

THE GREAT SOUTHWEST AS SEEN BY CENTRE COUNTY EYES.

Herewith we present a rambling story of a trip through the South and South-west country by Miss M. V. Thomay, formerly of Milesburg, this county. Miss Thomas is now located at Anchor, Oregon, and it was during a recent vacation period that she jotted down her observations from a car window.

Having become accustomed to the fine forests of Oregon, and those tall, friendly, protective stumps on the logged-off lands, especially have I learned to look upon the stumps—those ghosts of former forests—as havens of refuge. Since spending so much time in a dairy and stock country, I have developed a tendency to be on the alert lest some benighted bovine should become interested in testing my powers as a sprinter. This, of course, explains my deep and abiding interest in every leaning tree and easily-climbed stump along the wayside.

Imagine my feelings then, during a trip extending on the S. P. line, through Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas not being able to see a stump nor even a tree large enough to leave a stump of respectable proportions to mourn its departure. There were beautiful groves of trees, and fruitful orchards; but all a tribute to the tireless energy of man.

As one advances over the treeless plains, industries gradually change, orchards become fewer and farther apart, while bands of cattle increase in frequency and numbers. Another evidence of man's conquering power can be seen in the bales of cotton awaiting shipment at little stations in this arid land.

As the various industries were left behind I seemed to acquire a decided admiration for the animal life of the plains. I could not help admitting that any animal that is able to pick up a living in such a bare land deserves the profound respect of all right-thinking people. I was assured that there was plenty of nutritious feed back in the hills some distance from the railroad. I have no doubt of it. There must be to support all those cattle. But I did not see any samples of it on exhibition.

"Lizzie" should not be without her due share of credit for her part in the development of the country. She and her numerous cousins have literally dragged the service station into the heart of the desert.

Two days were very pleasantly and profitably spent at San Antonio visiting the Alamo and many other interesting places, and getting in touch with some of those really fine people, the Texans.

After crossing the luxuriant prairies of Eastern Texas and Western Louisiana, one comes to the Cypress swamps where Evangeline and Gabriel spent their lives in their pathetic search. A daughter of Louisiana, whom I met on the train, told me that in about a dozen localities the people will point to some revered spot calling it the grave of Evangeline; then she added, "I am sure of two."

New Orleans is a quaint city. This conclusion is arrived at from observations made during one day only. The streets are narrow, with side-walks corresponding in width. The houses are built close to the pavement which is commonly used as a porch, the women with their needle-work, the men with their papers and pipes—all enjoying the luxury of out-door life—on this public highway pressed into domestic service, as it were. Iron bars and grating in various ornamental designs across the windows give the homes a prison-like appearance.

Another peculiarity is the great number of curio dealers. Along several blocks between the St. Charles Hotel and Jackson Square there seems to be an unbroken line of shops in which antique articles and curios alone are sold. In any one of them can be seen at any time the commercial spider watching to see the green-back fly. Yet they are said to do a thriving business, as there is always a demand for these ancient bits of furniture, ware, etc.

Across the street from Jackson Square are the Museum of Natural History, Cathedral of St. Louis, and the Spanish Cabildo. This enabled me to see much without going far. I did, however, go a few blocks for a lunch in the French Quarter. The houses had an uncanny, mysterious look; and the people looked, acted, and spoke—not like Americans. Entering a restaurant I saw a Negro boy working at a, "If I miss my train today there is another one going next week" rate of speed.

I entered one of the booths where meals are served while he went in a leisurely manner to find the proprietor. After carefully avoiding any appearance of undue haste, a fat man came and inquired if I wished dinner or just a lunch. (The air was laden with odors from the cooking food). The meal was served by a white boy. The fourth inhabitant of the place to appear upon the scene was a half-grown kitten, which mewed in a coaxing manner; but not receiving much encouragement soon went its way.

When through with my lunch I touched an electric button, failing to get a response, after waiting a few minutes, I went to the rear of the room and waved a green-back in front of the glass panel in the door. A negro woman in the kitchen seeing it called out, "He comin'." He came shortly. I wonder how long the average American business man would endure such conditions. This was only one experience in one restaurant in the French Quarter, others may be different.

What interests one most in crossing Alabama is the method of soil

conservation practiced, evidently under State control, as every little patch of cultivated land is treated the same way. It consists of a system of small ditches, grass-grown, the space between them being narrow enough to prevent the water from the hard rains gathering force and washing the soil away. These grass-filled ditches form all sorts of curves in order to be perfectly level. In some places they may be thirty feet apart while within a few rods they narrow down to two or three feet. Imagine the difficulty of farming such tracts. They are indeed "fearfully and wonderfully made" but they seem to be solving the problem of saving those badly washed soils.

In Georgia one is impressed with the abundance and beauty of its marble. Fancy pure, white marble being used as ballast on the railroad, yet, there being plenty of marble culls near by, it is the cheapest material available. Modest little houses are surrounded by marble walls built of broken pieces of marble. Large quantities of blocks and slabs were in evidence, some crated ready for shipment.

