make the seasons" to suit, and where things grow all winter.

The time I was down in the great Peninsula a year ago, there were a train-load of northern people in there prospecting. Many of them made investments, and are happy. Many did not, and it would be interesting to see them back there and hear their comments upon the things that have happened. And things have only begun to happen. If land in the country intrinsically is worth \$500 to \$2,000 per acre anywhere in the world, where is it worth more than in the great section treated in this book? By "intrinsically" I mean measured by the cash returns that come out of the ground.

A Few Results at Mission

From 43 acres, Ed. E. Dustin and associates got 34 cars of onions, netting on an unfavorable market \$15,396.40. The 34 cars paid \$1,320 commission, \$2,900 for crates, and \$8,291.79 freight. They followed same season with corn, getting a good crop.

George Ferdolf produced 11½ carloads of cabbage from 9 acres, more than a car to the acre; total production, 227,000 pounds, and received from \$1.10 to \$2.20 per 100 pounds, making \$4,000, or \$444 per acre. He has 60 acres in cabbage this year at Mission.

Mr. Charles Volz, of Mission, Tex., gives the following statement of the yield and return on one acre of land planted in celery. It

yielded 410 crates at an average of 95 pounds per crate, which sold for \$1,979.80 gross, and after deducting expressage, commission crates, expense of growing, harvesting, etc., of crop, left a net of \$1,625.00.

Mr. Volz this year has 80 acres planted in celery, cabbage and field crops at La Lomita Ranch, and from the appearance of his crop the yield will be enormous.

Until September, 1907, the La Lomita tract was wholly undeveloped, since which about 6,000 acres have been sold, and about 2,000 acres are now under cultivation and producing results that are in the highest sense gratifying, and the new and thriving town of Mission will have 500 carloads of produce shipped from that station this season.

The time necessary to mature a crop of beans is only nine weeks in Hidalgo County.

O. M. Wakeman planted nine acres in beans. He harvested 1,385 bushels, which he sold at 95 cents per bushel, the profit being \$1,036.75, or \$115.19 per acre.

Mr. C. S. Taylor, of Mission, purchased five acres of La Lomita ranch lands, and in September, 1908, planted one and one-half acres to beans, and shortly after planting them went away on other business.

During his absence his beans matured and he instructed a neighbor to have them marketed.

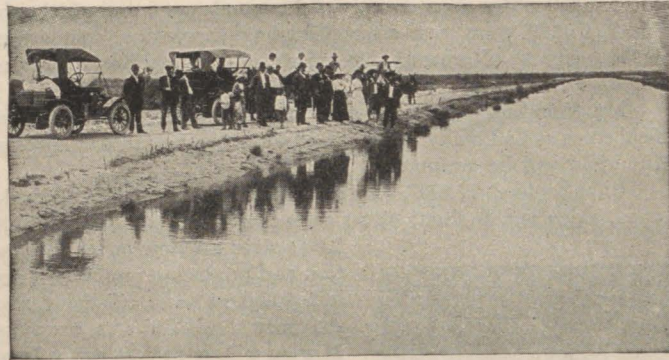
When he returned to Mission, December 1st, he was very agreeably surprised to learn that his one and one-half acres of beans had produced 178½ bushels, and had sold at an average price of \$2.25 per bushel net to him, aggregating \$391.62.

When it is realized that this crop was planted, grown and marketed during the three months of October, November and December, and realized at the rate of \$261 per acre, or \$130 per month, for the time they were being grown, some idea of the possibilities of lands surrounding Mission, Tex.,

on La Lomita Ranch may be understood.

The City of Brownsville

Blessed with so delightful a climate, accessible to the sea and backed by so rich a country, Brownsville is naturally making the growth and assuming the importance to be reasonably expected from such environments.



William Jennings Bryan Inspecting the Irrigation Canal at Mission, Texas.

A number of other things conspire to make certain that Brownsville is destined to occupy a commanding position among our border cities. Not the least of these are the new International bridge giving connection with Matamoros, across the river, the U. S. Government Military post and the U. S. Department of Agriculture Experiment station located there.

At present Brownsville is enjoying a period of most rapid growth. As indicating the extent of this we need only mention that there is under contract, under construction, or just completed, an auditorium, an opera house, two new bank buildings, eight large new brick business houses, besides a great many fine residences. A \$350,000 hotel is planned, and certain to be built within a year. There are also imminent developments in the way of street car system, pleasure resorts, etc., which will add much to the future greatness of Brownsville.

The City of Corpus Christi

Corpus Christi is one of the most charmingly located cities on the Texas Coast. It overlooks Corpus Christi Bay, one of the most delightful bodies of water in the world.

The city has more than doubled its population in five years, while its bank deposits in the same time have grown from \$300,000 to \$2,000,000; its post-office receipts from \$8,354 to \$23,713. Property values, meantime, have more than trebled.

The U. S. Government Engineers have discovered that Corpus Christi Bay has harbor advantages of commanding importance, while the Government, at an expenditure of only \$123,750, has created a channel, 8½ feet deep and 75 feet wide, from deep water into the Bay, which accommodates a considerable shipping trade, assiduously fostered by a progressive business community.

Corpus Christi is headquarters for many of the great land development companies operating in Texas, which makes of the delightful little city a distributing point for the swarms of in-coming people, converting the great ranches, lying back from the coast, into farms, orchards and gardens.

As a pleasure resort for both winter and summer sojourn, Corpus Christi grows in popularity from year to year, while her facilities for caring for the tourists keep even pace.

Things Done in the Corpus Christi Country

Lyman Brewer got \$1,200 from six acres of cucumbers, sold in May; \$93 per acre from three acres of sweet corn, sold in April;



Canal at Mission, Texas.

\$90 from a third of an acre of spuds, sold in March, and \$130 per acre from beans, sold in April. And these were only first crops, coming off before the northern trucker planted.

C. H. Trott sold \$1,100 worth of cabbage and tomatoes from an acre of ground in ten months—two crops. The same man got \$3,500 from 35 acres of cabbage.

Tom Wheyland got \$200 per acre from cucumbers, and \$100 per acre from onions.

R. E. Turner got \$700 from two acres of tomatoes.

J. G. Gode got over \$1,000 from 12 acres planted to onions, cucumbers, cabbage and cotton.

J. H. Osborn got \$1,955 from 30 acres of cotton without irrigation.

Ed. Markins got \$930 from 5 acres of cucumbers, and \$1,650 from 15 acres of cabbage.

