

AGRICULTURAL NEWS AND VIEWS

NUBS OF NEWS

Hood county, Tex., cotton is being damaged by army worms.

Reports from Timpie, Texas, state that the pean crop is good in that section.

Four hundred gallons of wine were received last week in the Dallas market from C. Niedbauer of Brenham.

Near the boundary line between Tom Green and Runnels counties some 16,000 acres of land has recently been sold.

The wheat crop in the Lovelace, Tex., country is coming up in good shape, which is accounted for by the favorable weather and rains.

Mexican boll weevils have made their appearance near Navasota, traveling in droves in a northerly direction, devouring the crops as they go.

J. L. Parker will put up a broom factory in Milford, Texas, if he can persuade the farmers to raise sufficient broom corn to guarantee a supply.

Apple blossoms and almost ripened apples in November is the latest Kansas City freak. A Peoria fruit dealer has at his home in Merriam Park.

Navasota's pean crop is rotting on the trees for want of hands to pick it, the negroes who formerly picked them having left that section to pick cotton.

The pean crop in the neighborhood of Corsicana is very fine and the yield good. The demand for this product is lively and the price is \$5.70 per hundred weight.

Fire at Jacksonville, Tex., recently consumed Mr. Brewer's gin, 20 bales of cotton and 100 tons of cotton seed. The gin mill and fixtures were also a total loss.

Cane grinding is well on the way in Velasco and new syrup is on the market. Cotton is being rapidly replaced by cane and rice and the oil mill plant is for sale.

The Stubbemann broom factory at Cuero, Tex., was destroyed in a fire on the night of Oct. 27. There was no insurance.

The vineyards in France this year have sadly suffered from severe winds and rains on the eve of harvest, so that the production of wine will be seriously curtailed.

Tobacco importers say that the Cuban crop just now coming to market is one of the largest ever raised on the island, and is firmer in quality than any since 1881. The information now

available places the total crop at about 510,000 bales, the bales weighing about 100 pounds each. The average crop is only 400,000 bales.

Many county farmers practiced diversification of crops sufficiently to supply the home markets with about all they needed in the way of vegetables and farm supplies.

The Hessian fly has appeared in southern Kansas and the wheat crop is threatened. The fly works on the inside of the stalks of wheat, absorbing its life and the wheat dies.

The Italian minister of agriculture estimates this year's crop of corn in Italy to be 42,200,000 hectolitres, which is 6,400,000 hectolitres less than last year, a hectolitre being 2 3/4 Winchester bushels.

Some of the negroes in uphur county, Tex., display pride in being able to secure credit, but the white citizens there are rapidly freeing themselves from debt and in many cases laying up a bank account.

Some three years ago, Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Dennis, of Waco, Texas, started to raise bananas and now a dozen are producing bananas for them. The soil is the familiar black waxy prairie.

This has been a record breaking year for the cotton crop. The yield will, it is thought, be about 4,500,000 boxes, or 14,500 carloads. The total investment in California orange groves now amounts to \$44,000,000.

A sugar plant is to be erected complete by Oct. 1, 1901, at Wharton, Tex. Its daily capacity will be 600 tons. At a recent meeting \$160,000 worth of stock was subscribed for and a committee was appointed to further matters.

The Corsicana cotton factory will, it is expected, be opened for business December 1. A big force of men are putting up the machinery. It is proposed to employ only white operatives. About one hundred will be employed at first.

The Republic of Mexico is suffering from the scarcity of cotton, two mills having already shut down and the like fate is prophesied for many others. The high price of the raw material seems to have frightened our Mexican customers.

The recent rains which prevailed over the state have to some extent damaged the crops, but the water has done up and clinging to the soil, thus making picking more difficult. In places where the stalk growth is rank the bottom crops will be likely to rot.

Some specimens of seedless persimmons have recently been received by the department of agriculture from

Kentucky. They all came from a single tree of the ordinary kind usually found in the fields and are a trifle smaller than the usual sort.

The Denton county Blooded Stock and Fair association people are striving to prevent the sale of the association which was advertised for October 29. To that end the sale was postponed until November 15 in the hope that by that time matters may be so shaped that the sale will be unnecessary.

In Caldwell county the cotton crop is about three-fourths gathered, the recent rains, unaccompanied as they were by winds, did little if any damage. The farmers are in a prosperous condition. They are holding their staple for a raise in price. Owing to the boll weevil and army worms there will be no top crop in the vicinity of Luling.

