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**DESERT REGION IN
 THE SOUTHWEST U. S.**
IS INTERESTING SECTION
 Silence and Solitude are Marked
 And Dangers Many, Var-
 ied for Those Not Ac-
 customed to It

The solitude and silence of the desert region of the southwestern United States have a peculiar fascination to the man who comes to it from a busy life full of varied human contact. The visitor to the desert may travel all day without meeting a human being and almost without hearing a sound except that made by his own vehicle as he journeys across almost or entirely uninhabited areas as large as some of the smaller Eastern States.

Here spread before him are distant views and grand panoramas, which he may see not only from the mountain tops but from the broad alluvial slopes that stretch down from them. Here he is in a land of bright sunshine, of pure, bracing air, free from debilitating sultriness, where the nights are invigoratingly cold, and the sky is so intensely starry that it inspires him with awe and reverence.

Dangers of the Desert
 When all goes well the desert seems so wholesome and congenial that the visitor almost laughs at his preconceived fears. But if at the end of a long day he and his tired, thirsty team of horses come to an isolated watering place that has gone dry, or if his automobile breaks down miles from the nearest water or human aid, or, worse still, if he loses his bearings, the panorama that had impressed him so upliftingly becomes strange and bewildering, and the inspiring scenery and cheery sunshine seem to become a monstrous mockery, for the desert at once reveals itself to him as a stern and awful reality. He realizes then why Death Valley received its gruesome name.

Always Cautious
 To the man who has lived long in the desert region the features that impress the tenderfoot so strongly seem commonplace, and fear of the desert seems absurd, yet the experienced traveler in the desert habitually takes precautions that would not occur to the inexperienced, and if the tenderfoot intends to make a trip into the desert without adequate information and equipment the old-timer will be quick to warn him of its dangers. The desert region appeals so strongly to the imagination of people in all parts of the country that it has been made the subject of numerous stories and popular description articles. Some of these portray the region faithfully and accurately; others either magnify its perils or go to the opposite extreme and give the erroneous impression that the desert is rapidly disappearing and will soon be largely under irrigation. The result has been somewhat confusing to those who have attempted to gain a conception of the desert region by reading about it.

Vast Stretches of Desert
 The desert areas of the United States are included within a great triangle whose base, 800 miles long, rests upon the Mexican border in California, Arizona, and New Mexico, and Texas, and whose apex is in north-central Oregon. For many years the department of the Interior, through the Geological Survey, has carried on investigations of the water resources of the arid part of the United States. Most of the water in this, as in other arid regions, lies below the surface. The investigations of these hidden supplies have consisted chiefly of reconnaissance surveys and have been embodied in reports of a rather distinctive type, in which the geography, geology, and hydrology of large parts of the desert are described.

Salton Sea Region
 A reconnaissance survey of this kind has been made of the Salton Sea region, which covers about 10,000 square miles in southern California. This region, more than any other in the United States, has the features of a genuine desert—a hot climate, great tracts of drifting sand, palm-tree oases—all suggesting the typical deserts of the old world. The Salton Sea lies far below sea level in a closed desert basin that was once a continuation of the Gulf of California. In this region also is the famous Imperial Valley, one of the largest irrigation districts in the country. Here we see one of the most impressive encroachments upon the desert yet made by man. The valley is bordered by the mighty Colorado, which furnishes water in abundance to Imperial Valley but which, in 1905, broke through its barriers and for a time poured its great flood into the Salton Basin with destructive results.

The newspapers are printing advice to bookkeepers, but they do not say much to all these men that are keeping presidential bees. May be all right for Congress to devote itself to a grand Quiz, but it should not forget all about the Biz for which the people sent it there.

**GEOLOGY IS AIDING
 ELECTRIC BUSINESS**
SCIENCE PROVES VALUE
 Shows Ancient Glacial Lakes
 Cause of Present Condi-
 tions Requiring
 Deep "Ground"

It is not recorded that the Jove of olden days, in hurling his thunderbolts, called a geologist to find the places where his shafts would strike most effectively, but the modern Jove, who has harnessed the force of the thunderbolt to powerful motors, brilliant lights, and other electric devices, wants to know where and how he can make the best ground connections for his electric currents and his lightning arresters.

Tests made in the City of Chicago by the United States Bureau of Standards and the Commonwealth Edison Co., showed that the electric resistance of the ground connections was very much higher at some places than at others. When these places of high resistance were plotted on the map it was found that they were in tracts having sandy soil and subsoil through which the rain passed down to a low-ground-water level.

Ground Connection
 As a ground connection, which is generally made by driving an iron pipe into the ground, must reach a moist place in order to be most effective, the pipes had to be driven deeper than usual in these sandy places. In order, therefore, to show the places in which the pipes should be longer it became necessary to outline on a map all these sandy areas. In a great city, however, much of the land is covered with buildings and pavements, which conceal the soil, and the task of locating the sandy areas, involves considerable labor. Here is where the modern Jove called in the geologist.

