

Learn More of the Wonderful Gulf Coast Country of Texas

And Especially About the Irrigated La Lomita Tract at Mission, Texas

You have heard much about the wonderful Gulf Coast Country of Texas. You have read about the richness of the soil, and of the big profits growers are making. The Gulf Coast Country of Texas has passed the experimental stage—irrigation and quick transportation have made large yields and big profits a practical certainty. You should know more of the possibilities of this country, and the opportunities it offers to you.

In a recent issue of The Commoner, we gave you some idea of the Gulf Coast Country, in which are located the Irrigated Semi-Tropical Lands of the La Lomita Tract at Mission, Texas, in the Delta of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. We want you to know more about this fine tract of 27,000 acres, every foot of which is under irrigation. In future issues of The Commoner we are going to give you detailed infor-



Cotton Field Near Mission, Hidalgo County, Texas

mation concerning the soil, water, climate, transportation facilities, etc.

You realize that results tell the story better than anything else. We are going to give you from time to time actual experiences from producers on this land at Mission. They will give you more definite knowledge of what is being accomplished here. By way of introduction, we will publish a letter from Hon. Frank C. Pierce, a prominent attorney of Brownsville, Texas. This letter was in answer to our request for an impartial report of the conditions and prospects of this country. This report from Mr. Pierce was asked for by one of our purchasers, who now owns 160 acres of this fine land. His observations are made from a wide acquaintance with this country, covering a period of twenty-four years, and deserve your careful attention.

An Expert's Opinion of Lands and Conditions at Mission

Brownsville, Texas.—Mr. John J. Conway, Mission, Texas.—Your letter of the 5th inst., in which you desire that I should make a report of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Country, is received. I note also that you wish it to be in simple language.

My knowledge of the subject matter has been acquired from observation while living here from 1862 to 1880 and from 1903 to the present. During these periods of time I have traveled over most of the Lower Rio Grande Valley and consequently am well acquainted with the country, its history and its people.

DELIGHTFUL CLIMATE—FERTILE SOIL

Nowhere in the United States, markets considered, and possibly nowhere in the world, is there such a favorable combination of the elements of nature as is found in the southern part of Hidalgo and Cameron counties. With a delightful climate, most fertile soil, abundance of water for irrigating purposes and ample cheap labor, it invites the attention of the world. The climate is peculiarly well adapted to the maintenance of health and comfort and to the profitable conduct of the agricultural pursuits of this section of the country. The heat of summer is tempered by the Gulf breezes and the winter mild enough to dispense with heavy woollens, except, perhaps, occasionally an overcoat may be needed.

The temperature is seldom lower than 38 degrees during the winter and seldom higher than ninety-five degrees during the summer, with summer prolonged to nearly twelve months of the year, stimulates animal and vegetable life to its most prolific state.

The ever flowing waters of the Rio Grande, fed by the San Juan, Pesqueria and Sabinas rivers of Mexico and the many arroyos and watersheds of Texas, furnish an unlimited supply for irrigation purposes.

The Mexican laborer abounds at cheap wages; he is a good worker in this semi-tropical country and can do more in the sun than his American neighbor. He is sympathetic and family loving, never aggressive and always humble. Your children are always safe in his care; and day or night their safety is assured.

PRODUCTIVENESS OF THE VALLEY

The elements above mentioned make this the most productive of all countries. Sugar cane, cotton, alfalfa and corn, as has been practically demonstrated, are capable of yielding crops which will pay a good rate of interest

on an investment of from \$500 to \$1,000 per acre. Grapes, figs, dates and nuts will do even better, and in these products the Lower Rio Grande Valley is destined to rival Southern California.

Lemons and oranges in some localities in this valley have been grown successfully but there has not been enough attention paid to this line and we are in no position to state definitely what may be expected of these. At Roma, about 160 miles from the mouth of the Rio Grande, at Rancho Teniente, about 50 miles from Brownsville, and at the Kenedy Ranch, about 90 miles from Brownsville, oranges have been growing for from fifteen to thirty years and they are of a very good grade.

Bermuda Onions have proven a great source of income and produce from 400 to 500 crates to the acre which, at from 90 cents to \$1.25 per crate free on board the cars at shipping station, net wonderful returns to the farmer or grower.

FIRST TO REACH THE MARKETS OF THE WORLD

Owing to the total absence of frost during most years, with an occasional light frost in other years at times when it does but little injury, we have been able since the advent of the railroad, to place on the winter and spring markets of the United States, cabbage, tomatoes, corn, beans, peas, beets, turnips, potatoes, cucumbers and watermelons at times when no other territory can compete, and our farmers for this reason have been able to receive the largest prices therefor.

Olives and bananas often yield prolifically. Rhubarb, celery, cauliflower, some thirty species of hot and sweet peppers, the sugar beet, lettuce, radishes in winter during every year. Pineapples have been grown successfully at some places in the lower valley.

WONDERFUL VARIETY OF PRODUCTS

The pomelo, ponderosa lemon, blackberries galore, and even the strawberry may be successfully grown here. Pecans yield more here to the tree than at any place in the United States, and are of a very desirable variety. Of the tropical fruits, we find the guava, the papaya and even the aguacate.

In conclusion I desire to state that the people are passive, law-abiding and peace-loving, and the mortality is lower here than any place in the United States. I have tried to confine my words to the truth and do not believe I have exaggerated. I believe that any one may be able to ratify and confirm all that I have here stated. Yours very truly, Frank C. Pierce.

The Gulf Coast Country of Texas is a delightful place in which to live. Mild, sunny winters, summers pleasantly tempered by Gulf breezes. Growers can reach the northern markets weeks ahead of the products of any other section of the United States, thus insuring enormous profits. The same land will produce two or three crops a year at Mission.

You should investigate this proposition while the land is within your reach. Next year it will cost more. A trip of investigation will not be expensive. Twice each month you can buy round trip tickets via the different railroads to Mission.

If you want to know more of the big profits growers have been making here since the very first month in the year, and every month since, while the northern farmer has been earning little or nothing, write us today for further information.

CONWAY & HOIT, Mission, Hidalgo County, Texas



Delegates of the Nut Growers' Convention Viewing Canals and Crops at La Lomita Ranch, Mission, Texas