Q Login Help Feedback Collections , « Back to "In this Item" results About this Book Message. 1901. REPORT View full catalog record Rights: Public Domain, Googledigitized Get this Book Find in a library OF THE Download this page (PDF) Download whole book (PDF) Partner login required Add to Collection Login to make your personal GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA collections permanent Select Collection Add Share Permanent link to this book TO THE Link to this page Embed this book SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR. Version: 2012-04-23 11:17 UTC 1901. WASHINGTON: GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

. 1901.

Digitized by Google

Original from

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Q Login Feedback Help « Back to "In this Item" results About this Book REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA. 21 Message, 1901. View full catalog record SETTLEMENT OF LANDS. Rights: Public Domain, Google NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN LAND DISTRICTS. Status of lands in Tucson, Ariz., land district at the close of business June 30, 1901. Get this Book Area unappropriated and unre-served. Area Find in a library appropri-ated. Total. County. Download this page (PDF) Unsur-veyed. Total. Surveyed. Download whole book (PDF) Partner login required Acres, 2,845 275,885 33,130 279,180 509,854 4cms, 39,215 3,573,504 432,563 2,848,811 3,663,146 Acres. 204, 980 132, 599 745, 807 Acres. 18,000 2,129,879 372,688 Apache
Cochise
Gila
Graham
Marleopa
Navajo
Pima
Pima
Pima
Santa Cruz
Yuma 21,206 1,443,627 59,875 753,287 Add to Collection 2,005,524 193, 000 70, 000 91, 414 285, 970 (09,801 Login to make your personal 445,390 242,175 26,314 304,663 1, 139, 115 810, 480 231, 926 1, 191, 633 2, 123, 875 collections permanent 160, 320 65, 442 612,803 4,501,895 4,932,000 3,835,370 Select Collection 646,525 29,448,000 Total 6, 100,842 18, 138, 265 24, 220, 107 2,000,532 2,20,301 Add Status of lands in Prescott, Ariz., land district June 30, 1901. Share Area unappropriated and unre-served. Permanent link to this book Area ap propri-ated. Total. County. Unsur-Total. Surveyed Link to this page Acres. 3,977,886 3,427,545 378,127 Acres. 1,322,900 699,460 3,078 3,400 Acres. 690, 157 8,488,215 1,215,600 1,217,732 5,721,942 633,401 Acres, 1,722,214 9,102,986 1,330,795 1,371,500 0,707,041 1,903,085 4,574,413 1,193,900 Embed this book 283,990 3,895,820 184,130 201,600 45,969 1,011,095 498,455 3, 718, 182 1, 193, 900 Version: 2012-04-23 11:17 UTC 27,910,930 11,949,138 3, 484, 426 4,932,218 Transactions for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1901, in the United States land office at Prescott, Ariz. Entries Acres. Class of ontry. 61235482212 240 15, 348 1.503 34,875 185 Total RAILROADS.

Railroad building has been especially active in Arizona during the year. The Arizona and Southeastern has been extended southeast of Bisbee to Nacosari, Mexico, and is projected to go farther south. It crosses the Territorial line at Douglas, Cochise County. The members of the same company under a different organization are con-

platted by Google

कृत्व का हिल्ल UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Q Login

Collections Hein Feedback

« Back to "In this Item" results

About this Book

Message, 1901.

View full catalog record

Rights: Public Domain, Goodledigitized.

Get this Book

Find in a library Download this page (PDF) Download whole book (PDF) Partner loain required

