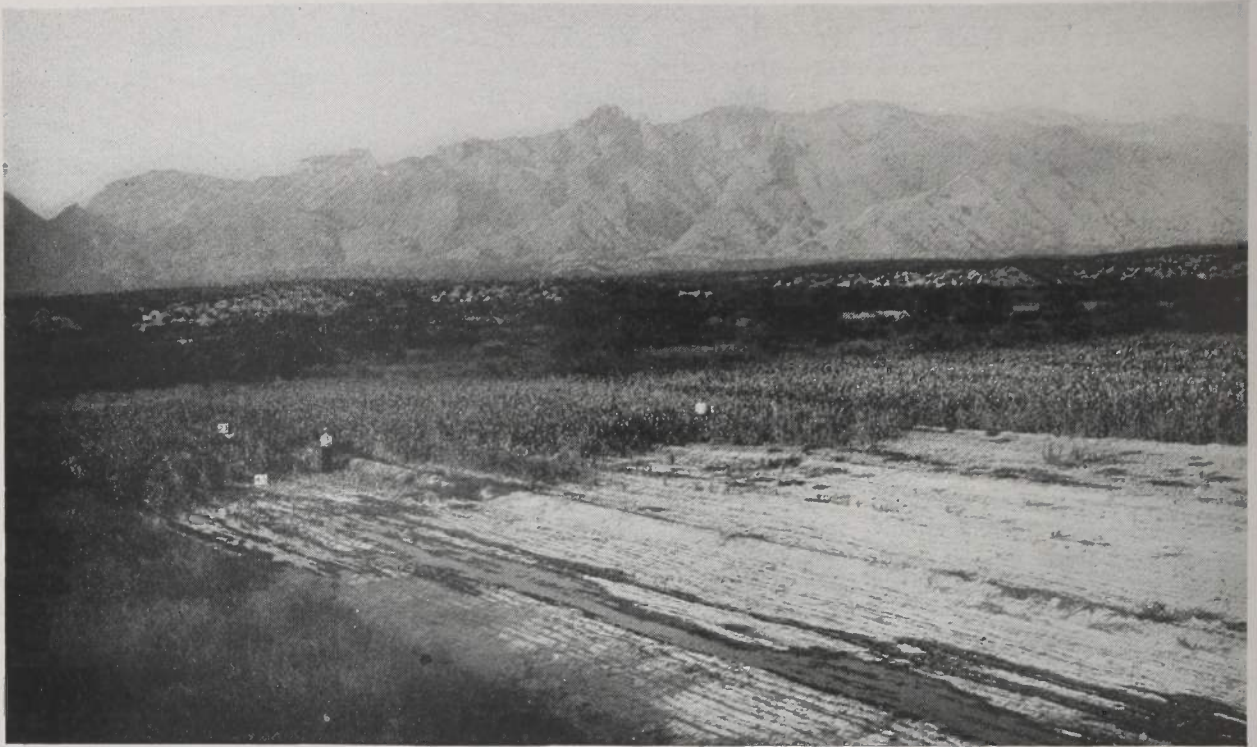


"GYPSUM USED HERE, BEN FRANKLIN"

By J. W. McINNES, '27



It is spots like these that make or break the farmer of the southwest. This spot was later treated with gypsum with beneficial results.

WHEN Benjamin Franklin had a field of red clover on one of the main roads out of Philadelphia, he sowed on the sloping field, the letters: LAND PLASTER USED HERE BEN FRANKLIN. The words soon became famous to passersby as they stood out in relief of the deep green legume. The bearing that these words have upon the southwest is that we may make our fields respond in many cases to the same condiment that was used so

many years ago by that noted diplomat. In scarcely any field of any size in Arizona, is there not a spot which does not show up as green and luxuriant as the rest. Here lies the profit or loss in many Arizona farms. It is the unproductive acre that eats out the profit from the bumper forty. The point is that if a spot in a field is tight or heavy, it is probably due to black alkali or a complicated sodium zeolite which tends to tighten the soil on wetting and render it im-

pervious to water. A simple test by the University chemists will determine the correct procedure for one to take. The probabilities are that leeching and a light application of gypsum, calcium sulphate, will correct that spot to make it as productive as the remainder of the field. In any case it behooves every farmer to look to the unproductive of his land, for it is there that he may receive the greatest percentage increase in his profits.

MARKETING HAY

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ever, the use of the federal inspection becomes of considerable importance since it insures to all parties concerned thoroughly impartial, trained judgment of the hay under consideration. Dealers or consumers can purchase hay at distant shipping points with the knowledge that if the hay is not of the grade ordered they will not have to accept it. When hay of a given grade is shipped, the shipper will know that the buyer cannot reject the hay except for a valid reason such as damage in transit or change in grade due to heating or some other condition.

Hay inspection is not a compulsory requirement under either the state or federal regulations, but is purely optional on the part of the parties financially interested in the hay. Part of the hay shipped may be inspected and part not inspected. However, the local organization under which the inspector works must agree not to use any other form of certificate inspection along with the federal inspection.

The chief objections to the use of the United States hay grades and federal hay inspection are based on four ideas: (1) that they do not accurately describe the hay; (2) that the cost of the inspection would be a useless added expense; (3) that present methods and means are ade-

quate; and (4) that their use might decrease profits by narrowing buying and selling margins.

The first objection is usually based on ignorance of the content and purpose of the standards. Hay sold under United States grades may be described just as completely as under any other kind of inspection. At the option of a financially interested party, any descriptive terms may be included on the certificate by the inspector, provided all such terms are true. The United States grades embody all the desirable features of other forms of inspection and in addition include a definiteness and accuracy heretofore impossible.

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