

AMERICA'S WONDERLAND

ARIZONA IS TO BECOME A STATE BY HERSELF.

ARID LAND IS TO BLOSSOM

State For Which the Future Promises Much—A Commonwealth Rich in Mineral Deposits—One of Nature's Supreme Wonders Found There.

By ROBERTUS LOVE.

ARIZONA is going to be a state all by herself. The die is cast. President Roosevelt has just announced, through Secretary Garfield of the Interior, that the administration will make no further effort to bring about a joint statehood of Arizona and New Mexico. Secretary Garfield has returned from a visit to Arizona, where he learned at first hand the sentiment of the people. But the overwhelming vote of Arizona citizens against admission in conjunction with New Mexico was enough.

"The verdict of the people will be regarded as final," says Mr. Garfield. "The president requests me to make this announcement with his authority."

So Arizona, if it gets in before New Mexico, will be the forty-seventh star on the flag. The struggle of this far western territory to be admitted alone instead of with her sister territory as a part of the new state has been long and laborious. The administration tried ardently to make one state out

of the two territories, but when the question was submitted to a vote of the people concerned nearly every man in Arizona voiced his sentiment strongly against the proposition. There is a very large percentage of the New Mexicans to Mexican "greasers" in the southwestern line, while Arizona's population is almost wholly American. Arid Arizona was not at all thirsty for a drink of Mexican blood in the way of statehood assimilation; hence the verdict of the people.

Arizona means, etymologically, arid belt. It is the arid zone. Really there is a poem in the name, and in that vast arid land there are thousands of poems. Arizona is America's wonderland. Her natural features may be described in part by the adjectives strange, stupendous and startling. For full description other words must be coined. Our English tongue does not know them.

One of Nature's Chief Marvels. Arizona contains the Grand Canyon of the Colorado river, one of the supreme wonders of nature. For 200 miles this marvelous stream flows through scenery of sheer magic and superlative magnificence. Painters have tried to put its form and hue on canvas, but vainly. Poets have stood awed within the canyon or above and gone away without trying to write a word of appreciation, for it would be sacrilege. Once Uncle Sam sent into this indescribable and unpaintable canyon an expedition of photographers and "scene painters." The result was a huge panorama of garish colors displayed with the handy aid of electric lights, at several of the recent exhibitions. But the skill of the scenic artist, though perhaps the highest obtainable, was utterly inadequate to the task. No hand can imitate the many colored rufescences of the mists and waterfalls, the sculptured buttes, the precipitous walls, the gorgeous pinnacles and monoliths, the hanging gardens, the silent distances of the Grand canyon.

So when Arizona comes in she may say to her forty-six sister states: "Most of you have splendid farms and fine verdures and little limpid rills and green clad hills. These I have not. I am the arid zone, Arizona. But hush! I have the Grand canyon! Come and see me and be silent."

Great Mineral State. It is quite true that there is not much farming in Arizona. According to the census of 1900, only one-third of

per cent takes its drinks naturally. From this it is seen that umbrellas are not necessities of life in Arizona.

Water a Scarcity. There are towns in Arizona, but no big cities. One of the largest towns is Tucson, sometimes called "Too Soon," and another is the present territorial capital, Phoenix. Tucson used to be the capital and still is the most populous, having something more than 5,000 people. Water, of course, is scarce throughout Arizona. It used to sell by the gallon in all the towns, and at some points that is still the case. Persons from verdurous regions who cast their lot with Arizona sometimes pathetically plant an artificial tree in a soap box or pay good money for water with which to quench the thirst of a forlorn flower in a pot packed with earth imported from a distance. This situation applies only to those places which have not been able as yet to find water enough through irrigation or in springs to keep a grave green.

It is hot in Arizona, particularly in the southwestern part. The famous town of Yuma is located there. Most of us have heard the story of the resident of Yuma who died. Not having been a guileless person, he was assigned to the abode of Pluto. Somehow he managed back to his friends in Yuma:

"Not used to this cool climate. Send me my blanket."

And yet Yuma achieves only about 120 in the shade.

Now a great irrigation plant, one of the government's many reclamation projects, is about to make the desert around Yuma blossom into a paradise. For the present alfalfa is the best crop grown in Arizona, but the future holds high promise of wonderful things. Uncle Sam's agricultural sharps have been investigating possibilities in the territory. They report that the crops of the future are sure to be figs, dates, oranges, lemons, apricots, raisin grapes and almonds. It is discovered that these fruits ripen earlier in Arizona than elsewhere in the United States. Several imported species of the Asiatik date palm have been grown in Arizona with fine success.

The climate of Arizona outside the heat, that sometimes becomes objectionable, is in many respects ideal. The territory has more clear days in the year than any other region in the country. The air is clearer than anywhere else. That accounts for the placing of the Lowell observatory at Flagstaff, where the astronomers looking through the gigantic telescope have

learned more about the planet Mars than some of us can believe.