Add to Collection

Login to make your personal collections permanent

Select Collection

Add

Share

Permanent link to this book

Link to this page

Embed this book

Version: 2012-04-23 11:17 UTC

REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA. 22

structing a line east from Douglas to El Paso, and the work thereon is rapidly progressing. A line is also projected from a point on the Arizona and Southeastern to the famous mining camp of Tombstone, and will be built very soon. It is reliably stated that the Rock Island Railroad is arranging to extend west from El Paso across Arizona to the coast, which will give the Territory the benefit of three transcontinental trunk lines. It is presumed that the Rock Island road will connect with the line being built by Phelps, Dodge & Co. to El Paso, although there may be independent construction. The Arizona and New Mexico, a narrow gauge between Clifton, Ariz., and Lordsburg, N. Mex., has been widened to a standard gauge during the year, and it is proposed to extend the line south from Lordsburg to connect with the line from Bisbee to El Paso. Surveys have been made for the purpose. A narrow-gauge road has been constructed from Guthric, on the Arizona and New Mexico, to the thriving copper camp of Morenci, a distance of 18 miles. The road is a marvel of engineering skill, the grade in places being 5 per cent and crossing itself five times in loops. Many tunnels are necessary to make it possible to get up the mountains. The road from Williams, on the Santa Fe Pacific the mountains. The road from Williams, on the Santa Fe Pacific Railroad, to the Grand Canyon, a distance of 64 miles (which road is now owned by the Santa Fe), is about completed, the work of construction being actively pushed on the last few miles.

The Prescott and Eastern Railroad is building a branch from Mayer up Big Bug Creek, a distance of 10 miles, to the mining district at the head of Lynx Creek. The mines will be reached through a tunnel 8,000 feet in length, which is being rapidly driven. Another branch line has been surveyed a distance of 25 miles from Mayer into the Bradshaw Mountains, a very rich mining district, which branch will undoubtedly be built in the near future. Surveyors are in the field working on a line from Phoenix to Benson, a distance of 150 miles. It is proposed to extend the Santa Fe, Prescott and Phoenix road to connect with the Arizona and Southeastern at Benson, via Tempe, The value of this road in devel-Florence, and the San Pedro Valley. oping central Arizona will be great. The road is sure to be built, and active construction will soon begin. It is practically assured that no part of the country will witness greater progress in railroad construction during the next few years than will be seen in Arizona. The benefits of these lines in developing the resources of the Territory can not be overestimated.

The reads now in operation in the Territory are as follows:

	Gauge.	Miles.
Southern Pacific of Arisons, extending along the southern part of the Terri-	Feet.	
County, passing through the counties of Yuma, Maricopa, Pinal, Pima, and	4.81	883
Cochiso- Santa Fe Pacific, crossing north of the center of the Territory, near the thirty- fifth parallel, and passing through the counties of Apache, Navajo, Cochino, Yayand, and Mohavo.	4.81	893
Senta Fo, Proscott and Phoenix, running from Ash Fork, on the find of the	4.81	197
Gila Valley, Globe and Northern From Bowie, on the Southern 2 acres		140
New Mexico and Arizona, running from Benson, on the Bouthern Factor		87
Arizona and New Mozico, running from Clifton, in Graham County, to the Southern Pacific, at Lordsburg, N. Mex.	4.8	.41
Arizons and Southeastern, running from Bisbee, Cochise County, to Bennout	4.81	54
the Southern Facine, is the same county. Maricopa and Phoenix and Sait River Valley, running from Maricopa, Piuni County, on the Southern Pacific, to Phoenix, Maricopa County, with a branch from Tempe, Maricopa County, to Mess, in the same county, with a branch from Tempe, Maricopa County, to Mess, in the same county.	4.81	48

digitized by Gougle.

About Collections Help Search words about or within the items

Q Login

« Back to "In this Item" results

About this Book

Message. 1901.

View full catalog record

Rights: Public Domain, Google-

digitized.

Get this Book

Find in a library Download this page (PDF) Download whole book (PDF) Partner login required

Add to Collection

Login to make your personal

Select Collection

Add

Share

Permanent link to this book

http://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39

Link to this page

http://hdi.handle.net/2027/mdp.39

Embed this book

Version: 2012-04-23 11:17 UTC

REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA.

employees as general superintendents, clerks, and salesmen. It is possible that this change in the form of the question has resulted in eliminating from the wage earners, as reported by the present census, many high-salaried employees included in that group for the census of 1890.

