

THE GUNNISON TUNNEL.

Facts About Gigantic Project For Reclamation of Arid Lands.

The Uncompahgre project, as the opening of the Gunnison Tunnel, on the western slope of the Colorado Rockies, is known, will reclaim more than 150,000 acres of land in the Uncompahgre Valley. Water from the Gunnison River is diverted through a six-mile tunnel, under a 2,000-foot mountain, to make the reclamation possible. The cost of constructing the tunnel and the necessary canals was nearly \$4,000,000. This valley has been demonstrated to be one of the best places in the world for the raising of fruit, as well as less fancy crops. The work on this tunnel was begun in February, 1905, and completed this year. The carrying capacity of the Gunnison Tunnel is 1-300 cubic feet a second. The water is taken from the bottom of the Gunnison River and goes through this concrete tunnel—a solid body nine feet high and ten and one-half feet wide. The Uncompahgre River bed is used for the main flow of the water from the Gunnison, and there are east and west canals, watering both sides of the valley. These canals are built along the extreme edges of the mesas, and thus will bring practically the entire arable area of the valley under irrigation. The government also has secured the rights to existing ditches in the valley, so that practically the entire Uncompahgre system will be under government control. The cost of the project will come out of the land reclaimed. It is estimated that the cost of water rights under the Gunnison Tunnel will be about \$35 an acre, which will be divided into ten payments, at the will of the purchaser. Unlike most government projects, there will be very little "homesteading" in the valley, as most of the land was taken up years ago. There is a small amount of available land in the area reclaimed, but most of it is owned privately, and will be sold outright to prospective settlers, thus doing away with the five years residence clause of the homestead act.

PARTY LOST IN DESERT.

Tracks in Sand Tell Story of Vain Battle With Thirst.

San Bernardino, Cal., October 23.—T. H. Kellogg, a rancher, while riding across the Mojave desert, in the Carshoe Creek country, on Friday, came across the tracks of two teams. The wandering trails indicated to his experienced eye that the drivers of the team either were lost or did not have control of mind left. He followed the trails for some distance and finally came upon a camp wagon and a buggy, and farther away a horse dying of thirst.

Here, evidently, was the starting point of a great tragedy.

Following the trail further, he discovered the tracks of a man and a woman and three children. Uneven at times, retreating and wavering in purpose, as though the travellers did not know which way to turn, the footprints on the sand told of the search of water against a desperately growing need.

Sometimes the trail of one or the other of the children disappeared, indicating that the father or the mother had expended the last drop of energy in carrying their little ones. The trail followed the bed of a dry creek for many miles and led off to that country from which few travellers return. Who the lost ones are is unknown.

Kellogg returned to civilization and searching parties were started out at once. So. 45-'09.

THE DIFFERENCE

Coffee Usually Means Sickness but Postum Always Means Health.

Those who have never tried the experiment of leaving off coffee and drinking Postum in its place and in this way regaining health and happiness can learn much from the experience of others who have made the trial.

One who knows says: "I drank coffee for breakfast every morning until I had terrible attacks of indigestion producing days of discomfort and nights of sleeplessness. I tried to get up the use of coffee entirely but found it hard to get from hot coffee to a glass of water. Then I took Postum.

It was good and the effect was so pleasant that I soon learned to love it and have used it for several years. I improved immediately after I left off coffee and took on Postum and am now entirely cured of my indigestion and other troubles, all of which were due to coffee. I am now well and contented and all because I changed from coffee to Postum.

"Postum is much easier to make right every time than coffee for it is so even and always reliable. We never use coffee now in our family. We use Postum and are always well."

Modern Farm Methods As Applied in the South.

Notes of Interest to Planter, Fruit Grower and Stockman

Grow Winter Oats.

Spring oats in the South are usually worthless and light, but even for spring sowing I would use the Southern winter varieties rather than the Northern spring oats, since they are harder and keep better weight.

I have used the Virginia Gray Turf oats and the Texas Rust-Proof, but have had no experience with the Burt nor the Appler, which have become popular of late years. The chief danger in getting the Texas oats is, that if the seed comes from Texas, you are apt to get Johnson grass seed with it, and while Johnson grass is certainly an excellent hay grass, its aggressiveness should keep it out of sections where it is not now common.

The common fault in the South is too late sowing of oats, so that they are neither winter nor spring. The best success is usually had from early September sowing, or October in the far South. The soil should have the same careful preparation and fining and compacting of the surface that wheat demands, for if oats are sown in very freshly prepared and loose soil they will winter kill worse than if the soil had been well compacted by harrowing and tramping before sowing. Any of the wheat drills will sow oats if they are made very clean, but if not, they will choke with short straw, etc. Never sow less than two bushels per acre, and if sowing in spring, sow two and a half bushels per acre. If sown in early fall the plants will tiller out and thicken, but they will do little of this in spring.

In regard to the practice of sowing in open furrows, I can say nothing, as I have never tried it. But there is no reason why a good crop of winter oats should not be grown anywhere from Central Virginia south if the land is put in the best condition. If sown after a corn crop I would, after cutting and shocking the corn, merely disk the land about three inches deep, but would go over and over it with a drag harrow after the disk till perfectly fine. If treated in this way and tramped and harrowed till the surface is fine, there will be little winter killing if the seed are sown with a hoe drill that will put them in about three inches and leave furrows to feed in to them.

Sow clean seed. If you find cheat in the crop in the spring, it will be because you sow cheat seed in the fall. The cheat seed looks like a shrivelled oat, and with a good fan they can be blown out, as they are lighter than oats. But set it down as a fact that if you sow clean oats and there is no cheat seed in your soil, you will never have any cheat in the crop, for no cheat ever grew from an oat seed, but always from its own seed and no other. Hence the importance of getting perfectly clean seed.

