



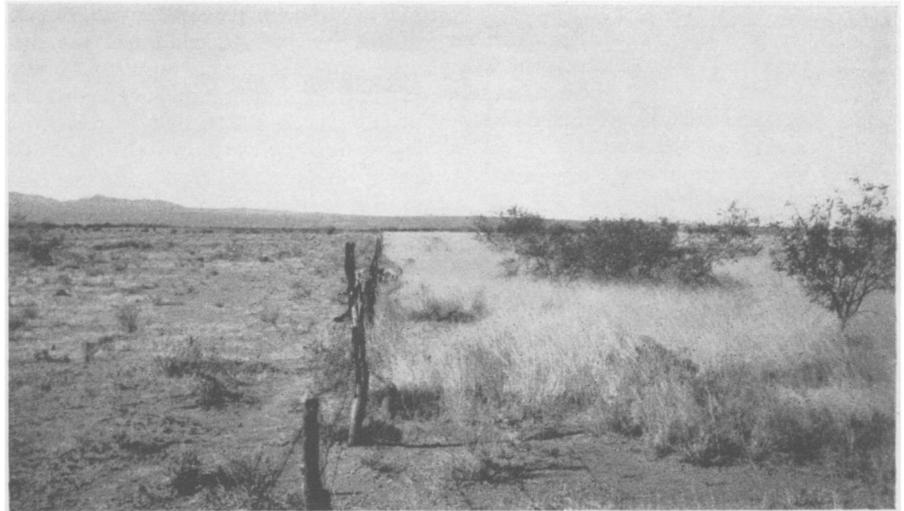
Ecologist at Work: Sequel

HOW a few inches of type on a printed page helped a Western university to acquire a square mile of land was related at the Dallas meeting of the Ecological Society of America by Prof. Charles T. Vorhies of the University of Arizona. It was a story combining science and human interest—with a happy ending.

It started two years ago, when Prof. Vorhies appeared before the Ecological Society at Columbus, Ohio, with an account of how an old man, Joseph T. Page, had redeemed half a section of seemingly ruined rangeland, over a period of 17 years, simply by giving the grass a chance to grow again, with a little help in the way of grubbing out a few weeds every day. At the same time he got rid of burrowing rodents simply by channeling rainwater run-off into their holes. In the end, he had turned a piece of desperate-looking waste into good pasture again.

At the time, the story was made the subject of an item in the *Nature Ramblings* column (SNL, Feb. 3, 1940). It was also printed by a considerable number of newspapers. Notice of Mr. Page's work came to the attention of a New York banker, W. B. Trowbridge, who owned a big ranch near Mr. Page's little one. Mr. Trowbridge, a philanthropist in a quiet way, arranged for the purchase of the Page ranch and its presentation to the University as a range demonstration area. The University had long wanted such an area, but lacked funds for purchase and maintenance.

Subsequently, Mr. Trowbridge arranged for the purchase of an additional half-section immediately adjacent to the original Page tract. This land, still denuded, infested with burrowweed and riddled with rodents, serves for "awful



PRACTICAL CONSERVATION

"Before and After" pictures in a single photograph. The fence marks the boundary of the original Page Ranch, on what is now the Page-Trowbridge Experimental Range Reserve. Before Joseph T. Page began his slow, patient, nature-guided work of grassland restoration, nearly 20 years ago, the right side, now in rich grass, was as bare and denuded as the area on the left.

example" purposes, in contrast to the beautiful crop of grass that waves on the Page acres.

Shortly after its acquisition cooperative agreements between the University of Arizona, the U. S. Soil Conservation Service and the U. S. Forest Service were made, which resulted in surrounding the area with a strong new fence and erection of some buildings, completed early in 1941. On December 4, the tract was officially given the title, "The Page-Trowbridge Experimental Range Reserve."

One note of sadness enters the story: Mr. Trowbridge did not long survive the fulfillment of his benevolence; he died suddenly early last September.

Octogenarian Mr. Page, however, still hale and hearty, was invited last summer to appear on the radio program, "We, the people." He had the double thrill of an airplane ride all the way to New York and back, and of being interviewed before the microphone on a nation-wide network.

Science News Letter, January 3, 1942

PLANT PATHOLOGY

New Disease, Attacking Hardy Roots of Orange Trees

BRAZILIAN-AMERICAN cooperation has resulted in the uncovering of a hidden enemy that bores from beneath, threatening Hemisphere citrus crops. The enemy is a parasitic fungus, and its evil activities were detected by Prof. H. S. Fawcett of the California Experiment Station, Riverside, Calif., and Dr. A. A. Bitancourt of the Instituto Biologico of Sao Paulo, Brazil, who is now in this country, and presented a paper at the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Dallas during the Christmas holidays.

The fungus, which bears the formidable name *Phytophthora cinnamomi*,

discovered a few years ago infesting cinnamon trees in Sumatra. Its appearance in Brazil, and on the roots of orange trees, marks its first discovery outside Sumatra, as well as its first detection on a citrus host plant. It has not been found in this country so far, and it is hoped it will remain absent, for it could constitute a major menace to the entire citrus fruit industry.

Although it has been found only on the roots of the inedible sour orange, it is a possible menace none the less, because fully three-fourths of the citrus fruit trees in this country are grafted on the roots of sour orange. These roots