In Tennessee the point of interest happens to be Lookout Mountain. Entering a sight-seeing bus one reaches, after a long and winding ascent, the top of that historic peak. Immediately below us at the base of perpendicular cliffs, is the hallowed spot where those brave men struggled against each other, in the "battle above the clouds." Away down at the foot of the mountain, spread out over the valley, each having its lawn and garden, a city of homes is beautiful Chattanooga, the river meandering through it in graceful loops.

One is surprised in traveling through the Panhandle in Northern Texas, at the prosperous appearance of the farms, at the large number, high grade, and thrifty appearance of the cattle raised; and the large quantity of Kaffir corn grown. That kind of grain seems to do well in arid lands.

As one comes through the Mojave Desert one begins to have a faint idea of what is meant by the scriptural term, "The Abomination of Desolation."

It has all been very interesting to look at this moving picture. I have merely tried to describe a few of the things I noticed. But among all the varied scenery, I found nothing that equals in beauty and grandeur, the forest-clad mountains of Oregon.

M. V. THOMAS.

THE LARGEST ORGANIZATION IN PENNSYLVANIA.

No other organization in this old Keystone State can compare in numbers, organization or good accomplished by the Pennsylvania State Sabbath School association. In the Sabbath schools of Pennsylvania are enrolled two and a quarter million people, one-fourth of the State's population, and we wonder how many people know right here in this grand old State are one-sixteenth of all the Sunday school people of the world, and there is just pride to us in that knowledge.

The success of this great host of Sunday school workers in eleven thousand Sunday schools may be attributed to a number of outstanding reasons, one of which is the Pennsylvania State Sabbath School association, an organization governed by a board of directors of business men who meet monthly, and not only pay all their own expenses, but are exceptionally heavy contributors of time and money to the work of the State Sunday schools, and a field staff of workers second to none in the world, and then the policies of Christian education of the association worked out by the board, the field staff and one representative from each denomination in the State.

With sixty-seven counties fully organized and these subdivided into more than 900 districts throughout these counties, every school is reached and influenced solely for the purpose of better religious education and training in Christian service.

It is, therefore, interdenominational, working in harmony with denominational practices for Sunday school improvement.

As an association, rated by the International Association, Pennsylvania stands head and shoulders above any other State association or of any in the world, and we have a right to feel proud of the high standing attained by our State Sabbath School association.

Elephant Herds Growing.

The elephant is a very useful animal, both for draft purposes and for ivory. A few years ago seventy thousand were slaughtered annually for their tusks, so that it seemed as though there was a good chance of the big animal's becoming extinct. Wise laws, however, have checked the destruction so that the number is increasing. The war gave the elephants their chance and the British authorities in East Africa have also protected them. South of Zambesi the elephant is virtually extinct and the Cape market for ivory has ceased to exist. At present Mozambique is the centre of the ivory trade. Oddly enough, the Portuguese, through whose hands it comes, send nearly all the ivory across to Bombay, where it is sorted and cut and dispatched to the European markets. The world's supply of real ivory is now about two hundred and fifty tons a year.—Scientific American.

To Teach Aliens About Our Fish and Game Laws.

Hartford, Conn.—With the influx into State courts of large numbers of violators of the State Fish and Game laws, Americanization workers in all parts of Connecticut are devoting extra time to teaching residents of foreign birth what these laws are and what they mean. Meanwhile, peace officers in towns along the State's borders are watching all waters to catch out-of-State residents who may fish without first obtaining Connecticut licenses. Unnaturalized persons using firearms and citizens of other States without fishing licenses from Connecticut form the big majority of all the court cases.



Tomato Plants in Warm Window Box

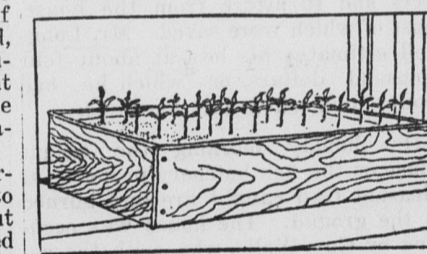
Sow Seed Early, Pot Tender Shoots, Then Transfer to Coldframe.

Early tomato plants for the home garden should always be started indoors, and, if possible, handled in pots or paper bands in a coldframe. By this method the first blossom cluster may be on the plants at the time that it is safe to set them outdoors. In the latitude of Washington, D. C., this is about May 10 and it is often possible to have ripe fruit by June 25 or at least by July 4.

Where there is no danger of loss from wilt disease, the Bonny Best is one of the most desirable varieties for the home garden. Earliana will give ripe fruit a little earlier, but the fruit is not quite as desirable as Bonny Best, so it is a good plan to have a few plants of Earliana, but make the main planting of Bonny Best. Tomatoes are among ten of the most desirable crops for planting in the home garden.

