

Arizona Veteran Makes Good In The Poultry Business

HOMELESS, "broke" and tubercular from gas, Willie Simon Baker was part of the wreckage of the World War when he was discharged from the Fourth Division late in 1919. A backwoods boy in Tennessee, he had run away from home before the war and stretched his age two years to enlist in the army. Today he is the owner of a thriving Arizona chicken farm, has established a comfortable home for his wife and baby and has recovered his health.

Baker's struggle back to independence after his war experience had made him a ward of the government is pointed to by the American Legion as evidence that disabled war veterans are made of the stuff that means success if given intelligent help in entering a line of work in which their disabilities will not be too great a handicap. The American Legion Endowment Fund for disabled veterans and the orphans of former service men is being raised

to give every disabled veteran the chance for success that was given Baker.

Baker's fight to re-establish himself in life began when he was discharged from a government hospital in the summer of 1921, after two years' treatment, as an arrested case of tuberculosis. He had no parental roof to which to return. He soon was married and faced the problem of supporting a family.

The government extended help, placing Baker on a five-acre tract near Phoenix, Arizona, which he was to develop into a poultry farm. When he moved to his farm, Baker's total assets were \$27.50 cash, an automobile and a helpful wife.

Baker's start on the farm was discouraging, as the chickens he purchased proved to be worthless stock. In the spring of 1923 he made a re-start, selling all his chickens, building a brooder house and obtaining 500 White Leghorn baby chicks of reliable stock.

From this time Baker's project seemed an assured success. His chicks grew with astounding speed; his watermelon patch flourished and the alfalfa that he put in seemed fairly to jump out of the ground. He found his finances in such shape that by the spring of 1924 he was able to purchase five acres of adjoining land. The last winter he purchased ten acres additional.

In September, 1924, Baker established a baby chick hatchery, filling a long felt need in his locality. His incubators have been turning out approximately 4,000 chicks a month.

As Baker's farm now stands it represents a total net value of over \$8,000. This is an increase of over 800 per cent in two and one-half years. In addition Baker now rates his health as 100 per cent. He has a comfortable three-room house and a 19-months-old daughter to make it a real home.

Rayless Goldenrod Poisoning

By PROF. E. B. STANLEY
Animal Husbandman, University of Arizona

Losses of livestock have recently been reported by stockman in the vicinity of Florence and Continental, and the cause has been attributed to the poisonous effects from eating Rayless Goldenrod, a plant commonly known as burro weed. It is also referred to sometimes as "jiminy weed." The plant is found over large areas in southern Arizona. Dean J. J. Thornber described the plant (*Bigelowia coronopifolia*) in the 31st Annual Report of the Agricultural Experiment Station as follows: "It belongs to the goldenrod group of the sunflower family, and is a woody shrub, one to three feet tall. The leaves are skeleton-like, and pinnately parted nearly to the midribs. The flowers are golden yellow, and borne mostly in terminal clusters in the summer and fall. The whole plant is strongly resinous, with a pronounced bitter odor, and stock rarely eat it except when driven by stress of hunger. Sheep and goats,

however, eat the blossoms and seed heads, and appear to relish them."

Losses have been reported for some years by stockmen to the south and west of Tucson. One rancher lost 65 horses and about 30 head of cattle. Rayless goldenrod was the only plant growing in abundance where this stock ranged. No further losses resulted among the stock after they were turned out on the open range where feed was fairly good.

Paunch contents of cattle that have died recently in the vicinity of Florence were examined, and found to contain large quantities of rayless goldenrod. Stockmen in the vicinity of Continental have reported a trouble affecting cattle and horses in that district, the symptoms of which correspond to those described by Dr. C. Dwight Marsh, of the United States Department of Agriculture, for "Alkali Disease," or Rayless Goldenrod poisoning. The affected stock are located in a district infested with the burro weed, and

stockmen report that cattle and horses have been observed to eat parts of the plant.

The symptoms in poisoned animals, as described by Dr. C. Dwight Marsh in the United States Department Circular No. 180, "The Alkali Disease of Livestock in the Pecos Valley," are as follows: "The first symptom noted is marked depression. The animals are inactive, usually stand humped up, and move with a stiff gait, this stiffness being especially marked in the forelegs. When the animal is made to move about, sometimes the forelegs give way, it comes down on its knees, and may even attempt to walk about in this posture. The inactivity increases and culminates in extreme weakness. In the later stages, the animal lies down most of the time, and eventually is unable to get on its feet. Constipation occurs in all cases, but this condition may be pre-

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