

# Onions

## Always Pay Well

### at San Benito, Texas

(No. 8)

In former announcements we have incidentally mentioned the splendid onion crop now being harvested at San Benito. We have published a letter or two from some of our onion raisers.

At this time we wish to go more into detail concerning the onion industry in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and tell you how our farmers are doing with this product.

The Lower Rio Grande Valley is acknowledged by all to be the best adapted in every possible way to the growing of onions on a large scale of any section in the United States—and this for many reasons.

First—Onions require a soil that is especially rich and mellow. This we have in the Delta of the Rio Grande. Prof. Welborn of the State Agricultural College of Texas, while addressing the farmers of San Benito a few weeks ago was asked this question: "Can you tell us something of the depth and richness of the San Benito soil?" His answer was: "Your soil is so deep and so rich in this Delta country that it is not necessary to discuss its depth or richness."

Second—Onions for their proper growth must have water in proper quantities just when they need it and they must not have too much. At San Benito the water supply from our great Gravity Canal System is absolutely under the control of the farmer. He can take water in any quantity desired and stop taking it when he has enough. Onions cannot be successfully raised in a rainy country for they not only may be ruined by too much water while growing but continued rains at harvest time may utterly destroy the entire crop. San Benito is in a semi-arid country and the danger of excessive rains at harvest time is reduced to a minimum.

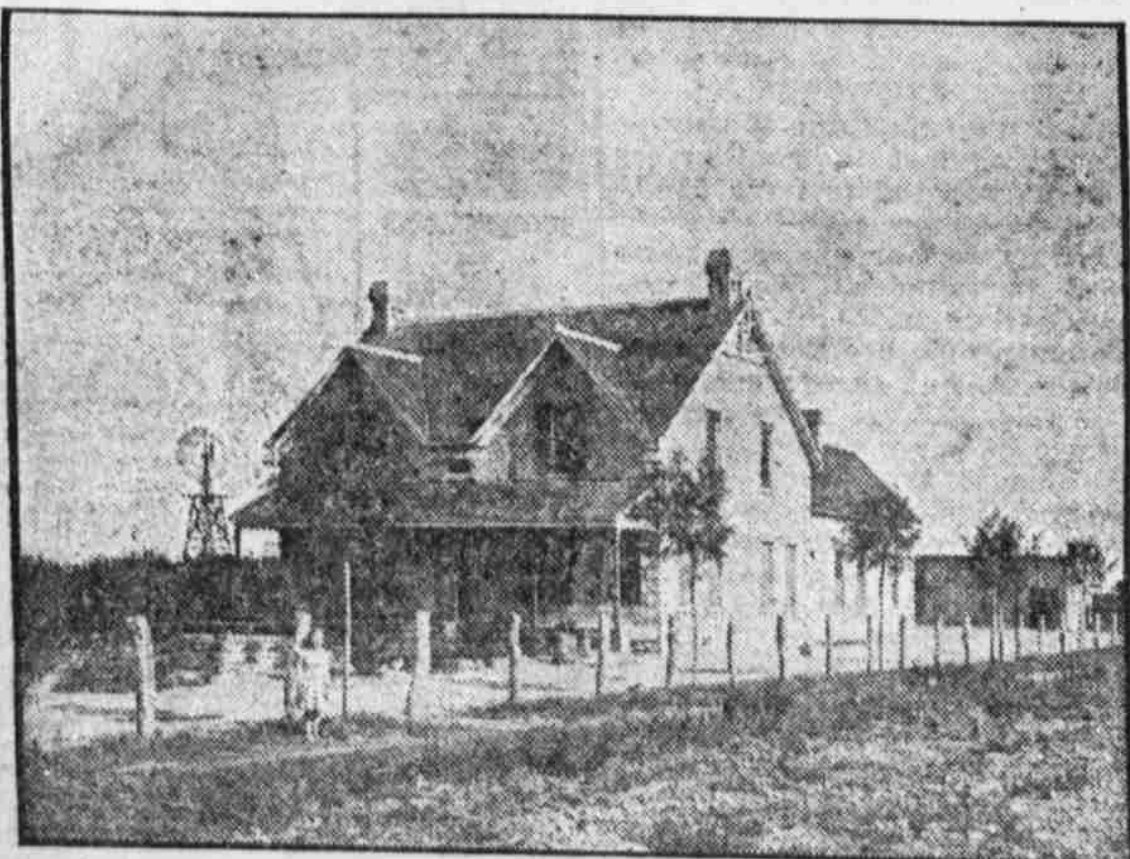
Third—Onions must be shipped promptly when they are ready for the market. San Benito is located on the main line of the St. Louis, Brownsville and Mexico Railway, which gives us a direct outlet for our products to Houston, San Antonio, Galveston and all points north. This road is prepared to handle and does handle the truck products of the Lower Rio Grande Valley in a most satisfactory manner and without the least delay.