We could give you 20 pages of such results in the great section tributary to Corpus Christi, but what's the use? And if anybody doubts that such things are done right along in that country, let us know, and we'll back them by affidavits made by people who have no land to sell.

By the way, what is that land worth, measured by the usual test, namely: What comes out of it?

Leave It to Him

There is in East Texas, record of 453 bushels of potatoes per acre, netting \$350; 500 gallons of ribbon-cane syrup, worth 50 cents per gallon; two bales of cotton per acre, and 70 bushels of up-land corn; an acre of tomatoes netting \$600 and an acre of strawberries the same.

There is record in the Houston-Galveston country of \$1,400 per acre from oranges; \$400 per acre from figs; \$700 per acre from strawberries, and \$100 per acre from rice.

There is record in the Rio Grande Valley, near Laredo, of 800 crates of onions per acre, netting a dollar a crate, and lower down the valley, sixty tons of sugar cane per acre, while the first car of cantaloupes, loaded the 15th of May, sold on track at \$2,400.

It is fair to print these facts as showing the possibilities, taking for granted that no one would have little enough sense to come to Texas with the idea he was going to get such results for a regular thing.

If, in East Texas he should get \$200 per acre out of tomatoes or strawberries, \$100 out of ribbon cane, or \$50 net out of an acre of potatoes, following, same season, with a half to three quarters of a bale of cotton per acre;

Or, if he should, down about Houston, realize \$300 to \$400 per acre from Satsumas, a hundred or two from figs, and \$40 to \$50 per acre from rice, and \$200 to \$300 per acre from strawberries;

Or, if down on the Rio Grande, he should sell a few acres of onions for \$300 to \$500 per acre, get 30 tons of sugar cane, and net a hundred or two dollars per car for watermelons, or get \$500 to \$1,000 per car net for "cants," considering what the land costs him, and what he gets out of land "back home," that is worth (?) a lot more money, would he have a kick coming? Leave it to him.

Alfalfa on the Lower Coast

From Bay City, down say half-way to Brownsville, alfalfa is a success on black land, without irrigation. Lower down the coast, upon black up-land, or the alluvial lands of the Rio Grande Valley, alfalfa is a great irrigated crop. In both sections it is cut five to eight times in a season, a ton to the cutting, and sells as high as \$20 per ton.

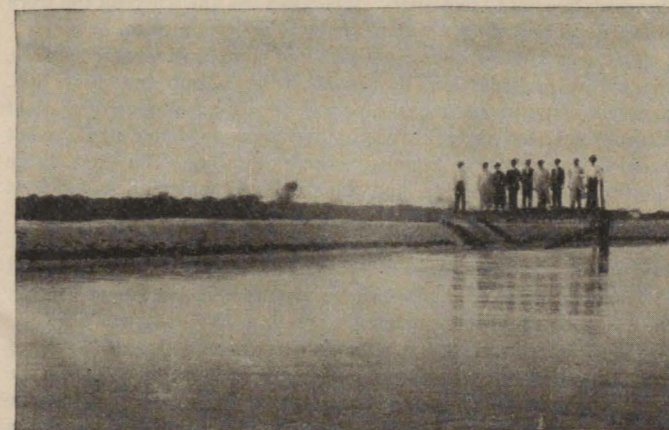
And while it is hardly to be supposed that such values would always prevail in the face of the steadily increasing acreage, no one should doubt that this great legume will continue to be highly profitable as a market crop, to say nothing of its possibilities in stock-farming.

To alfalfa growers everywhere, the lower Texas Coast should appeal most powerfully. With plenty of lime in a rich black soil, and good drainage, the great peninsula is ideal for the production of this king of the forage crops.

While we do not mean that all the land is black or adapted to alfalfa, millions of acres of it are just that. Nor do we mean that there are not soils on the lower Coast other than black which are adapted to alfalfa. For instance, there are no better lands for alfalfa than the chocolate soils of the Colorado, Brazos and Rio Grande Valleys, alfalfa is one of the many things operating to make greater a great country.

Delay is Costly

Besides the enormous crops of rice and sugar and corn and cotton, the Coast Country has shown hundreds of dollars per acre from cabbage, melons, cantaloupes, tomatoes and other orchard and garden products.



Reservoir, Mission, Texas.

Oranges pay enormous profits, \$1,000 per acre being the record, with \$500 to \$600 per acre, not out of the usual. From Bay City to Brownsville will be in orchard and garden and dairy farm and poultry yard in ten years. North and east land values have about reached the limit. Therefore, when people there come prospecting to Texas, like the country, and are offered land to suit them at a given price, it seems hard for them to see why they can't come back in six weeks or six months, and buy the same or similar deal for about the same money; and hence, they are in no hurry to get back. One often hears them, on their return, grieving over what the delay has cost them.

Satisfying themselves as to what lands, under such conditions will do—are doing, in fact, does it not seem that the prospector would at least expect these lands to advance up to the maximum value of lands "back home" under less favorable conditions, and in net cash results yielding less? But they do not so reason often, or they would come prepared to buy, or get back to Texas quicker, after they come to agree with us that it is about the last and best chance for a home or an investment.

What's the Land Worth?

The following from the Brownsville Daily Herald gives the seeker after information about Texas a pointer on the fertility of the lower Rio Grande Valley which will open his eyes. Think of over fifty tons to the acre; seems incredible, but it is true, and without fertilization:

Thos. A. Jackson, the premier sugar-cane raiser of the valley, has 75 acres of cane this year which he thinks will produce a heavier yield even than last year. Last year Mr. Jackson's cane won first prize wherever shown in the United States, and his entire crop averaged 43 tons per acre. One piece of 12 acres averaging 50½ tons per acre.

In the Beeville Country

They get big money out of other things than oranges in the Beeville Country:

Egg plant in this vicinity has paid as much as \$500 per acre.

A farmer near Beeville received \$900 from one acre of cauliflower. Mr. Rankin, another farmer in the Beeville district, which



Main Canal, Mercedes, Texas.

"IRON MOUNTAIN ROUTE"

"THE WAY TO TEXAS"

is forty miles farther north than Camada Ranch, made \$5,000 above all expenses on garden truck last year on his farm of 25 acres.

Charles Voltz last year cleared \$1,025 per acre on celery which he put on the market in February.

Fortunes are being made by those engaged in raising these crops, most of which are produced in the winter months when they are without competition on the markets. These winter crops, together with strawberries and melons, pay from \$150 to \$900 per acre.