Arizona was organized as a Territory on February 24, 1863. Prior to that date it formed a part of the Territory of New Mexico; therefore the Ninth Census (1870) was the first census in which the statistics for the Territory were published separately.

Table 1 shows the manufacturing and mechanical industries of the Territory of Arizona as returned at the censuses of 1870 to 1900, inclusive, with the percentages of increase for each decade.

TABLE 1.—Comparative summary, 1870 to 1900, with per cent of increase for each derade.

	Date of census.				Per cent of incresse.		
	1900. 1890.		1880.	1870.	1890 to 1900.	1880 to 1890.	1870 to 1880.
Wage-earners, average num- bor. Total wages Miscellaneous expenses. Cost of materials used. Valva of products, including	\$10,157,408 \$2,268 \$2,269,055 \$432,272 \$8,464,410 \$21,815,189	\$516,629 \$516,629 458 \$302,146 49,231 \$353,514 \$947,547	\$272,600 \$111,180 \$380,023 \$618,365	\$150, 700 \$45, 550 \$110,000 \$185, 410	813.2 1,547.2 613.5 694.1 780.1 2,992.8 2,149.5	15.2 128.2 128.2 108.2 171.8	265. 7 80. 9 161. 9 143. 9 245. 2

¹ Not reported.

TABLE 2.—Summary for all establishments.

	Num-	i		Propri-		Wage-carners.		
Classes.	ber of estab- lish- ments.	etors and firm mem- bers.	Aver-	Total wages.	Miscella- neous ex- penses.			
Hand trades	122	*	201,688	18	5 243	\$163,601	\$25,242	
Establishments with a product of less than \$600 Governmental establishments Penal, eleemosynary, and educational	. 49		22,247 5,000	• 6	3 10	1,966 1,820	2,198	
institutionsAll other establishments	192	9,	1, 185 955, 720	17	8,025	2,945 2,205,464		
Total	869	10,	185,840	36	8,284	2,875,298	435,596	
	Cost of materials used.					Value of		
Classes.	Tota	1.	Purch in ra stat	nsed i	urchased a partial- y manu- actured form.	Fuel. freight,	products, including custom work and repairing.	
Hand trades 1 Establishments with a product of less than \$500 Governmental establishments Penal, eleemosynary, and educational institutions. All other establishments Total.	\$317,	450		900	\$296,450	\$20,100	9 682,068	
	13.	957 984	12,	16 834	5,941 100	1,030	14,858 16,987	
	8.146.	900 900	4,078,	918 ,	7,848 1,583,154	2,482,893	10,824 20,653,101	
	8,492,	auo ,	4,092,	663	1,693,493	2,504,153	21,367,863	

² Includee bicycle and tricycle repairing, 6; blacksmithing and wheelwrighting, 38; boots and ahoes, custom work and repairing, 11; carpentering, 15; clothing, men's, custom work and repairing, 13; clothing, women's, dreamaking, 3; dyeing and cleaning, 1; lock and gunamithing, 1; masonry, brick and atone, 2; millinery, custom work, 7; painting, house, sign, etc., 5; plastering and stuccowork, 1; plumbing and gas and steam fitting, 8; watch, clock, and jeweiry repairing, 11.

Digitated by Google

Original from UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Mobile Take-Down Policy Privacy Collections Help Feedback

³ Decresse.

26

Collections About

Back to "In this Item" results

About this Book

Message, 1901.

View full catalog record

Rights: Public Domain, Google-

Get this Book

Find in a librery Download this page (PDF) Download whole book (PDF) Partner login required

Add to Collection

Legin to make your personal collections permanent

Select Collection

Add

Permanent link to this book

Link to this page

Embed this book

Version: 2012-04-23 11:17 UTC

REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA.

While Table 1 shows a rapid increase in the manufacturing and mechanical industries, especially during the past decade, the Territory is preeminently a mining and stock-raising region, and the people are chiefly occupied in the development of the natural resources. The totals for 1870 include two establishments engaged in milling and smelting quartz and copper not included in subsequent consuses. The statistics for smelting and refining, which were included in the report on mining at the censuses of 1880 and 1890, are now included in the report on manufactures and constitute more than 80 per cent of the total product of the Territory. This accounts for the abnormal increase shown in the products.

