

"Independent in all things."

Yuma, Arizona The Gate City of the Great Southwest

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Old Age and Money



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TIMELY HINTS FOR FARMERS.

A Lesson in Intensive Farming by R. H. Forbes, Director and Chemist of Agricultural Experiment Station

University of Arizona, January 15, 1909. Just west of Yuma, Arizona, in the elevated foot-hill of the Colorado, lies a little farm of 72 acres which on May 1, 1905, was virgin brushland, covered with scattered, stunted brush and cactus bushes. The original purpose of the tract was for planting selected varieties of state palms imported by the U. S. Department of Agriculture from the Old World.

THE PLAN OF WORK. Recognizing, however, that a farmer with his living to make, cannot afford to wait for an orchard to come into bearing, it was planned to plant crops for quick returns between the trees, thus utilizing the soil between the trees for the farmer's point of view.

RECLAMATION OF THE GROUND. The soil of our tract, a warm, sandy loam, well adapted to gardening operations, was leveled, ditched and bordered at a contract price of \$17.20 an acre, considerably less than the average for the locality, becoming the labor of men and teams at current rates.

CHOPS AND MARKETS. The crops selected for the season of 1909 were Early Rose potatoes, White Bermuda onions, Early York cabbages, Dwarf Chameleon and Purple Queen cabbages, cauliflower and alfalfa, besides a few hills of watermelons and sunny vegetables.

THE AMOUNT OF LABOR EXPENDED upon this crop was large for the area, especially at the transplanting time. One day's team work in preparing the soil and setting out the plants, was required to bring it through, although the work was not heavy and could have been done in a few days. The yield was low owing to the desert and unimproved condition of the soil, which is the desert soil in general, with low in nitrogen and organic matter. Some small sandy areas also affected yields locally.

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The "Con" Knew His Duty

The congregation of a certain is not "exclusive," but some of its members were surprised at the appointment of a new usher. They said that he might be a very good young man, but he had not belonged very long to the church, and, besides, it seemed unlikely that a street car conductor would suit the etiquette of a house of worship. But the trustees said that he had been chosen for that very reason, adding: "We need a man of that kind to deal with the end seat hog. He is a greater nuisance in the church than in the cars. Early in the service he plants himself at the aisle of a free pew and later comes who are ushered into that pew fall all over him taking their places. It takes a man with grit to make him move along. This former conductor has the grit, and he has tact gained from experience. That is why we made him usher."—Washington Herald.

The Go-Devil

Instead of employing hundreds of men with picks to dig up the streets for the purpose of resurfacing them, the city of Cincinnati now uses a 15,000 pound rake, which enjoys the gentle name of go-devil. When dragged along by a steam roller it does the work of the laborers with their picks in about one fifth of the time and 50 per cent better. The big steel teeth dig into the street six inches deep and three feet wide and travel about twenty five feet a minute. It is estimated that the machine saves the work of hundreds of laborers and pays for itself in every two days' work.—Popular Mechanics.

New Postoffices.

The latest issue of the Postal Guide shows that since the first of July postoffices have been established at the following places in Arizona: "Belmont, Coconino county; Crowley, Gila county; Indian Oasis, Pima county; Laguna, Yuma county; Lochiel, Santa Cruz county; Moccasim Mohave county; Polaris, Yuma county. The name of the postoffice at Wendendale has been changed to Wendan. A postoffice has been re-established at Canyon Diablo. The following named postoffices have been discontinued: Jersey, Yavapai county; McDowell, Maricopa county; Peach Springs, Mohave county; Vekol, Pinal county.

Big Steel Order Placed

"I have just placed an order for 1000 tons of steel girders to be used for a bridge over one of the canyons in Mexico," said Holmes yesterday. "The steel is to be supplied by a Pittsburg steel concern, and if I were to tell the cost of the product probably be some readers of the paper who would not believe me. This is to be a 510 foot span steel viaduct. It is the first encountered since crossing the line into Mexico. Delivery of the steel is to be made as speedily as possible—not later than April 1, 1910. "Another order just placed is for 20 steel flat cars at a cost of \$1200 to the car. Here is an expenditure of \$24,000 at one jump.

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SPENDS \$600 AN HOUR FOR S.D. & YUMA Ry. Order Placed For 1000 Tons of Bridge Steel. [San Diego Sun.]

How would the average citizen like to be in a position to spend money at the rate of \$600 each working hour? George Holmes, purchasing agent for the San Diego & Yuma railroad, is one San Diegan who is getting rid of money at that rapid rate. During the last week Holmes said he has spent for the company, in ordering supplied, an average of \$600 for each hour that he puts in. Material for the construction of the road is of prime importance just now and Purchasing Agent Holmes is head over heels into the details of acquiring the best possible supplies. The building of a railroad through a mountainous country calls for the best there is in construction work.

It is evident that Robert Sherer & Sons, who are building the rounded, are getting ready to commence tunnel operations southeast of Tia Juana, as among the orders placed by the purchasing department is one for 170,000 feet of redwood tunnel timbers. "Wherever there is possibility of dampness none but redwood was used in tunnel or other road construction," said Holmes. This redwood is to be furnished by a timber concern in Mendocino county. Orders have been placed with the same firm for an additional 80,000 ties. A ship will leave Eagle Harbor, Wash., December 10 with 300,000 feet of bridge timbers. In this lot will be 41,000 feet of crosstied piling for trestle construction and 153,000 feet of stringers and miscellaneous material for use on bridges.

The man who frantically opens his letters in the postoffice in the presence of a Sunday crowd is not necessarily the busiest man in town. One good thing about having poor relations is, it makes you feel so virtuous to give them worn-out clothes you can't wear.