

during the uncounted centuries when the greatest civilizations had their seat on the Euphrates and the Nile, they were nurtured by an agriculture which depended on irrigation; on conserving and utilizing the waters of a few great streams. If we could know all the truth, it is probable we would learn that one of the first real impulses to developing civilization was given by those who discovered the possibility of irrigation as a means to agricultural production. The archaeologists who go to dig into the remains of cities so old that their very names have been lost, are constantly coming back to us with accounts of early irrigation works, constructed so