

FOREST SERVICE MAY SOLVE BIG PROBLEMS

STUDY WILL BE MADE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Proper Adjustment Would Eliminate
Ruin of Crops by Hot Desert
Winds Sweeping South
in Spring

Proper adjustment would eliminate ruin of crops by hot desert winds sweeping south in spring of the west are well known. Blowing strongly across the unobstructed plains, these winds may in a few days blast all hope of even a partial harvest. This is particularly in the lower portion of the central plains region, and in years of unusually low rainfall. Here the winds most to be feared blow from the southwest or south. In the northern prairie region the farmer is exposed to the hot "Chinook" wind, which sweeps down from the Canadian mountains. This either dries out growing crops or, if it prevails before the danger of killing frosts is past, causes loss through urging vegetation forward prematurely. Cold winter winds also do great injury to crops, make the climate more severe for stock and men, and interfere with an even covering of snow upon the ground. This is true from Canada almost to the gulf.

In southern California, dry winds from the north and northeast sweep down from the Mojave desert with destructive results. Coming in June, these winds may reduce the wheat yield of unprotected fields to almost nothing. Windbreaks of eucalyptus and Monterey cypress, now in such common use to protect orange groves and orchards, long ago convinced possessors of highly valuable irrigated land of the value of tree planting for protection purposes.

Two Sides to Question

But there are two sides to the windbreak question. Some prairie farmers declare positively that belts of osage orange, for instance, are a "nuisance." Others cite figures to show positive benefit. Morris Thompson, who lives near Downs, Kansas, gives his yield of corn from a field protected on the south by a row of tall cottonwoods as six bushels per acre more than in places where there is no protection. About fifteen acres are benefited in this way. It is highly improbable that the windbreak occupies sufficient land to offset this benefit.

An Illinois farmer sums up his observations upon this matter thus: "My experience is that now, in cold and stormy winters, wheat protected by timber belts yield full crops, while fields not protected yield only one-third of a crop. Twenty-five or thirty years ago we never had any wheat killed by winter frosts, and every year a full crop of peaches, which is now rare. At that time we had plenty of timber around our fields and orchards, now cleared away."

The forest service proposes to find out just when and how much windbreaks increase the yield of crops. To carry out the plans, much technical work will be necessary. Instruments will be used to measure heat and cold, moisture and dryness, both above and below ground; to register the force of the wind near the windbreaks and some distance away; to measure light intensity, and take note of the effects of shade; to register frost at different distances from the trees; and to keep account of the effect of the windbreaks on the snow which covers the ground to leeward in winter. Many other measurements and tests will be made, and elaborate data will be collected by experts who will have charge of the study.

Will Settle Dispute

Many disputed questions will thus be settled and the data gathered will be placed at the disposal of the farmers who desire it. Doubtless rows of trees between fields sometimes do more harm than good, by casting shade and abstracting water from the soil. Trees may also increase the danger from frost, since the movement of the air lessens that danger. The forest service will study all sorts of conditions, including the relative value of windbreaks, consisting of a single row of trees, and shelterbelts, made up of a number of such rows. A windbreak is usually planted for protection alone, a shelterbelt for both protection and the growing of timber.

Corn will be the crop studied behind the windbreak this year. Trustworthy conclusions can not be obtained by comparing results from different crops. Each crop makes its own demand upon the soil, so that what would destroy one might do little harm to another. Corn is a particularly good crop to experiment with because it is easily injured by hot dry winds, and is very sensitive to frost.

The instruments and apparatus for each state will be read weekly by persons assigned to that duty by the agricultural experiment stations in the respective states. The whole work will be in charge of an expert for the forest service at Washington.

Uncle Sam's tree planting and farm experts have undertaken a practical and scientific study of the use and

effect of timber windbreaks and shelterbelts in the agricultural regions of fourteen western states. This is the first time in this country that a study of this much discussed question has been undertaken over a wide region under one plan, for the purpose of collecting data for the benefit of the agriculturists who are developing the western plains. At present windbreaks are planted haphazard, one kind here, another there. If one kind is better than another, the government experts think that fact ought to be known, and it is believed that the study about to be undertaken will settle the question once for all: It will at least collect such facts never before brought together.

The work will be done by the United States forest service. In some states the agricultural experiment stations will co-operate in the studies, and in these cases the forest service will provide the necessary apparatus, and the other expenses will be shared half and half by the government and the experiment stations.

The investigations will be taken up in five states this year and extended to the other nine as rapidly as the investigations are completed. Four of the states in which the study will be made this year are Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma and Kansas. The fifth will be either Minnesota, North Dakota or Iowa. Ultimately the investigations will cover Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Texas, New Mexico, Utah, California, Washington and Idaho.

BEAR VALLEY WATER INTERESTS ARE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION

Price Paid is \$1,234,534—New Company Will Begin Extensive Improvement of System to Double the Water Supply

SAN BERNARDINO, Nov. 14.—The great property of the Bear Valley Irrigation company was sold at foreclosure sale Tuesday at noon at the county court house at San Bernardino for \$1,234,534.

The bid of the mortgagee was the only one offered, and it included the amount of the judgment with costs and interest. It is anticipated that the sale will be ratified by the court and that in due time the next step, that of turning the property over to the Bear Valley Mutual Water company, of which H. H. Garstin of this city is president, will be taken. The holder of the trust deed in the matter is the Citizens' Trust company of Cleveland, Ohio. The property was sold by Ward Chapman of Los Angeles, appointed a commissioner therefor by the court.

With the passing of the deed from the court to the trust company and thence to the Bear Valley Mutual company, the latter will at once begin extensive improvements that will nearly double the water supply from the Bear valley source. It is proposed to at once expend about \$300,000 in improvements and a dam will be built at Filagree flats, Santa Ana canyon, which will conserve an additional supply.

The sale of Tuesday is but one more step toward the consummation of a great plan worked out here some three years ago, and having for its object the settlement of all the conflicting water interests having to do with the Bear valley enterprise, to the end that the water supply might be settled for all time and the supply for this section added to. The principal preliminary step was the organization of a mutual company which should be made up of all those owning stock in the Bear Valley, and this has been finally accomplished.

County Building Improvements

Among the new improvements to be made to the county buildings is that of a brick ward building at the county hospital. The necessity for such a building has been apparent for some time, and efforts will be made to secure the improvement.

On Berendo Street

F. H. Sloan, 1371 West Twenty-second street, is erecting a two-story nine-room frame residence at 728 Berendo street.

A Word to the Homeseeker

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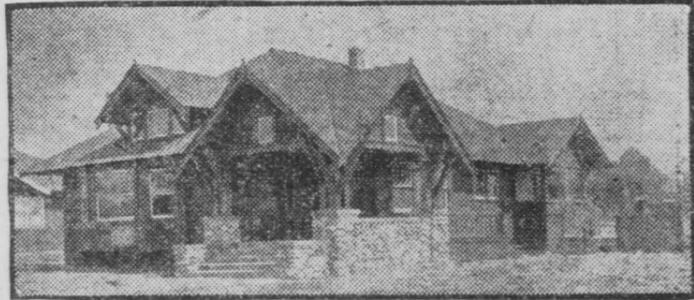
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Fresno Irrigated Farms Co.
553 S. Spring St., Los Angeles, Cal.

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