At least it is to be a decrease of at least 60 per cent in the yield of lint cotton in Washington county, Tex., as compared with last year, and in counties to the south and east a still greater decrease, there being in many places a total failure. Rains at planting time succeeded by overflows, greatly reduced the acreage, worms, boll weevil and the disastrous storm of Sept. 23rd completed the devastation.

Another claimant to the juvenile championship of the cotton picking arena arises in the person of Master James Henry Staysor of Waxahachie. The lad is only 9 years old, weighs 48 pounds. Between Sept. 1 and Oct. 30 he has picked 9375 pounds of cotton, which at 75 cents per hundred brings him nearly 75 cents, in less than two weeks and without working Saturday afternoon.

In quantity and in quality the Arkansas cotton crop this year is far ahead of that of 1899. The picking also has progressed further than at this time last year. Lint cotton this year all over the state shows an increase of about 10 per cent, and around Little Rock fully 25 per cent over last year. Up to October 26 the receipts at Little Rock were 52 1/2 bales compared with 31,080 bales at the same time last year. The staple is very fine with a long strong body. Picking is going rapidly forward and on account of good prices is being promptly marketed.

Preliminary surveys have recently been made near Orange, Tex., by L. F. Daniels, city engineer of Beaumont, for an irrigating canal to be constructed by the Hurd-Scott Realty Co., of Beaumont. This company has bought the Capron rice farm, said to be one of the finest rice plantations in southeast Texas. The company has also secured options on several big tracts of land in the vicinity and will soon begin to dig the canal with which to furnish

water for the immense rice fields of next season. Orange county rice farmers have had a profitable season this year and the outlook is for greatly increased acreage next year.

The pean crop on the Brazos and Colorado rivers is a failure this year. The San Antonio crop is good as to quality, but deficient in size. The Gaudaloupe crop is of very fine quality and far in quantity. The Nueces river country has a middling crop. The Guadalupe nuttomee compares favorably with the cultivated crop of Louisiana, are fully as large, better flavored and have more meat.

The farmers around Waco have been making heroic efforts to get their cotton picked. All other interests lie dormant. In view of the recently falling prices the cotton planter sees that his interests lie in forestalling any further drops and he is finishing and selling his cotton to pay his pickers; he has money on deposit, and draws his check to pay his farm laborers. The whole aim is to get the cotton in hand and under cover.

The weather generally, during the past month, in Illinois, has been exceedingly favorable for fall farm work, being warm and dry with a few good showers. Plowing has progressed rapidly and the ground is in good condition. Corn has matured well and large quantities have been cribbed. The northern district, in some few places, records a failure, and on account of the dry weather during the late summer, the yield in some quarters has fallen off. The average yield in the state, however, will be large. Some wheat and rye is finished and there is a good stand. Some damage has been done in the central and southern districts by the Hessian fly.

PECAN GROWING.—The growing of pecans is a very profitable occupation these days. The demand for the crop is bringing the price to a place where the pean has become a worthy of serious consideration. For example some farmers in the neighborhood of Albany, Georgia, are holding some of their land at \$1000 per acre valuation because of the pean crop grown upon it. These farmers are shipping thousands of pounds of pecans to the market and regularly established pean nurseries, there being a demand not only for the savory nuts but also for young trees. One Georgia farmer alone has an eighty acre grove of pecan trees 12 to 15 years old. Some trees began to bear in from 8 to 12 years. Pecan trees often bear at 75 and 80 years. This is an easy way to produce an income for old age. Planting pean trees, anyhow, is worth looking into.

The Alamo City Business College educates to meet the living demands of a progressive age. The school is a five-mile asking. Address C. H. CLARK, Pres., Alamo Insurance building, San Antonio, Texas.

THE CHRONICLES REPORT.—The New York Chronicle, in its issue of Nov. 3, says:

Telegraphic advices to us from the South this evening denote that the temperature has been lower in many sections during the week, but no killing frost is reported. Along the Atlantic coast drier weather has prevailed, and elsewhere the rain has been light, except in portions of Alabama and the Southwest. Picking, where not interfered with by rain, has made good progress.

NUTMEG MELONS IN GERMANY.—A dollar and a half for a cantaloupe during the season seems absurd, yet this is what they bring in Germany. He says "our cantaloupes are a great delicacy—seven times more than pine apple—in German cities they sell at 30 cents to \$1.50 apiece, weighing three to ten pounds. Some of these are brought from Spain; others are raised in Germany. Not infrequently the soil in this country is sold at high prices, 6 to 14 cents a pound, according to season; they are chiefly used for flavor meats, not stewed. Only the best hotels and the wealthy buy fresh tomatoes."

