

farmer of the South, and especially a Texas farmer.

A farmer with a small capital, without reckoning his surroundings, can by expending a small sum in irrigation, reap in a few years, one hundred fold advantage. But one must possess good business qualifications to irrigate successfully. It is an art that has been practiced for many hundreds of years

Indeed, it is a very curious fact in the history of irrigation that the art attained a higher degree of excellence at a very early period, but afterwards greatly declined when the people who practiced it were conquered and over run by nations ignorant of the art. This happened not only in Palestine and Persia and the adjacent countries, but it occurred likewise in Spain, Mexico and Peru when these countries were taken by the Spaniards.

In some of these countries the art was entirely lost, while in others only partially. The Spaniards were totally ignorant of its value, but they did nevertheless learn enough about its importance to keep the art alive after a fashion. It is from these Spaniards that Americans have begun to learn something of its value.

There is every reason to believe that the art will henceforth prosper in this country, and there is no industry in which capital could be invested to a better advantage. An old writer says, in relation to ancient Moorish systems: "How this country was originally laid out so judiciously, with channels of irrigation systematically arranged for the benefit of the whole is a mystery I have not heard explained. A master's hand seems to have planned and executed all

before the apparation of the soil as private property."

Considering the perfection of the system as practiced ages ago, modern scientific farmers have been led to inquire into its merits and experiment on lines unknown to our forefathers. One of the most fertile soils in the world is that of Egypt and it is made so by irrigation of the loamy soil produced annually by the inundations of the river Nile.

We have great irrigation systems in Texas, especially in the Southwestern part, along the Pecos river, and I sincerely hope before many years we shall see the whole of this great State cut up by irrigating ditches. "OLD CRIP."

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#### Scientific and Technical Education.

It is marvelous to see how, in the past fifty years, educational work has changed its direction. I may say that the subject matter is not at all the same that it was then. I cannot say just when scientific training was begun, but after it reached any degree of notice it required but a short time for it to supercede the old Greek and Latin classics.

There still exists some prejudice in the minds of the so-called liberal educators against science and its practical applications, and they claim that nothing can take the place of classics in a liberal education. It will be only when the older part of the present generation is dead that such prejudice against practical scientific training will be a thing of the past.

That training, scientific and technical, is gaining ground is evident from the fact that the legislatures are continually