

AGRICULTURAL NEWS AND VIEWS

NUBS OF NEWS

Kimball county farmers are about through with cotton picking and are engaged in breaking land.

See county will, it is believed, produce this year between nine and ten thousand bales of cotton.

Deaton county claims unprecedented prosperity in her borders this year—big crops, fat cattle and high prices.

Fanna county farmers recently made up and shipped a carload of corn to the farmers near Alvin, Tex. At the present high price this donation of corn is a valuable one.

Jefferson county is enjoying an influx of homeseekers from the north and northwest, about 300 coming into the county to one day recently, attracted largely by the profitability of rice culture.

The public weigher at Goldthwaite has weighed so far 9000 bales of cotton this season, and from the surrounding country in Mills county 1000 bales more are expected. Cotton seed is bringing the farmers 20 cents per bushel.

Recently at Clarksville a bright-faced boy of 14 years, the son of an aged widow, was convicted of the theft of a pig worth \$1 and sentenced to the state reformatory for two years. The boy's mother sat by sobbing piteously while sentence was pronounced.

Caney Valley, Wharton county, Tex., has shipped already this season 240,000 pounds of cane, making 175 carloads. In the same district broomcorn is a successful crop. Mr. Mickelson planted ten acres of broomcorn, the yield of which amounted to one-third of a ton to the acre.

The Illinois horticultural society recently held its annual session at Urbana, Ill. A national appropriation of \$36,000 for the extermination of fruit pests was recommended. Papers were read and discussed and officers elected for the ensuing year.

The Howard-Smith company of Houston has contracted to furnish irrigation machinery to the Bay Prairie Irrigation company of Wharton county, to be used on the company's farm. While the amount of the contract is not given, it is said to be the largest ever made in the country.

Lamar county farmers in the neighborhood of Chilcota raised big crops of potatoes which they harvested last August. During the fall they gathered a volunteer crop. The season being

favorable they matured without attention. It is now found that the volunteer crop, coming up without attention, is finer than the original crop, very large in size and yielding 100 bushels to the acre. They also are bringing a better price than the first crop.

At the University of Illinois, situated at Urbana, Ill., seventy-five representatives of seed-corn growers met in session of the Illinois Corn Growers' association, a few days ago, and discussed methods of improving the quality of seed-corn grown in the state, as well as other matters of interest.

A truck grower W. H. Moss, residing near Denison, Tex., raised this year 407 bushels of yellow yams on one measured acre and 408 bushels of pumpkin yams on another one. The two acres netted \$407.50. The soil on which this crop was grown is sandy and about like the average in the vicinity.

R. A. Taylor, a merchant of Dalgren, Tex., recently sold a Shreveport, La., 1700 bushels of cotton for something over \$75,000. This is the largest single transaction in cotton recorded thus far in the town. About 11,000 bales of cotton will, it is expected, be received in Dalgren this season, as over 8000 bales are already recorded.

From two acres planted in ribbon cane William Larham of Somervell county, Texas, has made 500 gallons of No. 1 molasses, which brings 60 cents per gallon. Sufficient seed to plant four acres is also on hand. From twenty-two acres of cotton Jeff Walker of Glen Toss, Somervell county, has raised 17 bales of cotton averaging 525 pounds each.

Prof. M. A. Carleton, cerealist in the United States department of agriculture, says that during his recent trip to Russia he secured quantities of the best hard winter wheats in the south Russia and expects that during the coming year the agricultural department will be able to distribute some very fine varieties to various portions of the states of the plains.

Cotton picking in Wise county, Tex., is rapidly coming to completion, and in many districts the farmers are now engaged in plowing. The wheat is growing, and the prospects for a fine crop of grain are exceedingly good. Some plowing is still going on, however. An enormous acreage has been planted this year, and while rain is not badly needed a shower or so would be very well received.

The farmers of Waller county are greatly in need of seed corn, as there is not over 500 bushels in the county, while cotton was nearly a total failure. These people who were sufferers

from the Galveston storm are to be helped in some measure by people in Hillsboro, a committee of citizens is soliciting contributions for the "having been watered" as the report is from Waller county's sheriff, Mr. Lipscomb.

The area seeded to winter wheat this fall in Illinois amounts to 1,878,908 acres and the early December condition of the crop all over the state averages 97 per cent. A smaller area is given to wheat this fall than last year and is also somewhat off as to area although in condition it is about average.

The Brookens community in Hill County, Texas, are about through cotton picking and are engaged in gathering corn. Most of the cotton has been marketed. Much less wheat has been planted because the people have been put in the cotton to attend to it. More cotton will be planted, as the people think that on account of the short crop this year it will have a good effect on next year's prices.

