

established his headquarters in the finest house in Los Angeles, for, as an old settler once remarked, "Fremont always would have the best of everything." His widow, the gifted Jessie Benton, resides there now.

The soil in this section is generally very rich, even the so-called "deserts" needing only irrigation to make them exceedingly prolific. The annual rainfall is quite sufficient to mature many of the crops, though there were 5,500,000 acres under irrigation in 1894. The agricultural fame of southern California is now world wide, yet twenty-five years ago its inhabitants imported all their vegetables, their flour, and everything else in the way of food except their meat, which they obtained from their flocks and herds. Now great train loads of these very products are shipped from there every day.

Upon many lands, after the winter-sown crop has been harvested without the aid of irrigation, another crop is produced with the aid of that important auxiliary, thus making the same land do double duty. The water used for this purpose is obtained from the rivers, small streams, and from artesian wells. The first oranges produced in that region were from trees planted at Los Angeles, and now the annual shipment aggregates many thousands of tons. Fruit culture of all kinds is exceedingly profitable, and the crops are simply enormous. Wheat, rye, barley and hops are largely produced.



IRRIGATING DITCHES. ORANGE GROVE.

Los Angeles, the chief city of southern California, and the headquarters of the Department of Arizona, is situated midway between the mountains and the ocean, the Sierra Madres towering up fourteen miles to the east, while the broad and peaceful Pacific lies the same distance to the west. It is the center of one of the finest agricultural regions in the world.