Pecan and Palm Groves

Besides bananas, pine-apples, oranges, lemons and olives, which have been grown with success in the lower valley of the Rio Grande, latterly some interesting and successful experiments have been made with the date palm. Recent issue of the Brownsville Daily Herald contains the following interesting reference to pecan and palm groves:

Harvey C. Stiles, of Raymondville, the well-known horticulturist, who was in Brownsville last week, visited the Rowson palm grove in company with E. F. Rowson and C. H. Erwin, two of the company

that recently purchased control of that property. It is understood that the owners of the grove are considering the planting of a considerable acreage of pecans on their property, which includes over two hundred acres in addition to the land actually included in the grove, which latter is said by Mr. Stiles to be the most valuable palm grove in America, and the only one of its kind, the Sabal Mexicana, in this country. Mr. Stiles also went to San Juan with J. C. Kelly to figure upon the planting of pecans upon the property of the latter.

Observe the Date

Special Telegram to the Express.

HARLINGEN, Tex., May 26.—The first car of Texas-grown water-melons was shipped from this point today. They were grown by J. L. Adams and were sold by Snavelly & Wetmore, sales agents for the Farmers' and Truck Growers' Association at 60 cents each f. o. b. tracks here.

These melons were grown on a farm away from irrigation canals, on the principle of dry farming, and are extra choice in size and quality.

Fig Culture in the Gulf Coast Country

R. H. BUSHWAY, before State Horticultural Society.

With the possible exception of the Satsuma orange, there is no fruit that is attracting so widespread attention from the horticulturists and fruit growers, generally, as the Magnolia fig.

This fig is little short of a wonder; in fact, is a freak among fruits. Cuttings planted in nursery rows in March will ripen fruit in September or October; large, perfectly developed, and as fine as any fig in the world. In September the writer has counted thirty-two figs on a tree grown from a cutting planted the previous March.

No irrigation is needed. This section has 45 inches of rainfall a year. Nor has the fig ever had any insect to bother it in this locality. The figs begin to ripen in July and last three or four months. The fig grows best in this district on account of it being what is known as the humid belt.

Well drained land should be selected, preferably black sandy loam; it must be reasonably rich. After thorough preparation throw up in beds 15 feet apart; this raises the line whereon the trees are to stand and gives a water furrow to assist drainage.

Commercial fig-growing in Texas is of comparatively recent date, the oldest orchards on the coast being about ten years old. However, experiments cover a period, to my knowledge of at least fifteen years, but it took at least five years to demonstrate what variety would prove commercially profitable. The first large plantings were of Celeste, and the results have demonstrated that it is not to be compared with the Magnolia.

No other variety that has been tried is as valuable as the Magnolia. Orchards four or five years of age have paid in the past two seasons from \$200 to \$400 per acre per season, depending on the methods of pruning and culture.

The Magnolia fig bears only on the new wood or the tips of wood of the last year's growth. The orchardist must produce the greatest amount of wood in the shortest possible time. All of the current year's growth of wood is cut off with the exception of six to eight inches. Following this treatment of pruning the orchards

are given the most intensive culture, and the growth should be aided by one or two pounds of fertilizer per tree. This fertilizer should be strong in nitrogen and potash.

Its methods of planting, culture, pruning, etc., are the results of twelve years of actual experience, during which time it has carried on elaborate experiments in determining what was best. The orchards are all planted to Magnolia figs, set 12½ feet in the row, and the rows 15 feet apart. The soil runs from black to sandy, and the trees thrive on all the land. One-year-well-developed trees are planted, the roots pruned and the tops cut back to within 16 inches of the ground. The tree is then planted by throwing out a spadeful of soil, inserting the tree and trampling the earth firmly. Cultivation starts as early in the spring as conditions will permit. The first work is to give a good plowing, throwing the dirt to the trees. The balance of the season the work is done with an extension cut-away harrow or ordinary drag harrow. These are run over the ground often enough to keep down all vegetation and to keep the ground covered with a fine dust mulch. No tree with which I am familiar responds so readily to thorough cultivation as the fig.

How about a market for an increased production of figs?

The Magnolia fig crop is disposed of in several ways; most of them going to preserving plants, which are at present unable to supply the orders they have. The Pullman Company has a large sale for preserved figs in small individual glass jars, and the railroads are using the same in their dining cars, though, to tell the truth, the business is just started. A small proportion of the figs are shipped fresh to points north, but this requires crates and more care and worry, though the returns are larger. Were every man in sound of my voice today to plant a 10-acre fig orchard in the next sixty days, and was every acre so planted to thrive and yield heavily, the total production would not supply the demand in Texas alone. There are now five preserving plants in and around Houston, and, so anxious are they for the fruit that we already have two bids on our next year's crop, which will not be ready to gather before the first of next August.

The cost of a fig orchard at the present date, if the owner has all of the work done by others than himself, will be as follows:

Land, say \$40 an acre.....	\$40.00
Preparation—several plowings, disking and harrowing.....	15.00
The first cost is therefore.....	\$55.00

The land goes through a sort of rotting process, necessary to get the best results, for this land, though very rich, has been trod upon for years by thousands of cattle, and it requires more than one plowing to subdue it. After rotting during the fall and winter, it is plowed again, which cost is included above.

Cost of 193 trees, enough for an acre, at 12 cents.....	\$23.16
Labor of planting.....	3.47
Planting should be done in March. The orchard should be cultivated throughout the summer, which, with the necessary pruning, will cost about.....	20.00
Making a total cost of acre, including land and labor.....	\$101.63

This brings us up to the end of the first year.

The second year's product of one orchard was sold for \$45 an acre; the third year for \$97. This year's crop, now being gathered, will bring about \$125 an acre, making a total gross revenue of \$267 per acre up to date, and the orchard will not be four years old until next March.

Rather a good investment, as this crop is sold under a contract for five years at \$60 per ton in bulk, delivered at the factory, being the price, generally, paid by the preservers.

Mr. Bushway has the following to say in relation to fig preserving:

"Two years ago I went to see the large preserving companies in the east, taking some samples of the preserved Magnolia figs with me. These figs were opened and tested by a number of people connected with these various preserving companies, and every one, without an exception, declared they were the finest preserves they ever tested.

"The result of this trip was that one preserving company asked me if I would contract to supply it with from 500 to 1,000 dozen gallons, as a trial order. Just think of it! One thousand dozen gallons—that was more Magnolia figs than was in the United States at that time. Of course, I had to refuse the order, but I told them that some day I would have the goods for them, and within ninety days of this offer I had 50 acres more planted, and this year myself and associates will plant more than 200 acres.



Cucumbers, Lower Rio Grande Valley.