THE HESSIAN FLY.—Official reports show that Hessian flies have appeared in the fields of nearly every winter wheat state of the country, from New York to Kansas, and from Michigan to North Carolina and Tennessee. In fact, the only states where they were not reported east of the Rocky mountains are Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

In the states of greatest wheat area, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Tennessee, the pests are so numerous as to cause considerable alarm. The fall breed of insects has not done serious damage. The season has been an extraordinarily favorable one for the wheat plant to make vigorous growth and to firmly root itself to endure the cold of the winter and to make a strong spring start. Indeed, so rank has been the growth of wheat that the fields have furnished rich pasture for thousands of cattle during the past month. Farmers have turned their stock into the wheat for the purpose of preventing a too rapid fall growth, which sometimes proves injurious to the crop.

HESTER'S REPORT.—Secretary Hester's weekly New Orleans cotton exchange statement issued shows an increase in the movement of cotton into sight compared with the seven days ending that date last year in round figures of 95,000, a decrease under the same date before last of 14,000 and a decrease under the same time in 1897 of 31,000.

For the fourteen days of December the totals show an increase over last year of 150,000, a decrease under the same date before last of 40,000 and a decrease under 1897 of 57,000.

For the 105 days of the season the aggregate is ahead of the 105 days of last year 453,000 bales, behind the same

days year before last of 872,000 and behind 1897 548,000.

The amount brought into sight during the week was 445,357 bales against 349,877 for the seven days ending that date last year, 359,694 year before last and 476,582 same time in 1897 and for the fourteen days of December it has been 886,488 against 728,918 last year, 976,108 year before last and 943,027 same time in 1897.

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THE GRAIN CROP.—The generally good condition of the growing wheat crop is being maintained, says the Price Current. The existence of fly deposits in many places is all that prevents the outlook from being perfect. The season so far has been very open; there has not yet been severe freezing in the winter grain regions.

In regard to the Hessian fly, it is noticeable that while it now spreads over a much wider territory than last year, extending from Pennsylvania to Kansas, the intensity of its ravages in Ohio and Indiana seems to be less than in the last crop. In these states, Ohio and Indiana, the price of wheat is more favorable now than it was at corresponding time last year.

The cool and dry weather of the past week was favorable for drying out and

for moving corn to market, and there has been some increase in this respect. Otherwise there has been no feature of importance noticeable in the corn situation.

There was some disposition to hold corn that another "dial" in December corn would advance the price.

In Ohio the wheat crop situation is being maintained under favorable weather conditions. The appearance of the crop now is better than at this time last year, though the acreage is small.

INDIANA.—The weather is favorable for corn gathering and drying out; reports are much poorer than was expected earlier in the season. There is a fair movement to market. The growing crop is in good condition.

MISSOURI.—The growing wheat is doing nicely; a little complaint of fly. Corn generally gathered, and about as good as expected. Fair movement of grain.

KANSAS.—The growing wheat is generally regarded in very good condition. A little complaint of fly, and of too early

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weevil makes it an exceedingly difficult thing to obtain cotton tenants able to furnish themselves, and landlords attracted to rice culture look askance at propositions to advance to tenants on long leases a crop as has been the practice heretofore. Good bottom lands for cotton renting heretofore at \$4 and \$5 per acre are now down to \$2 and \$2.50 and at that difficulty in obtaining financially competent tenants is found. The acreage in this district in cotton next year will probably show a decrease of at least 25 per cent. The Colorado county people in the Freiburg district will not have an acre in rice, as the land in that vicinity is unsuited for its culture, being hilly and uneven, but in the country south of Freiburg great interest is being taken and hundreds of acres being devoted to rice, as those engaged in the past year in the county made fine profits. North of Freiburg the country is being adapted to the cereal, but as yet no steps have been taken in the district toward engaging in its culture. South and southeast of Columbus, Colorado county, probably 5000 acres in rice and 4000 acres in cane will be planted this year in the same vicinity the acreage of cotton will be increased, perhaps, 10 per cent over last year.

In Brazoria county rice and cane will largely supersede cotton and about 8000 acres will be put in rice and 2500 in corn, 2000 acres in rice and 4000 acres in cotton. Should this estimate be correct it will mean a large increase in rice and cane, and a small decrease in cotton and corn, while truck farming prevailing. About 500 acres will be given to cane. The increase in rice culture within Acadia parish will probably reach 10 per cent on account of immigration from other states. In this parish rice and cane will not interfere with cotton culture because of the unfitness of rice lands for cotton culture and vice versa.