Fourth—At San Benito the TWO BEST VARIETIES of onions in the world are grown. These are the BERMUDA and the CRYSTAL WAX. Onion growers differ somewhat as to which of these two varieties is the better. Those shown in the picture of Mr. Burress' onion field are BERMUDA ONIONS. Several of our farmers, however, are now harvesting splendid crops of the CRYSTAL WAX variety and these are fully equal in every way to the BERMUDA. Both varieties are noted for their size and splendid flavor.

Fifth—The growing of onions requires a great deal of labor. Especially is this true of the resetting and harvesting. Here again our farmers have a great advantage for in and around San Benito there are thousands of Mexicans, good, faithful, hard-working people, who are always anxious to work at wages ranging from 50 cents to 75 cents a day, they boarding themselves. The work of resetting and crating the onions is largely done by Mexican women, boys and girls. Since these all work much cheaper than the men the cost of planting and harvesting the crop is very small. The cheapness and plentifulness of labor is one of the greatest advantages to be found in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Sixth—But the greatest advantage found at San Benito by the onion raiser is this: HIS ONIONS ARE READY FOR MARKET AHEAD OF ANY OTHER SECTION IN THE UNITED STATES, THUS INSURING THE HIGHEST PRICE. It would not pay the farmers of the Lower Rio Grande Valley to raise onions if they had to harvest them during July, August or September as they would then come in competition with all the northern onion growers. Therefore the seed is planted at San Benito just at the

Mr. Lake Grow reports a yield of about 13,750 pounds to the acre on his farm at San Benito. He is raising the CRYSTAL WAX ONION.



Residence of James L. Landrum, San Benito. Mr. Landrum has 800 acres of cotton, which is irrigated from the San Benito Canal.



Mexicans crating Onions on Farm of Burress Brothers, San Benito, Texas. These Mexicans pick and place the onions in crates at 5 cents per crate.

right time to bring the harvest when there exists the greatest scarcity in the north.

At San Benito there are twelve months of growing season. Those who raise onions or cabbage can, if they choose, also raise a crop of cotton and one of corn on the same ground and all within the same year.

Burress Brothers now have a splendid crop of cotton almost knee high growing between their rows of cabbage which they are still harvesting. In addition to this they have a fine crop of cucumbers growing in the cabbage rows. In this way they have three full crops growing on the same ground at the same time. This is such a remarkable statement to make to you farmers of the north that we have decided to have a photograph made of these three crops which we will publish in a future announcement. Not only will Burress Brothers harvest these three crops all within the year but they will have plenty of time after the cabbage, cucumbers and cotton are out of the way to raise a crop of late corn on the same ground.

Burress Brothers are harvesting about 15,000 pounds of BERMUDA ONIONS to the acre.

Onions are now worth about two cents per pound free on board the cars at San Benito. Since the yield is from ten to twenty thousand pounds per acre, the profits are very large.

We do not want the reader to think that the farmer at San Benito must depend for his profits on onions and cabbage. The variety of products here is greater than perhaps in any other section of the United States. If you have read our former announcements you have some idea as to the possibilities here in the raising of alfalfa, sugar cane, cotton, corn, sorghum, fruits, berries, melons and other products.

