

Everyday Events—By W. J. HOOTEN

JOHN DALBY brought me a very interesting book the other day. It is titled "Notes on Texas and the Texas & Pacific Railway."

The book, published in Philadelphia in 1873, is the property of Robert Y. Adams, 206 Cambridge Street. It was found in an old farm house in Maryland this year.

The part about the Valley is intriguing. Here it is in part:

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THE RIO GRANDE VALLEY, EL PASO COUNTY

The American side of this valley has an average width of about two miles and is some 85 miles long. As has already been said, nothing is produced in this region without artificial irrigation; but with it, the lands of this valley are of great productiveness, producing corn, wheat, barley, and perhaps cotton, etc., beside all the garden vegetables common to the Middle and Southern States. There is no country on the continent superior to this valley for fruit, especially grapes, which attain a perfection in flavor and prolific yield, not to be excelled by the most famous of the wine districts of California.

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El Paso Del Norte is a Mexican town, and is the seat of the prefecture under the government of the State of Chihuahua. This portion of the republic has never been much affected by the frequent revolutions in the country further South; and the people have the very sensible and prudent habit of quietly recognizing the de facto "government," whether it be "Liberal," Conservative, or Imperial, and of putting their gunpowder to no more hurtful use than firing salutes in honor of patron saints, and to celebrate the 16th of September, their Independence Day. The town and vicinity, and it is difficult to tell where the town ends and "the country" commences, contain a population of ten or twelve thousand. About the plaza are the church, municipal building, and the principal stores and shops, and along the main streets, parallel to the river, are most of the houses of the principal citizens, each in the middle of ample grounds, surrounded by fruit trees. Back of the houses are the gardens and vineyards. The only building material, is the adobe, or sun-dried brick. Wine-making commences in September, and is carried on in the same primitive fashion as in the days of Cervantes. The juice of the grape is expressed by no new-fashioned, complicated machinery, but literally "trodden" by the bare feet of persons employed for the purpose.

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Water used for irrigating the fields and vineyards of El Paso, is drawn from the Rio Bravo del Norte, as the Rio Grande is called by the Mexicans, a mile and a half above the main plaza, and led through the town by an acequia madre or main ditch, which being tapped opposite the possessions of each inhabitant, as ordered by the alcalde del agua, or water magistrate, each proprietor is served in turn, and there is seldom any disputes, or law suits, growing out of the system. Among the more disputatious Americans on the other side of the river, disputes and difficulties, growing out of water privileges, are not so infrequent.

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Franklin (often improperly spoken of as El Paso, Texas), opposite the Mexican El Paso, is the county seat of El Paso County, and a place now of perhaps 1500 or 2000 souls and improving. There is a United States Custom House here.

Fort Bliss, generally garrisoned by two or three companies of United States infantry and cavalry, is two and a half miles below Franklin. Formerly it was a mile nearer, but the Rio Grande, in the last twelve or fifteen years, has swallowed up a strip of 200 yards or more of American soil, including the ground on which formerly stood Fort Bliss.

Ysleta, 13 miles below Franklin, is a village of Pueblo Indians, numbering some 800 or 1000 souls. They are an industrious, inoffensive and honest people; have comfortable houses, and produce corn, wheat, vegetables and fruits, especially grapes, not only sufficient for their own use but a surplus for sale.

San Elizario, 24 miles below Franklin, and next in importance to Franklin, is a large agricultural village of some 1000 or 1200 inhabitants, most all of whom are Mexican, by birth and language, but citizens of the United States, by virtue of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which conferred American citizenship upon the original inhabitants of the ceded territory.

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From San Elizario to Fort Quitman, a distance of 65 miles, there is but little cultivation, although the soil is exceedingly rich. But to open a farm here requires either a large capital for opening ditches or the neighborhood of a completed ditch. The want of the valley is a general system of irrigation, which will enable the man of small means to cultivate his fields and vineyards. The Rio Grande affords sufficient water to irrigate the whole valley, and render it as fruitful as the valley of the Nile. The advantage of irrigation is that it fertilizes the land; which, after every successive crop, is more productive, on account of the alluvium deposited on its surface.

This important and fertile valley, extending through the whole North and South length of New Mexico, and Southward into Texas, must become of great importance, and be the seat of a large agricultural population. It will be to this Southern overland route, what the great Salt Lake Valley is to the middle route—its vineyard and granary.

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As to El Paso itself, it must sooner or later become the point of intersection of a railway to Chihuahua, 275 miles South, and thence onward to the city of Mexico, 800 miles further South. The Denver and Santa Fe, narrow gauge railroad, must eventually form a junction with the Texas Pacific Railway, by following the valley of the Rio Grande, either to El Paso, or Mesilla, the county seat of Dona Ana County, New Mexico, 40 miles North of El Paso. Mesilla is a town of some importance, being the starting point to the mining region of Arizona, the point where the Texas and Pacific Railway leaves the Rio Grande, and commences its ascent of what further North are the formidable Rocky Mountains. But so gradual is the ascent, that when the "divide" is finally crossed, and the traveler sees the streams running Westward, he can hardly realize the fact that he has crossed the great continental back bone, and is upon the "Pacific Slope."

Filosofy And Foolishness By NAT CAMPBELL

There is nothing wrong with any country that the right kinda people can't remedy.

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LET GEORGE DO IT.

So Hitler's throat's affected;

Well, well now, let us hope

We'll finally operate upon

His bull neck with a rope.

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Who remembers the old-time signs "No Smoking" and "Keep Off the Grass."

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Health note: He who laughs, lasts.