With the exception of the smelting and refining of ores, manufacturing is almost wholly limited to the so-called neighborhood industries, and practically the entire product is consumed at or near the point of production. The lumber mills and the construction and repair shops of steam railroads are the exceptions to this rule.

Table 2 divides the industries of the Territory between the hand trades and the manufactures proper. This table also gives the statistics for governmental establishments, institutions, and establishments with a product of less than \$500, none of which were reported at previous censuses, and therefore are omitted from the other tables and their use confined to Table 2.

In addition to the 869 active establishments in the Territory during the census year with a capital of \$10,185.840, shown in Table 2, there were ten idle establishments with a capital of \$10,185.840, shown in Table 2, there were ten idle establishments with a capital of \$10,185.840, shown in Table 2, there were ten idle establishments with a capital of \$10,865.775.

AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION.

The voluminous correspondence directed to the office of the governor from all parts of the country bears evidence of a general desire for information concerning the resources of Arizona, particularly with reference to mining and agriculture. And the thousands of requests each year for the annual report (which requests can not be complied with on account of the limited edition) indicate that the information furnished can not be too complete for the satisfaction of the public. In former reports I have dwelt at greater length with the mining industry. On this occasion I consider it proper to present exhaustive intelligence relating to the subjects of agriculture and irrigation, which properly may be considered as one topic.

For the greater part of the statistics, and other details concerning these subjects, I wish to make acknowledgment to the Cenus Office at Washington. Advance proofs were very kindly furnished to me, from which I have been able to report the exceedingly valuable and authen-

tic information contained herein.

tic information contained herein.

Of the 5,809 farms in the Territory, including those in the Indian reservations, 4,210 are irrigated and 1,599 are unirrigated. The acres in the irrigated farms number 558,821; in the unirrigated, 1,376,506. The value of all land in the irrigated farms, not including buildings, is \$9,614,352, and of the unirrigated it is \$1,802,108. The value of all buildings on irrigated farms is \$1,822,322, and for the unirrigated, \$444,178. Live stock on the irrigated farms has a value of \$8.500,067. \$444,178. Live stock on the irrigated farms has a value of \$8,500,067, and on unirrigated, \$6,958,650. The irrigated farms are 72.5 per cent of all; the corresponding percentage of acres is 28.9; that of the value of land and improvements, exclusive of buildings, is 84.2; buildings, 80.4; implements and machinery, 85.7; live stock, 55; and the total of all these forms of farm wealth, 69 per cent.

The average size of all farms, exclusive of holdings by Indians, is 468 acres; the average size of irrigated farms is 175 acres; and the average amount of irrigated land on each irrigated farm is 62 acres. On the farms making use of irrigation the average value of products not fed to live stock is \$7 per acre. The unirrigated farms make greater use of the public domain for grazing purposes than do those which are irrigated, and from that source secure an income not directly obtained from the land inclosed in farms. Nevertheless the

Digitized by Google

Collections Feedback About « Back to "In this Item" results ' About this Book Message, 1901. View full catalog record Rights: Public Domain, Google-**Get this Book** Find in a library Download this page (PDF) Download whole book (PDF) Partner login required Add to Collection Login to make your persona collections permanent Select Collection

Snare

Permanent link to this book

Link to this page

Embed this book

Version: 2012-04-23 11:17 UTC

REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA.

27

Login

average value per acre of products not fed to live stock on unirrigated farms in 1899 is only \$1.79.

In the counties outside of the Indian reservations the average value per acre of land, exclusive of buildings, is, for all farms, \$5.74; for unirrigated farms, \$1.23; and for irrigated farms, \$17.67. The average value of irrigated land per acre is \$43.50, while that for the best irrigated land, suitable for growing alfalfa, is from \$60 to \$200 per acre. Irrigated fruit land is even more valuable.