Bananas on the Fitch Farm, Mercedes, Texas.



Corn and Beans, Mission, Texas.

"While there are preserving companies offering to buy the product of your fig orchard, they do not seem properly equipped to handle this product as it should be handled, and the price paid is too low. Instead of getting 3 cents a pound, for our fruit by selling it fresh, we can put it up in form of preserves and get from 10 cents to 15 cents a pound.

"No large acreage is required to supply a modest plant. If the farmers of any community will plant from 25 acres up, they will have enough to justify putting in their own preserving works and placing the finished product on the market.

"There is no secret about preserving figs, as any housewife can put them up, and the samples I took east were preserved in my kitchen.

"Every fig-grower should have an orange orchard; they are planted the same distance, cultivated in exactly the same manner,



Coast Country Figs Photographed on May 15th.

but the crop matures at a different time. Your figs are gone by November and your oranges begin to ripen."

Observe the Date

DONNA, Tex., May 12.—Otto Green, one of the Donna canal farmers, is wearing the smile that won't come off. He claims the honor of shipping the first cantaloupes to the market from any locality this season. Not having standard cant crates, he sent the first in baskets. These sold for \$5.00 per basket on the Houston market.—*Brownsville Daily Herald*.

Cabbage is King

Cabbage is still king in the lower Rio Grande Valley, and a king that seems bent on making a shipping record that will take some beating next spring. During the past week, 58 cars were iced at the People's Ice Plant and shipped from various points in the valley loaded with good green cabbage. Compared with the corresponding week last year this shows an increase of 42 cars.

To date, shipments of iced cars for the season totals 618, just two more than twice the number that had been shipped at this time a year ago.

The price is still good for this season of the year, good stock bringing \$25 per ton.—*Brownsville Daily Herald*, May 12.

Beans in the Rio Grande Valley

They are constantly adding to diversity crops which bring money into the Valley. Beans is the latest of the new crops for that section, as witness the following from the *Brownsville Herald*:

Over 400 acres of beans known on the market as California Pinks are now being prepared for market at Mission.

"Elmer Anderson, of Mission, the chief promoter of the bean industry in the Valley, received Wednesday a bean thresher, cleaner, grader, polisher and dry kiln, and expects to be able to furnish a much higher grade article, not only in food value, but a better looking and better finished product than can be had from the West today. Samples furnished local dealers by Mr. Anderson today more than substantiate this statement.

"Beans intended for food purposes only, are kiln dried to prevent destruction by weevil, but these beans would be unfit for seed, the high drying temperature killing the plant germ.

"There is no better market for Pinks than the Rio Grande Valley itself. Last year Brownsville and vicinity used over thirty cars. Today's market quotes Pinks at 7½ cents per pound in carload lots, f. o. b. California. At present prices this Valley has spent nearly \$150,000 in California for this frugal fare in the past year. From now on, however, we may expect to have 'bean porridge hot, bean porridge cold,' or beans in any manner or quantity, for ourselves and other sections of the United States as well as Mexico. It means \$150,000 a year in the pockets of Rio Grande Valley farmers at the rate of about \$160 per acre.

"We can raise two crops to California's one. The second crop will be planted the middle of August and requires 80 days to mature. Each crop will average 20 bushels per acre, although some Mission farmers are going to get much better results. Haman Bros. have twenty-five acres that will run 30 bushels. Elmer Anderson has

35 acres that are considerably above the average, and T. P. Hurt has 50 acres that are very good. A number of farmers in other parts of the Valley have smaller areas planted in Pinks.

"Rio Grande Valley Pinks will hereafter exert quite an influence on the bean market of the country. From the quality we are now producing, top prices may be expected.

Alfalfa in the Brownsville Country

October 9, 1909.

After seven years of growing alfalfa in Nebraska I moved to Texas one year ago, and have been raising alfalfa at San Benito since December 15, 1908. Up to October 9, 1909, I have cut my alfalfa six times. I sold it all at \$17.00 per ton, baled, in my field. The last cutting developed over a ton to the acre. I consider that alfalfa at San Benito can be made a distinct success, and feel certain it is more profitable here than in the Northern States.

(Signed) CHARLES BARBER,
San Benito, Tex.

Sugar-Cane in the Rio Grande Valley

Mr. E. A. Pharr, an extensive sugar planter of Louisiana, has become interested in the growing of sugar-cane in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, and in an address there recently, said:

"We expect great things from your climate and soil. I believe you are far ahead of Louisiana as to climate, and your irrigation is a tremendous favoring factor over our sixty to eighty-inch rainfall, which usually comes when we don't want it. I don't believe it will cost you more to irrigate than it does us to drain."

Mr. Pharr then asked for some figures on the yield of valley plantations, and was told of T. A. Jackson's average of 50 tons per acre on 12 acres and 45 tons per acre on 42 acres, and the Piper Plantation yield of more than 30 tons per acre on 250 acres. Mr. Pharr said he has seen 42 tons cut per acre in Louisiana, and 50 tons have been produced, but he would not like to talk in these figures outside the family.

Rio Grande Valley between Harlingen and Sam Fordyce

A writer from the Rio Grande Valley region, between Harlingen and Sam Fordyce, which section is being rapidly developed by the installation of large irrigation plants, enumerates the various crops grown hereabouts as follows:

"Alfalfa, seven to ten tons per acre; corn, thirty-five to forty bushels per acre (two to three crops a year); cotton, three-quarters to one bale per acre; sugar cane, thirty-five to forty tons per acre; beans (dry shelled), twenty-five to thirty bushels per acre per crop (two or three crops a year); truck crops, such as onions, cabbages, tomatoes, watermelons, cantaloupes, Irish potatoes, lettuce, cauliflower, winter beets, carrots, etc., all grown in the winter months in advance of other competing sections, insuring the highest market price. The staple crops can be grown on the same ground, the same season, after maturity of the winter truck crops, insuring two or three crops a year. It is 400 miles further south than Southern California, with thirty degrees cooler



Irrigating Cabbage, Lower Rio Grande Valley.

summers and warmer winters, four weeks earlier seasons and 1,500 miles nearer the markets. Average mean temperature, 72.8 degrees. Absolute freedom from malaria."

Paid for Land in Five Months

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX.—I bought twenty acres of land in January 1907, paying \$75 per acre for same, and made enough money to pay for said land by June 1, 1907, and had money left. Planted six acres in cucumbers February 25th, and was through marketing same by May 20th, realizing \$1,200 off the six acres.

Planted three acres in sweet corn February 20th, and put roasting ears on the market in April. The three acres of corn brought me an average of \$93 per acre.

