

News Items of General Interest

THIS DEPARTMENT IS OPEN FOR CONTRIBUTIONS CONCERNING THE INDIAN AND HIS PROGRESS EVERYWHERE

Indian Woman Awarded Prize For Her Garden.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 20.—Mrs. Harriet Bone Necklace, of the Wakpamni district, of the Pine Ridge Indian agency, in South Dakota, was today awarded a prize of \$5 and a national certificate of merit by the national emergency food garden commission for the best canned vegetables grown in a war garden. This contest for which the commission appropriated \$5,000, is being carried on in all Indian schools as well as at hundreds of state and country fairs and scores of war garden exhibits.

—*Sioux City Tribune.*

A New Land is Coming in.

Washington, D. C., Oct. 24.—Cato Sells, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, returned to Washington today from a two months' tour of the deserts in Arizona and southern California. During his trip Commissioner Sells traveled hundreds of miles in automobiles and many miles on horseback, frequently climbing mountains on foot and wading rivers. Some of the time the thermometer registered 120 degrees in the shade and no shade. He inspected the water sheds of the Gila river in Arizona and New Mexico for the purpose of locating possible reservoir and dam sites, and traversed the entire Salt River valley. He closely tracked the Colorado river from Needles, Ariz., to Yuma, Cal.,

inspected the Parker and Yuma reservation irrigation possibilities and studied conditions in the Imperial valley, his definite purpose being to thoroughly familiarize himself with the water conditions and production possibilities of the desert countries of the continent. Among other things accomplished during his trip, the commissioner effected preliminary arrangements for power to be used in pumping and for clearing, leveling and putting into cultivation 50,000 acres in one tract of desert lands on the Pima reservation, southwest of Phoenix.

Commissioner Sells says that with water these desert lands are capable of almost unbelievable production; that Egyptian long staple cotton is fast becoming a chief crop, making approximately one bale to the acre, now selling for 70 cents a pound; that alfalfa grows in great quantities, being cut seven or eight times each season, and that milo maize produces abundantly; that there are more cattle and hogs fed in the Salt River valley, Yuma and Imperial valleys than in any other equal territory in the world. The commissioner visited one ranch in the Yuma valley where 7,000 hogs were being fed. It is his purpose within the next 18 months to develop not only the 50,000 acres on the Pima reservation, but in like manner thousands of acres on the Parker and Yuma reservations. With the first hand information Commissioner Sells obtained on this trip he is able to rapidly and effectively transform much of the great deserts of the southwest into the production of food for the world's immediate necessities.