There are relatively but two river systems, the Colorado and the Gila, it being usual to include the Salt River system with the Gila, although as a matter of fact the Salt carries a larger volume of water than the Gila and under the Salt is found the greatest area of irrigated land. The drainage area of the former and its tributaries, the Rio de Chelly, Little Colorado, Cataract Creek, and Bill Williams Fork, comprises about one-half the Territory. The other half, far more important, agriculturally considered, is embraced by the Gila, with its numerous confluents, each of which is of sufficient prominence to deserve consideration as a separate system, possessing an independent, though tributary, watershed of its own. These tributary members are the Upper Gila watershed, the San Pedro and Santa Cruz watersheds, the Verde, Salt, Agua Fria, Hasayampa, and Lower Gila. Within this area the agricultural wealth of Cochise, Gila, Graham, Maricopa, Pima, Pinal, Yavapai, and Yuma counties is practically embraced.

embraced Flowing in deeply eroded canyons through regions mainly of high plateaus, the Colorado and its branches are rarely available for irrigation purposes except in the southern portions of its watershed, where narrow valleys and basins are found. A review of the progress of irrigation is therefore confined very largely to the watershed of the Gila, wherein the greatest agricultural development has been shown. The region tributary thereto lends itself much more readily and cheaply to the construction of canals and ditches, and comprises far more available land which will ultimately be reclaimed than the drainage area of the Colorado and its affluents. Within this area lie the principal irrigated portions of Arizona, and in it are found the largest and most important irrigation systems. This section of Arizona resembles southern California more closely than it does any other portion of the United States. In many essentials it is not unlike certain districts on the southern and western shores of the Mediterranean, where irrigation is older than the history of the race which now inhabits it. Without irrigation, this part of Arizona is a semitropical desert; with irrigation, it is capable of sustaining a dense population, limited only by the water supply that can be secured by ditches, reservoirs, and wells, and by the wisdom shown in the distribution of water thus obtained.

The development of the Territory by reclaiming its arid but fertile land presents problems of water storage of great importance. Their solution is simplified by the fact that the small precipitation of rain takes place during two plainly marked rainy seasons. In winter the rains begin to fall in December, and the precipitation, while not great, is quite sufficient to cause floods in the streams. The summer rains fall in July, August, and throughout September, and their amount and intensity are considerably in excess of those falling in winter.

While no reservoirs of importance have yet been constructed in the Territory, the future reclamation of large areas of fertile lands depends

Digitized by Google

About Collections Help

Q Login

« Back to "In this Item" results

About this Book

Message, 1901.

View full catalog record

Rights: Public Domain, Google-

Get this Book

Find in a library Download this page (PDF) Download whole book (PDF)

Partner login required

Add to Collection

Login to make your personal collections permanent

Select Collection

Share

Permenent link to this book

Link to this page

Embed this book

Version: 2012-04-23 11:17 UTC

28 REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA.

upon the storage of flood waters on the sites which nature has provided. When perfected, these reservoirs should be sufficiently extensive to provide water that will last through temporary droughts. They must be provided with enormous waste ways to safely discharge

the torrential rainfalls which are not uncommon.

The problem of water storage for irrigation is the most interesting question before the people of Arizona. All are agreed that upon the storage of the flood waters depends the future development of agriculture in the Territory. While there are millions of acres of Government land open to entry, there is hardly an additional acre that is available until the water supply is increased through storage. executive office is in constant receipt of inquiries from all parts of the Union as to the opportunities in Arizona for settlers on the public To such inquiries the reply is always made that practically speaking, all of the land for which there is water available at present has been acquired by settlers, and the only opening for other agriculturists is to buy land already titled. That there are still many inviting opportunities for men of energy and moderate capital is true, for much of land within reach of water from the canals is held in large bodies and would yield much greater returns if subjected to that thorough oultivation which always attends small holdings in an irrigated country.