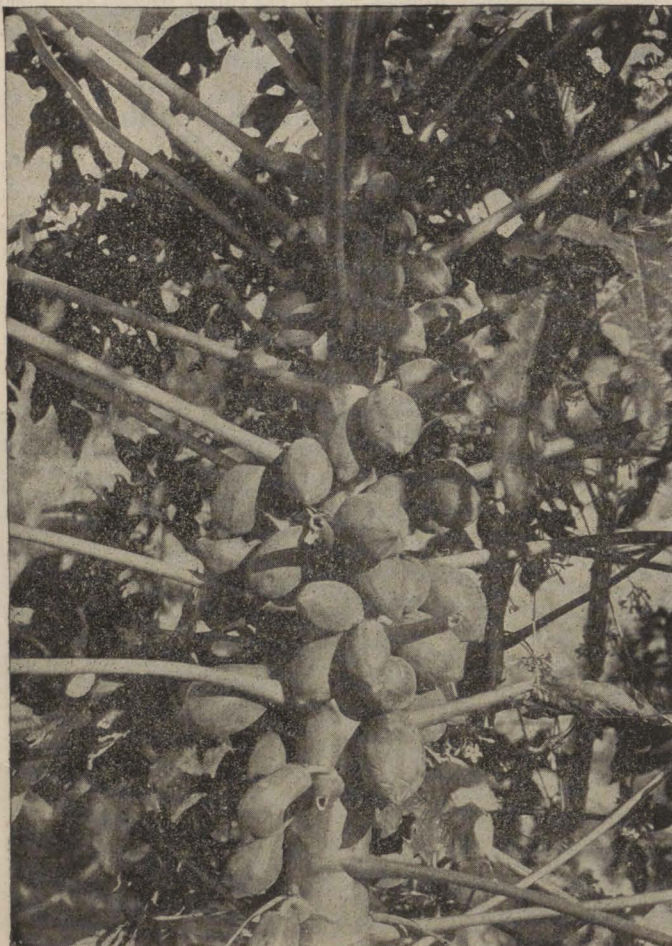


Cutting Sorghum, San Benito, Texas.

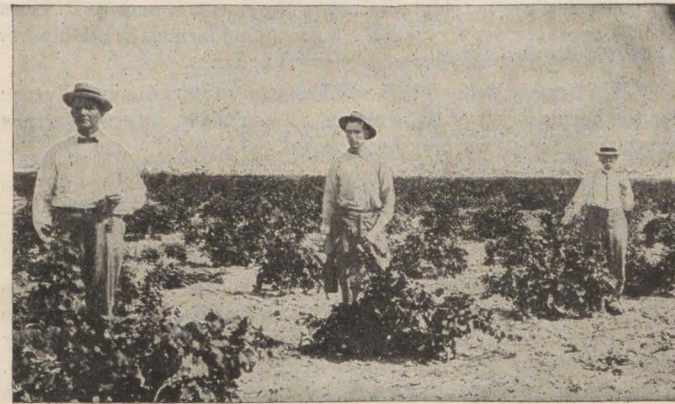


Cabbage and Onion Wagons Waiting Turn, Commission Row, San Benito, Texas.

After marketing the above crops I planted the same land in kaffir corn, which made a good yield, and am now preparing the same ground to plant a crop of cabbage.



Papalla or Pepsin Plant, San Benito, Texas.



Grapes, One Year Old, Mission, Texas.

Planted one-third of an acre in Irish potatoes on the 18th day of January, which were ready for the market on the 18th day of March, making thirty bushels, which brought me \$3 per bushel, a total of \$90. Planted the same ground in cucumbers, which brought me \$66.75, and then planted June corn on the same land, June 1st, which has made a good yield. Raised three crops on one acre of land in seven months.

Planted three acres of beans March 10th, which were put on the market in April, bringing an average of \$130 per acre. After marketing the beans, planted the same ground in kaffir corn, which made a good yield. Respectfully,

LYMAN BREWER.

Sooner Watermelons

The Brownsville Daily Herald, date May 20th, reports the first car of watermelons as having gone to market from that section. Sorry we can't give the returns on that car. The first car of cantaloupes, loaded the 15th of May, at McAllen, sold on track for \$2,400. Here is the Herald item:

"Once more the Lower Rio Grande Valley steps into the lime-light of the produce markets. This time it is the first car-load of watermelons for the season of 1910, which goes from the Valley to delight the palate of those fortunate denizens of the North who can produce the fancy price which these first fruits of the southern melon patch will demand."

Good Fishin'

A feature of the irrigation deal in the Lower Rio Grande Valley is the piscatorial possibilities of the canals. The following from the Brownsville Daily Herald gives an idea:

"The Indiana Co-operative Canal Company this week installed fish screens at all laterals leading from the main canal. Our Government fish and game laws require that head gates shall be screened, but, through special permission of Government officials, 'Little Indiana' will have a fishery of its own. The large canal some six miles long is an excellent breeding place for fish, and 10,000 black bass are soon to be planted there. During the gravity intake at the head-gate, fish may follow the stream to the main canal. They can not return again to the river, but are much better



Alfalfa Field, Lower Rio Grande Valley.

protected there than in the river. That they may not be thrown upon the farm lands during irrigation, the laterals are now screened, and with the planting to come, the Little Indiana canal should soon become a favorite fishing place for the people of Brownsville."

Building Cities

Irrigation is doing it in the Brownsville country. Whenever you see an item like the following from the Hidalgo County Advance, be sure that high-priced products are going out and that big money is coming in:

"When Chapin had rounded out the first year and a half of her existence (on April 12) she had brick and steel buildings finished and in course of construction, that cost and are to cost approximately \$130,000. Since that time the contract has been let for another brick building to cost \$6,000, and a rooming house to cost \$4,500. Add to this the amount that has been spent on residences, and it is safe to state that during the 19 months of her existence over \$250,000 has been spent in making a start towards building what is destined to become the best town in South Texas."

