

Desert Lands — *A New Continent*

SALT water irrigation — new hope for the desert, is the subject of an article by Clayton C. Bauer, associate editor of California Homeowner, in the April Rotarian magazine. This is a detailed, illustrated report of the work of Drs. Hugo and Elisabeth Boyko, born and educated in Vienna, and now widely acclaimed for their efforts at transforming wastelands into gardens with salt water.

It was in Israel that Dr. Elisabeth Boyko, a tree expert, first stimulated that country to survive food shortages through her victory garden radiocasts. she and her husband, a plant ecologist, working as a team, have proved that saline water can help grow food, even in Israel's most sweltering port, Elath, on the Red Sea.

After seven years of experiment, hope and work, the garden of Elath is a shady recreational park, but its greatest significance lies in its promise of a more abundant life for millions, for its plants have a variety of economic uses. The strangest discovery of all, perhaps, was the fact that "the union of parched soil and brackish water" could produce sweet watermelons.

It was Israel's Prime Minister, David

Ben-Gurion, who turned to the Boykos for the help which today is available for all. Dr. Hugo, a prophet long neglected at home, worked with fanatical zeal to pour out scores of new discoveries, ecological rules and methods for using natural laws. At last the long deserved honors have been accorded them, but mostly by countries far from home.

Despite skepticism and ridicule the team of experts carried to completion evidence which proves that undiluted ocean water will grow healthy plants "and lots of them." The latest success was in historic Sodom — a harsh and salty Dead Sea flatland. There specially bred fiber plants were pushed forward with brackish irrigation (SWI).

Most deserts are underlain with salt water, as this author points out. "When the sands hold oil for energizing pumps and industry as well, as in the Saharan and Libyan deserts, they become potential Edens."

Dr. Hugo Boyko claims that over 3 billion acres of dune lands around the world — equal to an area as large as Africa, can be made fit for relieving hunger and want by using methods as simple as those used by many farmers.

C. LeBARON GOELLER

The work of a loyal Georgist, Charles LeBaron Goeller, has ceased at Endwell, New York, after a lifetime of service in a great cause. Death came to him at 80, and when the will was read it disclosed that he had remembered the Henry George Schools in New York and Philadelphia. For many years he lived alone in a modest cottage on Mary Street. HGN kept him in touch with Georgist activities.

At age 13 Charles was taken by his father to hear an address by Henry George at Cooper Union. He was already so well informed and so enthusiastic about the George philosophy from hearing it discussed at home, that his schoolmates referred to him as the Single Taxer. Thereafter, for more than half a century, he gave unremittingly of his efforts. First he conducted an extensive lecture tour from Maine to Ohio. Later, on his own press, he printed many thousands of small tracts which were distributed free (see page 12). He was a scholar whose logic was impressively terse and authoritative, and he believed strongly in the power of the printed word. His was a long and lonely crusade aided only infrequently by meager contributions from a few old friends who saw in him a deep well of devotion and character.