

THE THIRSTY EARTH

“ A river went out of Eden to water the garden.”

GENESIS II. 10.



Australian Commonwealth

IRRIGATING GRAPE VINES, AUSTRALIA

The picture shows the field ditches or irrigation furrows.

THE THIRSTY EARTH

A Study in Irrigation

BY

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PREFACE

IN writing this book, which makes no pretence of being a technical treatise on the engineering side of the subject, my constant aim has been to present to the general reader, and in particular to the student of Geography and History, a simple yet adequate account of the more important aspects of irrigation in different parts of the world. Naturally, alongside the plain statement of fact, some controversial matter has had to be introduced. On such topics I have usually taken what seemed to be the 'majority opinion,' fully realising that the point of view expressed may not meet with agreement in every quarter.

The importance of such a book has seemed to me to lie in the presentation of the actual geographical conditions rendering Man's efforts at irrigation both appropriate and necessary, the world-distribution of these conditions, the various methods by which irrigated agriculture is carried out, and some of the results arising from such operations.

I have endeavoured to make each section so far as possible complete in itself, and this has inevitably resulted in a certain amount of repetition. Thus, for example, the process known as 'Irrigation by Gravity' is explained in the chapter dealing with Europe, and again in that on the United States. Similarly the description of certain climatic phenomena occurs more than once, but in each case care has been taken to make these repetitions as brief as possible.

Grateful acknowledgment must be made to the Irrigation Departments of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the Union of South Africa, the Commonwealth of Australia, the Reclamation and Census Bureaux of the United States of America, and to the Director of the South Kensington Museum for permission to use maps, pictures, and statistics.

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E. H. C.

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INDICES

Abbreviations: B. = Basin, D. = District, G. = Gulf, L. = Lake, P. = Plain, Pr. = Province, R. = River, S. = State, V. = Valley.
Wherever available, the spelling of the Place Names is that of the *Times*' Atlas Gazetteer.

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