SAILED FOR AFRICA.—The ten colored students of the Tuskegee Normal Institute of Alabama, who are to attempt to teach the natives of West Africa, low 4th row, accompanied by the Rev. Dr. H. H. Wood, sailed last week from New York. They take with them the necessary agricultural implements, etc. The Normal Institute had an exhibit in the United States at the Paris exposition, which was brought to the attention of Emperor William of Germany, who was much taken with the idea of having these well instructed blacks imported to the German colonies in Africa, to teach the natives there. Some people interested are of the opinion that this may lead to a considerable exodus of blacks to South Africa. The students at Tuskegee were all wild to go, but President Booker T. Washington selected the ten who stood highest in their studies.

AMERICAN BEES.—"When the story of the twelfth century is fully told it will show in an interesting way the astonishing industry of the apiarist. Prof. L. O. Howard, chief of the bureau of entomology, writes:

"There are more than 200,000 persons engaged in the culture of bees in the United States alone, and the present census will show the present annual value of apian products to be in excess of twenty million dollars.

"This branch of agricultural industry does not make its money in the soil, at least, but, on the contrary, results in better seed and fruit crops. The total money gain to the bee culture from the production of the bee culture would undoubtedly be placed at several millions of dollars annually were we able to estimate in dollars and cents the result of the work of bees in cross-fertilizing the blossoms of fruit crops.

"The demand for American honey is increasing. England is our chief buyer. Ships sail every summer from San

Francisco and San Diego, Cal., and from New York and Philadelphia, carrying cargoes of honey to the world."

HESTER'S REPORT.—Secretary Hester's New Orleans Cotton Exchange statement, issued Nov. 2, covers the monthly movement of cotton.

Compared with last year the month is ahead in round figures 429,000 bales, behind year before last 116,000 and ahead of 1897 by 230,000 bales.

The total for October was 2,171,993 bales against 1,742,523 last year, 2,288,141 year before last and 1,891,897 same time in 1897. The amount brought into sight for the two months of September and October shows an increase of 190,000 bales over last year, a decrease of 197,000 under the year before last and an increase of 90,000 over 1897.

The movement from the 1st of September to Oct. 31 shows receipts at the United States delivery ports of 2,142,156 bales against 1,913,351 last year, 2,414,000 year before last and 2,194,618 same time in 1897.

These make the total amount of the cotton crop brought into sight for the two months ending Oct. 31, 3,051,320 against 2,861,235 last year, 3,248,421 year before last and 2,961,336 same time in 1897.

The total world's visible supply of cotton shows an increase compared with last year of 773,840 and a decrease compared with year before last of 1,003,625.

Of the world's visible supply as above there is now afloat and held in Great Britain and continental Europe 1,415,000 bales against 1,902,000 last year and 1,918,000 year before last; in Egypt 108,000 against 142,000 last year and 118,000 year before last; in India 156,000 against 181,000 last year and 161,000 year before last and in the United States 1,147,000 against 1,600,000 last year and 1,663,000 year before last.

MUSTARD MONOPOLY.—Mustard, a native plant of a nation, is cultivated only in Santa Barbara county, Cal. This locality grows the mustard for the entire country, and the hundreds of acres of brilliant canary yellow and brown are pleasing sights to tourists who enjoy the pungent odor of the mustard flower.

In the region of which Lompoc is the center 2500 acres are devoted to the industry, occupying the attention of some 250 farmers. One of the peculiarities incident to the cultivation of mustard is that no farmer employs himself exclusively in growing it, because of its absolute refusal to yield two successive crops from the same soil. The mustard farmer must therefore alternate his crops, and he usually does so by putting half of his land in beans, barley, corn or beets, while the other half is given over to mustard, and thus a change in the soil becomes regular. What principle of the soil is withdrawn by this peculiar saucer plant is a mystery that science has not as yet solved.

The Lompoc valley has been in the business of raising mustard for 18 years, the farmers taking their cue from the abundance of wild mustard plants in the hills and in the valleys of Santa Barbara county, and the suc-

cess of the early devotees stimulated others to follow in their wake.

The best results are now secured from land lying in the middle of the rivers and among the banks of the Santa Ynez river. The soil is dark and almost without grit, and the heavier soil is preferred. In the cultivation of mustard much water and dampness are necessary, and one thing that contributes to the success of the Lompoc district is its close proximity to the sea, and the heavy fogs which roll in every evening are equivalent to rain, giving the soil the coolness required.