Twenty-five good, healthy tomato plants planted in the home garden will produce all of the fresh tomatoes that the family can use during the mid-summer months and a surplus for canning, says the United States Department of Agriculture. Planted in the ordinary manner about 3 by 4 feet apart, these 25 plants will occupy 300 square feet of space, or an area of 10 feet by 30 feet in size. Fifty to sixty tomato plants can be planted on the same piece of land if they are pruned and tied to stakes. The quantity of fruit produced by both methods is practically the same, but the first ripe fruit of the season will usually be obtained about five days earlier from the staked and pruned plants, and the fruit grown on the pruned plants is more uniform and is borne up off the ground where it is clean and appetizing. When it comes to endurance the staked and pruned tomatoes will, as a rule, continue to produce fruit until frost, and this is more than the plants which are left on the ground sometimes do.

Recognizing the fact that the ordinary varieties of tomatoes are subject to wilt disease which is carried in the soils of many gardens, scientists of the United States Department of Agriculture began several years ago to create varieties that could be grown on infected soils. Crosses were made and the new varieties thus produced were planted on soils where ordinary varieties had proved a failure the previous season on account of wilt. Some of these new sorts have proved about



Growing Plants in Boxes.

90 per cent resistant on these infected soils, and, furthermore, the fruit of these resistant varieties is quite good and suitable for general home use.

Seed of the wilt resistant varieties, such as Norton, Marvel, and Norduke, is now offered by a number of the seed houses, and these varieties are recommended where the more common varieties, such as Bonny Best, Stone, Globe and others, have fallen prey to the wilt disease. The work of the scientists has not stopped with the production of the three kinds mentioned above, but they are going on making new crosses in an endeavor to improve upon the varieties already created and to secure sorts that are adapted to other purposes.

Sweetened Sponge to Trap Bothersome Ants

Ants, thick as bees at swarming time, cause all kinds of trouble for the gardeners, florists, greenwardens and housewives.

A unique method of killing them by the hundreds is to soak a cheap sponge in sweetened water and place it where the ants play. The sponge serves as a trap. When the ants have crawled into the pores, miniature death caves, in the sponge, they are easily killed by dropping sponge and all into boiling water.

To kill ants in their nests, which they build in the ground, on lawns and golf links, pour carbon disulphide in the holes and plug them with earth. A 5 per cent kerosene emulsion can be used effectively in greenhouses. This has been applied safely by government experts direct to the soil of infested flower pots where geranium and heliotrope plants were growing.

A solution of sugar and borax dissolved in water will also attract and kill ants.

In using carbon disulphide remember that it is inflammable and explosive. An ounce or two in each hole will be sufficient to kill the ants as the gas is heavier than air and permeates the whole nest.

REJUVENATION.

When Polly rises in the morn
No roses deck her features;
All pallid, she, and quite forlorn—
The wretchedest of creatures.
But, oh, my dear, come evenside
My Polly's cheeks are glowing;
As rosy, she, as any bride
Or any peach tree blowing.
Now who, I ask, can read aright
The meaning of this wonder?
Like cereus, doth she bloom at night,
Or does she rouge like thunder?

State's Largest Water.

The largest body of water in Pennsylvania will be created on Wallenpaupack creek near Hawley, Wayne county, under plans approved January 16, by the water and power resources board, officials of that body have announced. The reservoir will have a surface area of 5,760 acres, a capacity of 70,500,000 gallons of water and will drain about 238 square miles.

The plans provide for a dam of concrete and earth 60 feet high, and 1,150 feet long and for a dyke 25 feet high to keep the Wallenpaupack water from flowing over a low place in the divide. The dam, which will be built by the Pennsylvania Power and Light company, will be located at Wilsonville at the head of the Paupack Falls, which consist of a series of cascades descending 260 feet to the Lackawaxen river. The power house will be built on the south side of the Lackawaxen, several miles below the mouth of the Wallenpaupack and the gross head of the plant will be 375 feet, almost twice the height of the Niagara Falls.

The Quemahoning reservoir, near Johnstown, owned by the Manufacturers' Water company, is the largest existing storage reservoir in Pennsylvania with a tributary drainage of 90 square miles.

Scarcely a Success.

Tommy Dribbler was being given a trial for the Hackers and Hashers. If he was a success he would be signed on as a pro.

"Becky," he said to his wife, "if I am asked to sign professional forms I shall drive home in a taxi; so if you see me coming down the road in a cab throw all the furniture out of the window, for I shall buy you a new home."

"All right!" said Becky, as Dribbler left. After a long wait Becky saw the taxi coming along with her husband inside, and straightway she started throwing the furniture about.

But poor Dribbler seemed perturbed, and at the top of his voice he shouted: "Stay your hand, Becky! I've broken my leg!"

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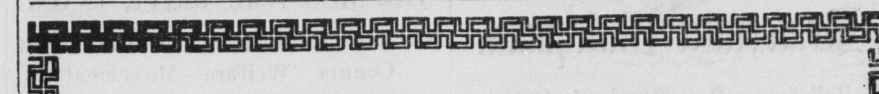
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