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SOUTH TEXAS GARDEN

GREAT PROGRESS OF GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISE.

In Few Short Months Wilderness of Old Army Post Transformed Into Veritable Eden—Truck Gardens a Revelation—Luscious Ripe Strawberries in Mid-winter—Grapes, Nuts, Camphor, Cork and Japanese Cherry Trees.

In making the rounds gathering news of general interest, a HERALD reporter strolled yesterday afternoon to the South Texas Gardens, located at the far end of Fort Brown.

Needless to say this is indeed an enterprise of which the citizens of the lower Rio Grande valley should be proud. Not only will its operations prove an education for the truck grower, farmer and horticulturist, but will also prove of great benefit to all other interests here by showing the wonderful variety of products that succeed here, and by illustrating the value of the rich land in this valley, will attract homeseekers far more effectively than all the eloquence of the real estate men.

The work accomplished in the short time since the Garden has been in operation is simply wonderful, and the great progress made truly reflects credit upon the ability and energy of the manager, Mr. E. C. Green. In a few short months, he has transformed this end of the old army post from a wilderness to a veritable Eden.

The trees, brush, grass and weeds, which not long ago grew on this place in a chaotic state, have been replaced with many of the choicest vegetables such as radishes, lettuce, English peas, cabbage, cauliflower, pepper, tomatoes, turnips, beets, spinach, onions and many other varieties, while many rows of young trees and cuttings give promise of most interesting developments at an early day along these lines.

Of the vegetables mentioned, Mr. Green stated that he has ready for the table the following: cabbage, cauliflower, turnips, beets, spinach, radishes, English peas, peppers, and onions. How is this for a truck growing country in mid-winter.

The reporter found Mr. Green busy harvesting an excellent patch of cauliflower and cabbage of which he has a number of different varieties. In going through the garden, the reporter was amazed to see the strawberry patch, with ripe berries peeping out from under the leaves. This luscious berry, always inviting, is far more so in January, when it is supposed to be in hiding until spring. In this country, however, it is next to impossible to keep their delicious red noses from old Sol's eyes even in mid-winter.

Among the many new experiments that are being made at the South Texas Gardens, the most important is that of growing the cork-oak tree. Mr. Green is in receipt of a barrel of the acorns of this tree, and has already planted several rows of them in the garden. These acorns were imported direct

from the southern part of Spain. It is Mr. Green's intention to induce as many of the land owners as possible to plant them on their farms, as he states that they are very ornamental trees, as well as being of great commercial value. Camphor trees are also being tried here, from the leaves and sprouts of which is made the gum camphor which is sold the world over in drug stores. Japanese cherry trees, famous for their beautiful and fragrant blossoms, are also late arrivals at the Gardens. Three bushels of the famous California walnuts have also been received for planting. It is on these trees the well known English walnut is grafted and extensive experiments will be made in this line. The last, but not the least, arrivals in the tree line is the tallow-tree, noted for its immense height and beauty. These trees grow to the height of 75 to 100 feet and are of inestimable value for shade trees.

The grapes and citrus fruits come in for their share of "petting" also and form, in fact a very important department. Just think of a vineyard of two hundred and twenty-four different varieties of grapes, which takes in nearly the whole grape family. Oranges, lemons, and many other fruit trees are flourishing. In fact, anything that is grown or can be grown in a semi-tropical region is being planted at the Gardens.

In addition to this, the government has stationed here an expert entomologist, D. K. McMillan, of Washington, D. C., to examine the insect life and find out the best and quickest way to kill the destructive insects. Any truck grower in this section is cordially invited to make known his troubles in the insect line to Mr. McMillan.

Mr. Green has taken up permanent quarters nearer the Gardens and has moved into the house opposite the artillery barracks.

Made Sad Mistake.

"In my country," said a Swedish engineer, "they make a brown cheese of goat's milk. It is a delicious cheese, but to a foreigner its aspect is not inviting. It is made in little bricks.

"In Sweden last summer I sent to some of my Harrisburg friends a few of these cheeses along with some Swedish punch and other native delicacies.

"One letter of acknowledgment that I got said:

"Thanks awfully for the punch and salmon. The soap, too, is very nice, but we find great difficulty in making it lather."

"The soap of course was the cheese."

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There is at Rnn the largest settlement of American families at any point in the valley, with a school of over for several years, and will be used to furnish water to those who want to go to work at once. THE NEW CANAL IS BEING BUILT from the Railway at Donna to the site of the Sugar Mill, thus giving railway facilities to the purchasers of

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