Story of Glacial Period
 During the closing stages of the Great Ice Age the front of the great Lake Michigan glacier melted back slowly northward along the lake basin. The waters were ponded between the retreating ice front and the great crescentic ridge of glacial debris that was left at the lower end of the lake basin (a ridge called by geologists the Valparaiso terminal moraine) thus forming a temporary lake known to geologists as glacial Lake Chicago.

The waters of this lake rose to a height of about 40 feet above the present level of Lake Michigan, spreading over the plain on which Chicago now stands. Then they broke across the moraine and eroded the sag that is now traversed by the Sanitary Drainage Canal and Des Plaines River and that leads to Illinois River. Along the shores of this glacial lake and beneath its waters at their successively lowered stages, immense deposits of sand and gravel were laid down, largely in the form of beach ridges and sand bars.

Maps Furnish the Clue
 Some years ago the Geological Survey of the Department of the Interior, in an investigation of the geology of this area, made a careful study of the ground in and around the city and mapped the ancient shore lines of Lake Chicago, the abandoned beach ridges and other deposits. These maps furnished the solution of the problems of the public utilities company, which turned to the Geological Survey's Chicago folio for aid in plotting the areas in which it may be necessary to use ground pipes that are 50 per cent longer than those generally used in other parts of the city. The company thus not only easily solved their own problem, but afforded another instructive example of the unforeseen utilization of the results of scientific research undertaken with no immediate commercial or industrial end in view.

**COURTESY AID
 IN REVENUE WORK**
**Record Shows Effect of Letters
 Sent Out to Delinquents
 On Income Tax**

A record in collections by courtesy is reported for March in the office of Collector Mabel G. Reinecke of the Internal Revenue Service. More than \$24,000 has been put in the strong box as the result of letters sent out to small taxpayers who for one reason or another had resisted the deputies' siren songs and had been classed as delinquents. This is more money than has ever before been collected in the same length of time from this class of taxpayer.

The "courtesy" letter, which is a comparatively new office idea, precedes the service of a distraint warrant, and reminds the taxpayer of the two previous demands made on him. It has been proved highly satisfactory and as a money getter pays for itself many times over. "Courtesy pays" has become the slogan of the Chief Field Deputy's office. A number of the politicians are now vehemently denying that their names are Jonah.

**Lehigh Valley Anthracite Coal
 Chicago Solvay Coke**

With regard to the coal situation this coming season, especially the anthracite situation, would like to call your attention to the desirability of consumers laying in their supply, or a portion of it, early in the season, thereby insuring themselves against their inability to get anthracite for various reasons that might come up such as prevented the consumer from getting as much as he required the last few years.

The price of anthracite during the month of April has been reduced 75 cents per ton, bringing the price down to \$16.90. I am assured by the anthracite men that this will be the lowest price for the coming season. If you put in your anthracite coal during April you are buying it six months before you need it and saving at least 75 cents per ton, 6% interest on \$16.90 for six months is 51 cents, hence, investing some of your money at this time in your next winter's supply of coal you are making a good rate of interest, besides assuring yourself of your coal supply regardless of what happens later.

Prices on coal for the month of April follow:

ANTHRACITE	
Large Egg	\$16.90 per ton
Small Egg	16.90 per ton
Stove or Range	16.90 per ton
Chestnut	16.90 per ton
Pea	13.65 per ton
Buckwheat	12.65 per ton

CHICAGO SOLVAY COKE	
Egg	\$13.40 per ton
Nut	13.40 per ton
Pea	10.40 per ton

BITUMINOUS	
Illinois prepared	\$ 8.90 per ton
Illinois mine run	7.65 per ton
Pocahontas prepared	11.90 per ton
Pocahontas mine run	8.65 per ton
Cannel	15.00 per ton

I would be pleased to book your order at these prices during this month and can guarantee a good quality coal, well prepared.

FRANK SILJESTROM
 Phone 65

A High Degree of Safety

One of the best known authorities on investments recently said: "Those who are experienced in investments are coming to hold public utility securities in higher regard every year. The investor who does not own public utility issues will make good use of his time studying them and good use of additional investment funds in buying them."

It is a well known fact that public utility investments are being regarded with increasing favor not alone because of the attractive returns they offer but because they offer a high degree of safety of principal and income.

The North Shore Gas Company offers you a chance to put your money to work in a rapidly growing company paying dividends every three months at the rate of 7% per year, with the utmost safety.

Call at your local gas office or send us the attached coupon and let us explain this High Grade investment to you.

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North Shore Gas Company