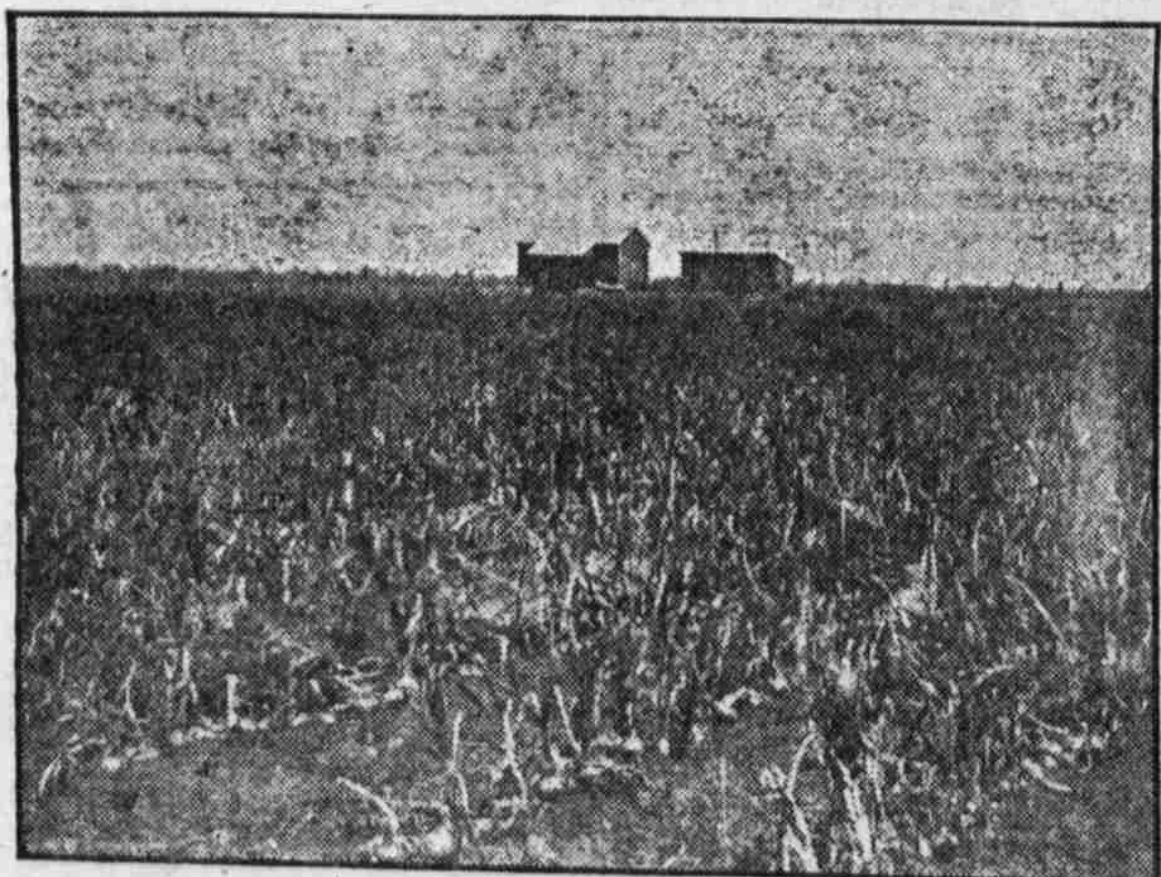
We will close by telling you how Mr. Powell is coming on with his eight and one-half acres of cabbage. In our last announcement we showed a picture of his cabbage field after he had taken off \$2,000 worth of cabbage. Since that photograph was made Mr. Powell has sold another \$500 worth, thus making \$2,500 as the total up to date from his eight and one-half acres of cabbage. Mr. Powell estimates that a little more than half has been sold. You may think this is an exception but we assure you that if you come to San Benito we will introduce you to a number of cabbage growers who are doing equally well.

For further information write for our illustrated booklet. Address:

## San Benito Land & Water Co.

P. O. Box B, San Benito, Texas.

Alba Heywood, President and General Manager.



Bermuda Onions on Farm of Burress Brothers, San Benito, Texas, ready to Harvest.