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# ARIZONA AS IT IS;

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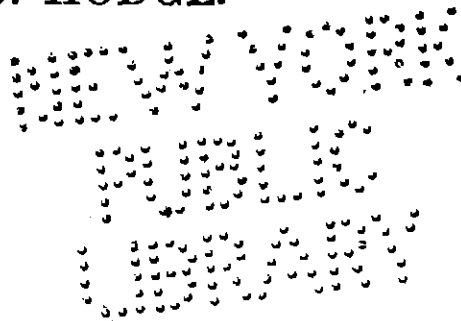
# THE COMING COUNTRY.

COMPILED FROM

NOTES OF TRAVEL DURING THE YEARS  
1874, 1875, AND 1876.

BY

HIRAM C. HODGE.

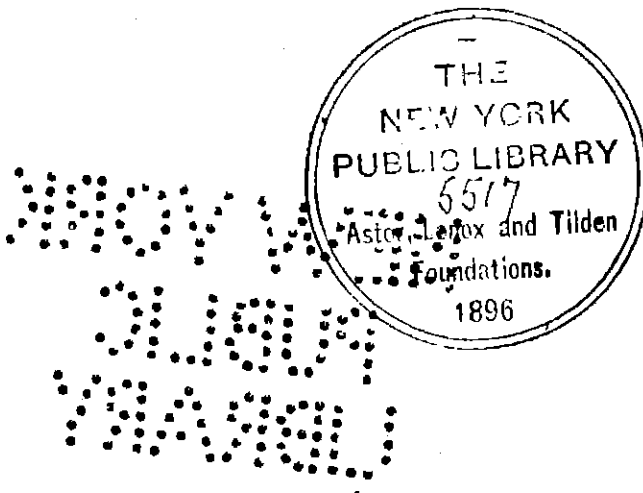


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three hundred miles to its junction with the Colorado at Yuma. The total length of the Gila, including its many windings, is fully six hundred and fifty miles. For four hundred miles, at low water, the Gila has an average width of about one hundred feet, and a depth of one to two feet.

Salt River rises well up towards the eastern part of the Territory, in the White Mountains, its head waters being the White and Black rivers. It has numerous large branches, coming in mostly from the north, draining the country far to the north, including the Tonto Basin, the Sierra Ancha, White, San Francisco, and other mountains. Its course is west and southwest, and it unites with the Gila below Phoenix some thirty miles. This river was named the "Rio Salido," by the early Spanish and Jesuit explorers, on account of its waters being highly impregnated with salt, which is easily noticed at low water. This is caused by a heavy salt formation through which the river passes about one hundred miles above Phoenix. At low water it is a clear, beautiful stream, having an average width of two hundred feet for a distance of one hundred miles above its junction with the Gila, and a depth of two feet or more.

The Verde River is one of the largest northern branches of Salt River, its upper branches rising at different points to the east, north, and northwest

bushels of wheat, barley, and corn, to the acre. Beans, melons, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, and other roots and vegetables of most kinds, grow and produce well. Peaches, pears, nectarines, apricots, and all the smaller fruits, also grapes, and most of the semi-tropical fruits can be cultivated with success. Sugar-cane, hemp, tobacco, and no doubt rice and cotton, could also be successfully cultivated.

In the Gila Valley, extending from above Florence to Yuma, there are in all at least five hundred thousand acres of land, similar in character and productiveness to that of the valley of Salt River, and capable of producing the same cereals, vegetables, fruits, etc. In this great valley is the Gila River Indian Reservation, where the Pima Indians have cultivated wheat, corn, pumpkins, melons, etc., for the past two centuries.

In the Chiquito Colorado Valley, including its tributary and lateral valleys, there are about five hundred thousand acres of good farming and grass land, which produces wheat, barley, corn, and most of the fruits and vegetables common to the Northern States. Wild flax grows here very abundantly, and when first explored it was from that reason called Flax River. Many thousand tons of wild hay, of excellent quality, could be cut in this valley annually, and in the course of time this will become very valuable. In the upper part of the valley, at the Milligan Set-

tlement, there is quite a prosperous town springing up, and also at several other favorable points, small villages are starting into active life. Colonies of Mormons have been settling in the lower portions of the valley the past two years, and being an industrious people, will soon become successful colonies.

Along the upper portions of Salt River, including the valleys of its many tributaries, there are in all at least two hundred thousand acres of land, capable of raising most of the products before named, and in those valleys which extend well up into the mountains, Irish potatoes of an excellent quality can be successfully raised.

The Pueblo Viejo Valley, sometimes called the Upper Gila Valley, has, with its tributary valleys, that of Ash Creek and others, over one hundred thousand acres of choice farming land, rich, beautiful, and productive, and is one of the most desirable places for settlement in the whole Territory. Its altitude is about four thousand feet, which is a sufficient elevation to escape the extreme heat of the lower valleys, and to give a mild and healthy climate in winter. Snow is almost unknown in the valley, and the Gila River furnishes a large volume of water sufficient to irrigate most of the valleys when properly distributed. The products are about the same as those of the valleys of the Salt and Gila rivers mentioned above.

On the Arizona side of the Colorado River, there