If your corn was grown on a sod that had manure spread on it as it should be, you will need only acid phosphate on red land and acid phosphate and potash on gray or sandy soil. Say 300 pounds of acid phosphate and twenty-five pounds of muriate of potash per acre.

Where a man farms with a good rotation of corn, oats and cotton, with crimson clover and peas thrown in at every chance, there is no reason why any farmer in the South should not get his land up to the making of sixty to seventy-five bushels of oats per acre, and find them a very profitable crop.—Professor Massey.

Field Selection of Seed Corn and Tobacco Seed.

Selecting seed corn in the field is far better than selecting simply the best ears in the bin in spring, providing the selection is wisely done. The difficulty in the general field crop is that the plants that we find there which come near our ideal of what a corn plant should be, will have had most of their grain set by the pollen from inferior stalks all around them, and the resulting crop will rarely follow the type of the plants the seed came from. Still, by selecting seed from ears selected from ideal plants, even if the ears are not so showy as those you would take in the bin.

But now is the time to determine that another season you will plant a patch by itself for seed, and will see that no barren stalk, or ungainly plant with an ear out of reach, shall ripen pollen. Then by taking seed from the best plants you will have them set by the best pollen only. Practice this for a few years, taking the very best for a new seed patch and the next best for the crop, and

A CASE OF PRACTICAL POLITICS IN AN IOWA TOWN

A political office in a small town in Iowa was vacant. The office paid two hundred and fifty dollars a year, and there was keen competition for it. The Democratic candidate, Ezekiel Hicks, was a shrewd old fellow, and a neat campaign fund was turned over to him. To the astonishment of all, however, he was defeated. "I can't account for it," said one of the

you will soon find that the whole crop is coming nearer to your ideal plant. You do not need to stunt corn to get it to grow lower, for by selecting the low growing ears for seed you can reduce the stature of the plant in a way that will do it no harm, while the stunting requires that you waste fertilizers to make it recover.

Covering the heads of bloom with paper sacks in getting tobacco seed will certainly protect the flowers from any crossing, and will lead to close breeding and weaker plants. The better plan is to select the ideal plants from which you wish to save seed. Then inter-cross these by applying the pollen with a camel's hair brush to the stigma of the half opened flower, and at once cover the flower head with the paper sack. Crossing invigorates the stock and you will get stronger plants than by shutting the flowers up to their own pollen. Paper is better than canvas for the cover. There is not a crop grown but can be immensely improved by intelligent selection of seed.—Professor Massey.

Storing Cabbage.

Various methods of storing winter cabbage are used with good success. The late flat Dutch is the best keeper that can be grown, and it can be kept in a great variety of ways without material losses. When cabbages are grown on a large scale storage houses are designed and built especially for the purpose. These houses are usually constructed with double walls, with sawdust in between them. Many growers store them in cellars, barns or dig trenches into the ground and cover them up with oak leaves or straw. Burying is the best plan with some, and there is no better way to preserve cabbage in a fresh, crisp condition. When burying, an excellent plan is to line up on the surface of the ground three rows of heads, turned upside down, either pulling or cutting the heads close to the ground. I prefer the latter method, as it is much more pleasant to handle the crop when there is no dirt to contend with. After lining up the rows, placing the heads close together, with a team and plow draw two furrows, throwing the soil as much as possible on the cabbage. Then give them the finishing touch with shovels, placing about six to eight inches of soil on the heads.

After the ground is frozen to the depth of an inch or two, cover with straw or leaves to the depth of eight inches or more. We have followed this plan with good success. If the ground is well drained and the cabbages are sound when buried, not a head will be lost. And the flat Dutch will require very little trimming when dug up. The cabbages which are sold early in the winter are stored in the cellar and barns. When stored in a building ventilation must be given, and it is best not to store too many in one bulk. It is a mistake to delay harvesting the winter crop until the leaves have been frozen hard several times, and when there is danger of unbroken winter weather. In our latitude we do not consider it safe to postpone harvesting later than the first week in November. One thing that I will add, that if a few rats happen to get into a trench filled with cabbages they can do a lot of damage between the time the cabbage are stored until they are dug up again. So this must be guarded against. Otherwise the grower will be the loser. Five years ago we lost about \$50 worth of cabbages by the rats being in the trench all winter, and when we were ready to dig up the cabbages we found nothing but leaves all rotted.—C. A. Umselle, in Southern Fruit Grower.

What Southern Soils Can Do.

A farmer writes that he expects two and one-half bales of cotton per acre. Now, nine cotton farmers out of ten in the South, after getting their land to do that, would want to plant that land in cotton again, and would say that they could not afford to grow corn on it. But this man wisely says that that land goes into corn the coming year, and he hopes to make 100 bushels per acre with his carefully selected seed, for he has improved his cotton and corn both by selection. And yet hundreds of farmers write asking for fertilizer formulas for making land that only makes ten bushels of corn produce fifty bushels, when they could do just as well as this man has done with his corn and cotton by improving the land gradually and selecting their seed in an intelligent way.—Professor Massey.

Setting Strawberries.

It is all very nice to get a fall growth if you can, but early setting is very uncertain, and will leave many blanks due to dry weather.

Democratic leaders gloomily.

"With that money, we should have won. How did you lay it out, Ezekiel?" "Well," said Ezekiel slowly, pulling his whiskers, "yer see, that office only pays two hundred and fifty dollars a year salary, an' I didn't see no sense in payin' nine hundred dollars out to get the office, so I just bought me a little truck-farm in—lead."—November Lippincott's.



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