

THE GOLDEN WEST

there are plenty of cowboys—the genuine article—to show what horses can do. The driving, for fifteen to twenty miles in almost any direction from Phoenix, is nearly always easy. The roads are apt to be dusty; but there is one well-sprinkled drive of six or eight miles; and since the winds are quite regular in their direction, it is rarely difficult to choose a route on which the dust will be largely carried away from you. The unbroken desert itself is often as easy to drive over as an Eastern highway, and the whole valley is a paradise for bicyclers or equestrians.

CAN ONE LIVE COMFORTABLY?—That, again, depends on what you expect. You cannot have the luxuries of our New York houses out there, unless you build one; or the variety of our New York markets, unless you charter a refrigerator car. But there are hotels with almost as most [sic] frontage as the Waldorf; and, like everything else in the Territory excepting the mountains and deserts, they are new....

IS IT A LAWLESS COUNTRY?—The man who goes to any considerable Arizona town with the ideas of the Southwest derived from novels, or from "The Arizona Kicker," will be greatly mystified. He will find as many churches as in towns of corresponding size in Pennsylvania or Ohio; and probably more school houses. He will find plenty of liquor shops, too, and gambling-houses, and dance-houses, and yet he will see little disorder unless he hunts late at night for it, and he will be apt to find—as at Phoenix—a community of ten thousand people requiring in the daytime only one policeman, and hardly requiring him....

WHICH TOWN IS THE BEST?—Primarily that is a question for the physician, if there is a physician in the case; if not, try them all. [Here favorable mention is made to Prescott, Flagstaff, Yuma, Tucson, and Oracle, but lack of space compels us to omit this part of the letter.] Phoenix is in the center of the greatest irrigation in the Territory. The country for miles around smiles with green fields, covered with almost countless herds of cattle, and it is everywhere shut in by low mountains. It is the Territorial capital, has the Government Indian School, the Territorial Lunatic Asylum, and other institutions, and is the general focus of the Territory. Like Tucson, it has its occasional wind and sand storms—perhaps not quite so often....

If you wish any further information respecting the Valley, address the Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Phoenix, Arizona.¹