The New-Comers are Delighted

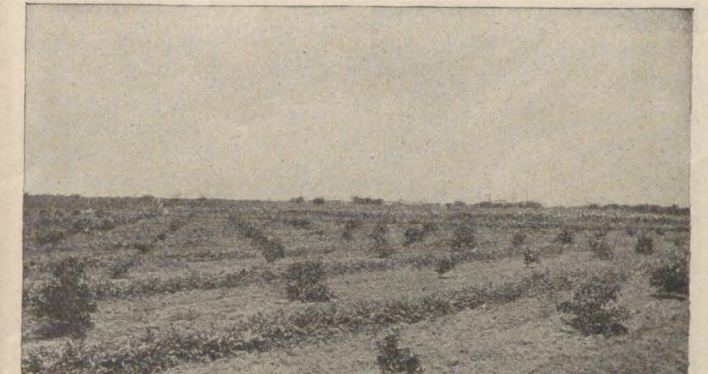
The following item from Blessing, Matagorda County, in a Houston daily paper dated May 15th, should be of interest to people desiring a line on the Coast Country:

"Blessing truck farmers have been shipping beans at a lively rate, \$1.50 per bushel, on an average, being realized. Many of the newcomers are delighted with the profusion of dew berries to be found in the woods and also on the prairies, and some are turning berries into cash by selling to those in town.

"Report comes from this prosperous little town that interest in a canning factory and preserving factory is developing to a white heat, and it is thought that it will not be long until this enterprise is a reality."

A Comparison

"A visit to another great irrigated section of the country and an inquiry into the methods in force there and the results obtained have brought home to me very strongly the great advantages of this Valley," said J. W. Hoyt, of Mission, this morning, while talking of a recent trip to Colorado, taken for the purpose of finding out how irrigation products are conducted there.

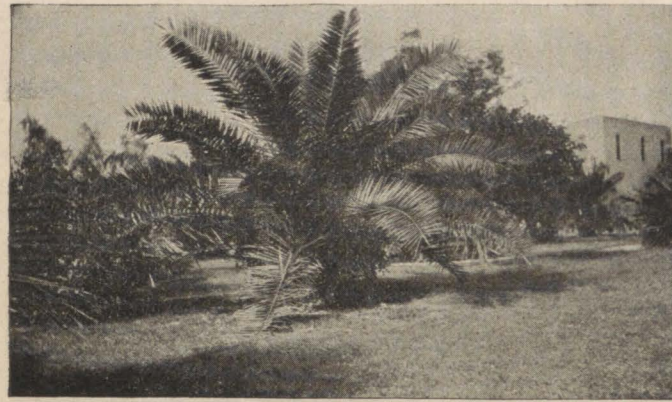


Three Acres Grape Fruit, Planted February, 1909, Mercedes, Texas. Watermelons Growing Between Rows.

"Just to mention one point, do you know that in that State land is mortgaged for as much as \$75 per acre to obtain water for irrigation, and the results are not comparable to those being obtained now



Lagrena Corn on Capt. Fitch's Farm, Mercedes, Texas, Yielding 50 Bushels an Acre.



Date Palm, Mercedes, Texas.



Four-Months-Old Sugar Cane.



Broom Corn, Lower Rio Grande Valley.

from this Valley land that does not have to stand half that burden for irrigation. There is only one Rio Grande Valley, a fact that is gradually becoming apparent to the people of the North."

Mr. Hoit spent a week in Colorado, returning to the Valley last Saturday. He came down from Mission last night for a short visit to town.—*Brownsville Daily Herald.*

Wants Some of That Climate

Col. and Mrs. Wm. J. Bryan will come to Mission next November to spend part of the winter on their farm in that fast developing section of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. This information was obtained from John J. Conway, of Mission, who was in town on one of his quick business trips. Mr. Conway had just received a letter from Col. Bryan on matters relative to his Mission investment, in which, among other things, he announced that he and Mrs. Bryan would come in November as stated, to spend a month or two.

"We want to get a sample of the climate," he writes, "and we are going to build quite a comfortable little cottage."

The letter goes on to speak of the "very cozy little home" which they will have, where they can "watch the orchard grow" on their place.

When he was North last week Mr. Conway talked over the 'phone with Mrs. Bryan, who was at Lincoln. She also said that she and Col. Bryan expected to come in November, and would spend several months at their Lower Rio Grande Valley winter home.

—*Brownsville Daily Herald.*

Okra is a Profitable Crop

A. N. Tandy, one of the leading truck growers near Olmito, has found good profit in the cultivation of okra, a crop which yields abundantly in that section, and for which the city markets pay \$1.50 per crate, or \$4.50 a bushel. The yield is more than 150 bushels to the acre.

Four Crops from the Same Land

A truck farmer living near Corpus Christi harvested a crop of cabbage from his land in January. He followed with a crop of peas, and by July he had also marketed a crop of cucumbers from the same land. Then he planted a crop of sorghum, which was cut in time to put in more cabbage for the winter market. All this was without irrigation.

Orange Grower Comes from California

BEEVILLE, BEE COUNTY, TEX., January 7.—Something like 50,000 orange trees will be added to those already growing in Bee County this year. Twenty-five thousand of these will be planted by F. G. Hutchinson, a grower from the Santa Clara Valley in California. Mr. Hutchinson has heard of the possibilities of orange-growing in Southwest Texas, and came here to investigate two months ago. He was surprised to find oranges ripening here six weeks earlier than in California, and readily saw in this a big advantage for the Texas grower in addition to the shorter haul and cheaper freight rate to the Eastern markets.—*News Item.*

Splendid Country between Houston and San Antonio

Speaking of the low-priced orchards and farm lands in that rich region lying between Houston and San Antonio, a writer says:

"We are about 40 miles from the Gulf and midway between the two best markets in Texas. The surface is a gently, undulating plain, sloping towards Lavacca River and Arenosa Creek. The rainfall is 36 inches. The soil is a sandy loam, easily worked. Three-year old orange trees bear 75 oranges; 4-year old, 200; 5-year old, 500; 6-year-old, 800; 7-year-old, 1,500. There are 120 trees to the acre. It is also a good fig country, and pecans are plentiful. All kinds of garden truck do well, and alfalfa is being planted, plenty of good water at a depth of 35 to 60 feet, flowing wells at 85 to 135 feet."

Coast Country is Well-Watered

The Coast Country, besides being well-watered by a number of good streams, such as Rio Grande, Neuces, San Antonio, Guadalupe, Colorado and Sabine Rivers, is supplied in many sections with unlimited artesian water. Where artesian wells are as yet unknown, there may be had an ample supply of water for irrigation purposes by sinking surface wells. All three of these resources are being utilized for irrigation purposes, and some extensive fruit and truck farms are being irrigated from the rivers and flowing wells.

The expense of sinking wells and pumping with gasoline power is so small and such a success that the country is being rapidly dotted with irrigation plants of this kind.