The storage problem is twofold: First, it involves increasing the water supply for such canal systems as now carry a deficient volume in the dry season; and, second, a supply sufficiently large and constant to warrant the reclamation of large areas of the so-called desert,

or public domain.

That phase of the question which concerns the lands already acquired from the Government is, of course, of more pressing interest to those who hold property in the Territory than is the broad question of the reclamation of the public lands. As explained in my former reports, the returns from agriculture under irrigation have been so remunerative, even under the most adverse conditions of inadequate water, that capital has been led into the construction of canals, for which the water normally is not sufficient, and under these canals settlers have acquired lands from the Government and have gone ahead cultivating and improving their possessions so far as possible, although in many instances the land lies uncultivated year after year simply

because there is not water for it.

The best illustration of the conditions here referred to is seen in Maricopa County, the principal agricultural county of the Territory. The area of land which has been settled upon under the various canals in Maricopa County will easily aggregate 300,000 acres, while the land actually irrigated each year will not probably amount to more than 130,000 acres, and for much of this area there is, throughout a long season each year, an insufficient volume of water in the ditches. tending with this uninviting condition, the agriculturists of the county have made a showing which is really phenomenal. Within the county, including Phœnix, there is property of an assessed valuation of approximately \$10,000,000, with an actual valuation much greater than that, and it can be said that nearly all of this wealth has been produced by irrigation. Not only that, but there is probably no other community in the world so uniformly prosperous. Farmers by the score take their families to the seashore and other pleasure resorts in the vacation season, and the agricultural population generally lives more comfortably and enjoys more luxuries than any other farming people in the United States.

profitzed by Google

About

Feedback

Login

« Back to "In this Item" results

About this Book

Message, 1901.

View full catalog record

Rights: Public Domain, Google-

Get this Book

Find in a library Download this page (PDF) Download whole book (PDF)

Partner login required **Add to Collection**

Login to make your personal

Select Collection

Add

Share

Permanent link to this book

Link to this page

Embed this book

Version: 2012-04-23 11:17 UTC

REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA.

29

Recognition of these facts, and of the further fact that annually enough water flows to waste in the floods of the Salt River to fully irrigate all of the 300,000 acres under the canals if it were stored, and the knowledge that storage would make the Salt River Valley one of the wealthiest regions in the world, have caused the people of the wealthiest regions in the world, have caused the people of the valley to turn with earnest attention during the past two years to consideration of the storage problem. As explained in the matter dealing with the progress of irrigation in the several counties, Marianna County is fortunetaly situated in having near a recovery site in copa County is fortunately situated in having near a reservoir site in the Tonto Basin which offers a ready solution of the question. There is no division of sentiment as to the necessity of constructing the reservoir. The only doubt is as to the best method of accomplishing success. A private corporation having acquired from the Government the necessary rights to the site, has expended a large sum of money in settling the engineering questions involved, and in the

effort to safely finance the project.
The difficulties, however, in the way of obtaining the large capital necessary to the construction of a permanently stable dam have been very great. In the first place, any effort to obtain considerable capital in the money centers of the East for industrial enterprises in Arizona encounters an ignorance of the conditions prevailing in the Territory which makes the task a heavy one. It is all the more difficult to enlist capital for water-storage enterprises on account of the mass of misinformation with which the investing public has been sup-For instance, the leaders in the propaganda of "Government ownership" of all irrigation enterprises of the future have in mistaken zeal industriously circulated statements to the effect that no storage enterprise by individuals or private corporations can be made to yield a profit on the investment. These statements have been based, as I have explained in former reports, on isolated examples in California. which find no parallel whatever in Arizona. ects in California and elsewhere which failed primarily to yield satisfactory returns to stockholders were failures simply because they were carried out without due consideration of the circumstances surrounding them. Due attention had not been given to the water supply and the fact that an irrigation system for lands vacant at the beginning of construction must necessarily wait a term of years for revenue to flow in from the lands to be irrigated, especially if the lands are given over to slow-maturing fruit orchards. Apparently no appreciation of a different situation in Arizona can be brought home to those who have so willingly accepted the dictum that all further progress in the irrigated regions of the West must awaii appropriations from the Federal Treasury. Anybody at all familiar with existing conditions in the Salt River Valley knows that if a reservoir were assured, every acre available for cultivation under the reservoir would be in tillage.