The sowing time for the brown variety is in January and March for the yellow. The ground is broken and cultivated, after which the seed is sown broadcast, four pounds to the acre. The mustard stalk is straw color, growing from four to five feet in height; the pods are from one to four inches in length, containing one row of seeds. In harvesting the crop a reaper is used, cutting the stalks and throwing them in bunches, where they are left to cure until October. They are now thoroughly dry, and are transported to some central place and spread out upon large sheets of canvas, where the stalks and pods are rolled with a heavy roller until crushed, after which they are raked off with hand rakes. The chaff and seed remaining are run through a fanning machine, which separates all the light and loose material, and the seed is ready to sack and market.

Mustard is the greatest among herbs, but the least among seeds, and its use among the consumers is becoming greater each year. San Francisco is the distributing point, and much of the product is shipped to the east and middle west.

Georgia farmers, like Texans, are prospering this year and reports say that after a dull autumn, the farmers net a good surplus. Down in old Muscogee one negro farmer went into the store which had been carrying him, settled all his obligations in full and paid \$175 to leave the store. He liked. Many instances like this occur.

The Pasteur Vaccine Co. offered two prizes of \$500 each at the recent Kansas State Fair. One was won by Mr. Short and one by Mr. Geo. Bothwell, of Newton. The prize for the best milk was won by Mr. F. B. Hordford prize was won by Mr. F. B. Soham, of Chillicothe, Mo., with "Thick-

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The Journal Institute

THE GRAIN WEEVILS.—All the various species of insects that attack stored grain are indiscriminately called weevils, or simply "weevil," but the only true grain weevil is the granary and rice weevil, says the American Farmer. These two insects resemble each other in structure as well as in habit. They are small, flattened, brown snout beetles of the family Curculionidae. Neither more than six or seven of an inch in length, but their rate of development is so rapid that they do an almost incalculable amount of injury in no great period of time. Their heads are prolonged into a long snout or proboscis, the end of which is hatched a larva that devours the meal or the grain. Their antennae are clubbed and attached to the proboscis.

The granary weevil has been known as an enemy to stored grain since the earliest times. Having become domesticated, it is now a pest of the stored grain of the world, and is strictly an indoor species. The mature weevil measures from an eighth to a sixth of an inch—a of a uniform shining color and has the thorax sparsely and longitudinally punctured.

The larvae is legless, considerably shorter than the adult, white in color, very robust and fleshy. The female punctures the grain with her snout and then inserts an egg, from which is hatched a larva that devours the meal or the grain. Their antennae are clubbed and attached to the proboscis.

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to the seeds. Husked or hulled grains are naturally more exposed to infestation, and the softer varieties suffer more than do the harder, flinty sorts.

Nearly all of the grain feeding species in the United States have been introduced and are now cosmopolitan, having been distributed by commerce to all quarters of the earth. Upwards of forty species occur commonly in granaries, these living throughout their adolescent stages within the kernel of the grain.

The leading preventive is bi-phenolic acid of carbon. By reason of its intensive action, this is the best known remedy against all insects that affect stored products. Prompt threshing, in- spection, quaterning, disquaterning, scrupulous cleanliness in the matter of bins and grain bags is suggested as being along the proper line for the extermination of the pest or preventing them from doing great damage.

WATERMELON CULTURE.—The following paper was written for the meeting of the State Trade Growers' Association at Dallas on October 9, by W. R. Hayes of Skidmore, Texas:

Growing watermelons is the subject given me for discussion. Have had only two years' experience in growing them for market. Had previously here, for more than thirty years, grown a few each season for home use, but few little of the capabilities of our soil and climate, in this line, until the two years.

When we organized a melon growers' association here, in the early spring of 1899 the writer, for the benefit of himself and the organization, visited our neighboring station, Mathis, from which point more melons are shipped than from any other place in Texas, and interviewed Messrs. Horton, Davis, Madray and others who had been engaged in the business seven, six and five years, respectively, as to their mode of planting and cultivating melons. Having thus the benefit of their experience cheerfully given by them we made a success of growing (not selling) melons the first season, and this year planted and cultivated about as follows:

The land being a deep, sandy loam, well drained, was broken from 8 to 10 inches deep and left unharrowed to prevent soil drifting. Then with a common shovel point or small sweep, was checked in rows 10x10 feet wide, then well rotted manure hauled and about ten pounds thrown in or near each hill or check, and at the proper time, from February 20 to March 10, the seeds were dropped by hand and covered with the soil, one or two inches deep, by the side of the fertilizer, not on it. We have planted two checks in the hill, and when the plants commence to run, or a little earlier, thin to only one, unless there are missing hills nearby; then two may be left but under no other circumstances.

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