A Model Rio Grande Valley Farm

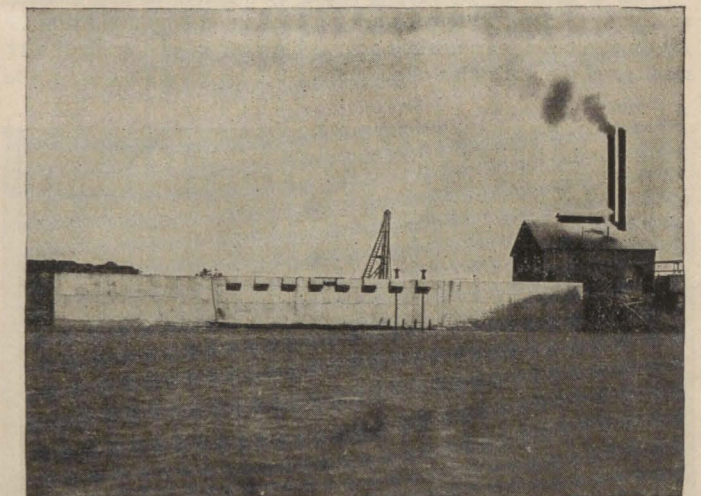
A recent visit to the home of Captain W. A. Fitch, near Mercedes, revealed a vivid demonstration of what scientific soil culture means in the Rio Grande Valley. Though the Captain has only 55 acres at his place, yet it is a model farm, every foot of ground being utilized, and that well.

The farm lies along the railroad track, being adorned by a beautiful country home and ample barn facilities. "Evergreen Farm," a very appropriate name one would exclaim in a review of evergreen lawns and fields—something growing at all times—that something which brings money into the coffers of the producer, and the sign of a real agriculturist.

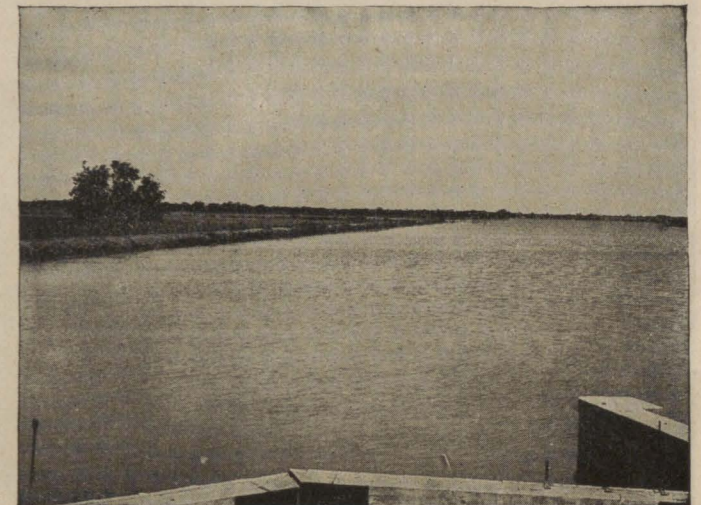
On this farm there are 30 acres set out in fruit trees; there being 1,600 oranges, 1,200 figs of the Magnolia variety, and 400 pomelo (or grape fruit), together with a number of peaches, persimmons, plums, pears and apricots; all of which are doing nicely. The 30-acre orchard was utilized in growing crops; the garden truck consisting of cantaloupes, 6 acres; cucumbers, 7 acres; lima beans, 1 acre; Chinese giant pepper, 1½ acres; green and wax beans, 2 acres, and many other varieties for family use. The field crops consist of 20 acres of young corn, some of which is just out of the ground besides a crop now maturing, several acres of milo maize ready for the harvester; a number of acres planted to kaffir corn and Japanese millet which is par excellence; several acres of pen-cilaria, or rapid growing millet, which averages a growth of 15 inches in seven days, and is the best green forage for stock known, especially for milk cows, imparting to milk richness and a golden color and fine flavor to the butter. Two cuttings can be made a month of this forage.



Rio Grande Valley Bean Harvest in January.



Headgates San Benito Canal.



San Benito Canal from Lock No. 2.

"IRON MOUNTAIN ROUTE"

"THE WAY TO TEXAS"



Alfalfa in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Just as soon as one crop is off, in fact, before a crop is off, another is planted, thereby assuring a continuous crop at all times. All canals and laterals are laid out with a view of giving the best results and the utilization of all land.



Watermelons, Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Forty Dollars an Acre from Alfalfa

VICTORIA, TEX.—My experience in alfalfa growing is as follows: In November, 1905, I sowed a small tract as an experiment. The last cuttings averaged more than a ton per acre, and I expect to cut at least four times more this year, and I estimate that this year's crops will net me \$40 per acre above all expenses.

In December, 1906, I planted twenty-five acres more to alfalfa. The seeding was done under very adverse circumstances both as regards season and the condition of the land and I have made two cuttings to this date, and will cut four times more this year. I am now getting \$15 per ton, and the demand is much greater than I can supply.

I consider this one of the best corn sections of Texas. From present indications we expect to harvest sixty bushels per acre, and on our good lands the progressive farmer should raise from forty to sixty bushels every year. Nearly all kinds of crops and fruits can be grown here. The soil, rainfall, climate and general conditions are right. I consider that this country will develop into the very best section of Texas. Yours very truly,

J. E. LANDER.

Broom Corn in the Valley

There are several thousand acres of broom corn at San Benito and its growth and development this season has been something remarkable—springing up in but a few weeks from a mere sprig to heading corn higher than a man's head. The brush is an excellent quality and will grade high. The yield will run from one-half to one ton per acre. There are great advantages in raising broom corn in the Lower Rio Grande Valley over any other section of the country in that it can be marketed earlier and thereby command the highest price, four cuttings can be made each season, and the soil seems to be specially adapted to its growth.—*San Benito Light*.

Still Picking Strawberries

Mr. J. D. Thacker, a local truck grower who took up his abode here late last fall, brought to this office some fine strawberries of the Klondyke variety which were set out January 2d of this year. On February 12th Mr. Thacker commenced picking ripe berries and has been picking almost daily since. One vine, Mr. Thacker reports, yielded sixteen ripe berries at one picking. This speaks well for



Golden Hamburg Grapes, Lower Rio Grande Valley.



Threshing Rice, Texas Coast Country.

this section as a berry producer, and it is surprising what little attention is paid to berry growing here. Strawberries, ripening as early as they do here, would be an exceedingly profitable crop, and more attention could be advantageously given this profit-yielding crop.

The specimens brought in were of fine color, good size and flavor, and the usual amount of sand that generally goes with a mess of strawberries was promiscuous by its absence.—*San Benito Light*.

SAN BENITO, TEX., June 16, 1910.