and yielding a revenue the first year in which water was supplied. It is evident that for the Salt River Valley there is not much encouragement in the movement for construction of reservoirs by the Government for the reason that it is feared Congress would not be easily persuaded to appropriate money for the benefit of lands already settled, inasmuch as the headway so far made for reservoir construction. for the public lands has not reached the point of assured success. But two solutions accordingly appear to offer. The capital required must be provided by a private corporation, alone or assisted by some form of local encouragement, or the construction must be done by the county or a district thereof. Earnest consideration of these points asis now engaging the attention of the people of the valley.

Digitized by Gougle

About Collections Help Feedback « Back to "In this Item" results **About this Book** Message, 1901. View full catalog record Rights: Public Domain, Google-Get this Book Find in a library Download this page (PDF) Download whole book (PDF) Partner login required Add to Collection Login to make your personal collections permanent Select Collection Add Share Permanent link to this book Link to this page Embed this book

Version: 2012-04-23 11:17 UTC

30 REPORT OF THE GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA.

There is of course deep interest in the general question of "Government aid" to the people of the West in the matter of storage enter-prises. It is insisted by many, and not without reason, it must be confessed, that the Government very properly could extend financial assistance in the reclamation of the arid lands for the reason that the expenditure would be for the direct benefit of intending settlers and the outlay ultimately would be returned to the public treasury.

Q Login

If Congress could be brought to a favorable consideration of the proposed system, Arizona offers exceptional reasons for beginning the work here. As heretofore explained, and as forcibly pointed out by the Secretary of the Interior, the construction of the proposed dam at San Carlos on the Gila River would settle permanently the question of a water supply for the Indians on the Gila River Reservation, of whom there are more than 4,000 engaged in an attempt to make a living by farming. Unless a system of irrigation is provided for them by the Government they must inevitably become a burdensome charge upon the National Treasury, whereas their capabilities in the way of selfsupport are altogether satisfactory. Not only would the San Carlos reservoir provide these Indians with a permanent water supply, but many thousands of acres of vacant land would be available for homeseekers. The revenues from the districts thus irrigated, even though based on a very moderate charge for the water service annually, would be sufficiently large to more than pay a good interest on the money necessary to be invested in construction. Complete information as to the cost of the proposed reservoir is within reach of Congress, and it is to be hoped that the coming session will authorize the beginning of the work. the work. No better opportunity could be offered for a trial of the plan of Government construction of reservoirs.

On the general question as to the best method of quickly bringing about the settlement and improvement of the arid lands, I have in no wise receded from the position heretofore taken, namely, that the most practicable course would be through a general cession of the arid lands to the States and Territories in which they lie. Unless it be assumed at the outset that the people are incapable of self-government, there can be no argument whatever against permitting them to take over the public domain and use it as a basis for obtaining capital for the construction of reservoirs. The entire opposition to the suggestion lies in the assumption that the people are essentially corrupt and that the lawmakers whom they would direct to represent them would be perversely dishonest; in the assumption that it would be impossible for Congress to devise a measure which would properly protect the people from spoliation; and finally in the assumption that capital is always dishonest and should have no consideration or encouragement. Happily such inferential arguments are confined to but a few, and have little popularity in Arizona.

DETAILS CONCERNING IRRIGATION.

Arizona has been inhabited at different times by three races, each making use of irrigation in agricultural operations. Of the first, or prehistoric, race very little is known. Evidences abound that it inhabited Arizona for an extended period and had vanished before the advent of the white man in America. In Maricopa and other counties are found traces of this race, and the present canals and ditches for irrigation in many places follow closely the lines laid down centuries When the region was explored by white men the agricultural

Digitized by Google