But let us not forget another wonder of Arizona. In Navajo county, which is about the size of an ordinary eastern state, lies the world famed petrified forest. Trunks of ancient trees, some of them four feet thick, are petrified into onyx, which takes a glorious polish. Table tops cut from these prehistoric trees, now turned to many colored stone, are worth almost their weight in silver. Score again for Arizona, since the world holds no other such marvel as the petrified forest near the town of Holbrook.

Millions of Wooded Acres. In Arizona, despite the vast reaches of treeless desert, there are millions of acres of timbered land belonging to the present age instead of the prehistoric. It is the prehistoric part of Arizona however, that holds first thrill for the scientist and student. Arizona is an eldorado of days not only geologically, but anthropologically. Traces of people who perished ages ago have left their relics in that region. Even now some of the curious Indian tribes inhabiting Arizona dwell in cliff cut abodes, make and use pottery of very ancient pattern and have habits and customs rites and ceremonies which may have come down from a period already ancient when the oldest Egyptian mummy was placed in his ceremonies.

There's nothing new about Arizona except the 170,000 people who inhabit the coming state. Most of them who profess any religion are Mormons. The Roman Catholic church comes next in number of communicants. Jesuit schools in the territory date from 1687. Jamestown, Va., was settled only 300 years ago. Plymouth welcomed, though not warmly, the pilgrim fathers, mothers and children in 1620. Do Virginians and Massachusetts wear extra feathers to plume themselves upon their antiquity as antiquity goes in America? Very well. Pluck a large fowl for Arizona's pluming; for in 1539, nearly a century before Jamestown and Plymouth, the Padre Marco de Nizan and his Spanish followers came up from the south and explored Arizona.

The next year Coronado led an expedition through the heart of the arid zone into Utah looking for the traditional seven cities of Cibola. These Spaniards found that the ancient Aztecs had made settlements in Arizona and worked the copper mines. Later the Spaniards worked the mines, long before Captain John Smith was sared by Pocahontas or Captain Miles Standish was cut out by John Alden.

Has a Mind of Her Own. After the Mexican war Arizona and New Mexico were ceded by Mexico to the United States, except a southern strip, which was acquired in 1853 through the Gadsden purchase. In 1863 Arizona was divorced from New Mexico and became a separate territory. The recent effort of the administration to force a re-marriage was something, as we have seen, not to be "stood for" by Arizona, who has a mind of her own.

All things come to those who wait long enough. Arizona has been knocking at the doors of the republic for admission these twenty years past. In 1891 she went so far as to frame and adopt a state constitution, but Uncle Sam refused to accept her as a new star. Politics, it is said, makes strange bedfellows. Politics has tried to make bedfellows of New Mexico and Arizona—one distinctly American, the other largely Mexican—but in this instance has not been successful.

Now that Miss Arizona is to come into the fold as a maiden lady it is pleasing to know that she is big enough to take care of herself. The new state—it will be a state in a few months no doubt—is about 250 miles square. Its shape being approximately square. Railroads are building rapidly through the state. Tourists, too few, it is true, go to see the petrified forest and the Grand canyon in increasing numbers. When Arizona sends a pair of senators to Washington they may tell us things about their wonderful state of which we have not dreamed. The new state is Democratic in politics.

Warnerville. Ralph Miller went to Omaha Friday. He expects to return in April.

O. D. Munson has returned to Omaha after a week's visit with his daughter, Mrs. R. D. Fuller.

Mr. Terry of Tilden was the guest of his son Fred from Friday until Monday.

Miss Lucy Taylor, formerly of this place but now living in University Place, was here Sunday greeting old friends.

Alex Snider has moved to Norfolk and C. H. Brake of Norfolk has moved onto the farm vacated by Mr. Snider.

Ed Wheeler returned to his home at LaCrosse, Wis., Thursday after a ten days visit with his cousin, Geo. Wheeler.

TEST COMING IN LYMAN. Homesteaders and Stockmen to Fight Out Differences at the Polls.

Pierre, S. D., Oct. 23.—Lyman county residents met about 200 strong at Presho to push their herd law petitions, and organized by the selection of J. C. Clough of Presho, president; F. M. Wheeler of Kennebec, secretary, and W. E. Sweeney of Presho, treasurer. They discussed the situation thoroughly, and appointed subcommittees all over the county to circulate the petitions demanding a special election. Their case will be a test between the homesteader and the stockmen as to policy in that county.

Dick Robinson, who resides six miles north of Philip, reports the discovery of a small vein of lignite coal on his claim.

Recognition of Cars. Lincoln, Neb., Oct. 23.—Special to The News: The state railway commissioners today listened to a hearing on the recognition charge matter. The railroad wish to charge from \$5 to \$7 per car.

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