October 28, 1909, I purchased a 20-acre farm adjoining the town of San Benito, at \$190 per acre. I planted 15 acres of it immediately to cabbage. I harvested my crop from March to May and shipped 193.69 tons of cabbage, for which I received \$5,177.73, and have 12 tons yet to hear from. My total expenses in raising this crop, including labor, water, cultivation, harvesting and hauling, were \$525.60, leaving me a profit of \$4,652.13, or \$310.14 an acre. This paid for the entire farm, including five acres which was not planted to cabbage, four of which are now in cotton and corn, paid 6 per cent on my money, and gave me a clear profit of \$738.13, and all the time I held my position as cashier of the First State Bank of San Benito, leaving my crop to Mexican employees. In the meanwhile the value of my 20 acres has been enhanced fully \$10 per acre because of the rapid growth of San Benito.

Last year I cleared \$145 an acre from sugar cane on another of my San Benito farms.

I am interested in 1639 acres at San Benito. I have a considerable acreage in cotton, which I will be picking by June 25, corn, sugar cane, cow peas and sorghum.

Very truly,

B. HINKLEY.

A Missourian was Shown

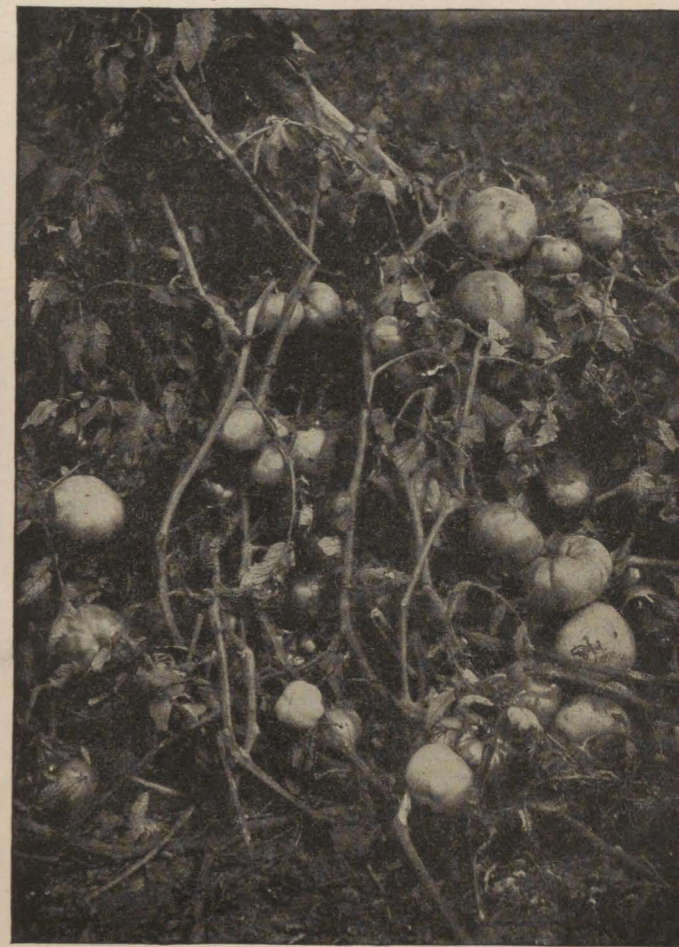
The following letter from Mr. A. L. Zimmerman, of Missouri, should interest people desiring a line on soil and climatic conditions between the Rio Grande River and the Gulf of Mexico:

"I am now in Missouri, but was at Lyford, Tex., from last November till the last days of June. I am so well pleased with the climate that I want to get back there as soon as I can. I have been two seasons in California, and I like the climate of South Texas much better. Don't have that rainy, muddy weather in winter and not so much dust in summer, nor is it so hot. In



Hotel at Mercedes, Texas.

California it is perfectly clear and hot every day, while in South Texas those big Gulf clouds come floating over nearly every day. They hide the sun while passing and relieve one of the monotony of the same thing all day and every day.



Tomatoes, Lower Rio Grande Valley.



Second Crop of Irish Potatoes, Bay City, Texas.

"When I left Missouri last November I was badly afflicted with rheumatism. I had not been at Lyford a month till it had nearly left me, and by another month I was entirely free of it, not only of the pain, but the stiffness and soreness of a long-standing case was gone. I was at Lyford nearly eight months and did not take any cold during that time. I have had catarrh since I was a child, and did not expect any relief, but I was greatly benefited.

"One of the best things about the country is the pleasant evenings and nights. One gets such good rest from their sleep. No hot, sultry nights.

"As to the soil, it is certainly as good as I ever handled, and responds beautifully to the labor bestowed upon it.

"As to the people I met with and was associated with at Lyford, I can say they were as nice and clever people as I ever saw, and, as to lawlessness and drunkenness, there is nearly none, the least I ever saw at any place. This certainly speaks well for a new country.

"Now, Mr. Prospector, if you ever come our way, come around and shake hands with us. We will be pleased to see you any time.

"Hoping to meet with you some time in the near future, I am,

"Yours truly,

"(Signed) A. L. ZIMMERMAN."



Packing Beans, Lower Rio Grande Valley.



Typical Gulf Coast Country Farm Home.

Corn in the Great Peninsula

Corn-growing is receiving more consideration at the hands of the farmers and truckers in the vicinity of San Benito than they have been wont to grant it in the past. A few years ago it was considered useless to attempt corn-growing, it being claimed by the natives and old settlers that none but the small Mexican corn grown by them in the past without irrigation or cultivation would succeed here; ten to fifteen bushels was considered a good yield per acre. But as with everything else in the Valley, improvements and changes are taking place in agricultural methods; scientific farming is taking the place of the antique way of growing crops as practiced in the years gone by. Fifty to sixty bushels of corn to the acre is now as common as were the former small yields, while yields ranging as high as one hundred and more bushels to the acre are not rare. And this was all brought about by the introduction of improved seed and cultural methods, with the growth abetted by the application of the silt-laden waters of the Rio Grande.

Two, and frequently three crops of corn are grown here in one year, and there is always a good demand for this important crop at remunerative prices which average close to one dollar per bushel. —*San Benito Light.*



Mexicans Clearing Land, San Benito, Texas.



WOODWARD & TIERNAN PRINTING CO., ST. LOUIS.

"IRON MOUNTAIN ROUTE"

"THE WAY TO TEXAS"

From

Geo. S. Freeman

REAL ESTATE

Mercedes, Texas



TO Mrs. E. M. Garner

Mill River.

Berk. Co. Mass.