The cotton crop of Lafayette parish, La., this year is estimated at 12,000 bales, about 30 per cent less than last year. It is believed the cotton acreage next year will be larger than ever before. Cane will also show an increase, about 65,000 tons of the sweet stuff was grown in the parish this year. Very little rice is grown in Lafayette. Calcasieu parish increased her rice culture 50 per cent last year, the water works company will also increase its acreage. All who were in the rice business in Orange county the past season will continue and number of planters will increase. If the Magnolia plantation actually, as is claimed, enters the rice industry, the acreage in the county will reach 20,000 acres. Very little cotton or cane is raised in this county, 300 bales being the average crop of cotton.

Colorado county will plant 1800 acres in cane this next season, about 10,000 in rice, this being a slight increase in rice and about 80 per cent increase in cane. Two successive failures in the cotton crop and the fear of the boll

worm have caused a general feeling of pessimism among the planters. The cotton crop of Lafayette parish, La., this year is estimated at 12,000 bales, about 30 per cent less than last year. It is believed the cotton acreage next year will be larger than ever before. Cane will also show an increase, about 65,000 tons of the sweet stuff was grown in the parish this year. Very little rice is grown in Lafayette. Calcasieu parish increased her rice culture 50 per cent last year, the water works company will also increase its acreage. All who were in the rice business in Orange county the past season will continue and number of planters will increase. If the Magnolia plantation actually, as is claimed, enters the rice industry, the acreage in the county will reach 20,000 acres. Very little cotton or cane is raised in this county, 300 bales being the average crop of cotton.

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The Journal Institute

COUNTRY TELEPHONES IN KENTUCKY—Our large county has about 600 telephones, 400 being outside of the county. Every box on Hardin county, Ky. About five years ago three or four of our enterprising farmers found that they could buy telephone boxes for about \$15 and put up a line between their houses at a cost of about \$15 per mile of line. This included posts, wire and all work.

Others seeing the benefits and pleasure derived from them kept putting up mile after mile and box after box, nearly all pointing to the county seat, stopping in different stores, until now we have 15 lines running to town and two more are under way. After a line was completed the builders would get together and elect a president. Every July it is to see that the lines are kept in good working order. Some of our lines have as many as 20 boxes on one line and we help each other to "get through," as we call it. Every box on each line has a different call, designated as shorts and longs.

Many who were not on trunk lines secured cross lines. So that our county is crossed and recrossed by lines stretching to a large extent to the county seat. Then an enterprising citizen of the county seat, seeing the need of an exchange, put up a good one and we then

ran all the lines to it. The merchants seeing the necessity of having connections with their country customers, a box was put in for them so that every merchant, doctor, lawyer or business man can talk through the exchange direct to his customers in any part of the county.

The exchange in town is owned by one man, but the lines in the county are all owned by the people who built them, and each line pays about \$7 per month for the benefit of the exchange. This means that it is not a long distance telephone and we have no giant corporation to dictate prices. Every person who has no box pays 10c per message to any part of the county and nearly all pointing to the county seat. We used posts of white oak or chestnut, which is plentiful in this country, putting them about 200 feet apart, 3 feet in the ground.

After you have had a telephone in your home while no amount of persuasion would induce you to take it out, I have known instances where the whole cost to a farmer has been paid back in one day in ordering repairs for broken material. And this is not the least, it saves so much time in such things as going for a doctor, having things sent by mail or train and talking to your neighbors, and to sum up the whole thing, it brings the whole community closer together.

THOSE STALK FIELDS—J. J. Edgerly, of the Iowa agricultural college, says: "As the cattle ones more enter the stalk fields it should be carefully noted that they have access to an abundant supply of good clean water. Every year there is more or less mortality resulting from turning into the stalk fields. We are inclined to believe that the large percentage of this loss may be averted by proper attention being given the water supply. Corn stover has a greater absorptive capacity for water than has other kinds of rough feed. A given amount taken into the stomach requires a larger quantity of water to moisten it sufficiently for proper digestion and digestion to take place. Cattle turned into a field of fresh stalks will often fill themselves very full of this material. If the animals do not have an abundant supply of water to drink with this, what there is in the system will be absorbed, and also the digestive fluids, as they come in contact with it, will be absorbed. Every animal loved to perform the function for which they were created. Without sufficient moisture to effect translocation of this material it remains locked in the stomach, and death results from what is known as impaction of the rumen. It is a good plan, too, along with an ample supply of good fresh water to keep them well salted to induce them to drink more.

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W. P. Hartman, 1111 Broadway, New York City.

breeder, I have become convinced that our low average yield of corn is due in a great measure to barrenness and increased sterility. I believe that if the habit of barrenness was bred out of our corn that our average yield of corn would much more than double.

The more free a variety of corn becomes from barrenness, the larger its kernel becomes and the more free it is from dry rot, smut and nibbins. Also its crop producing vigor and germinating power goes up as its barrenness decreases. And its barrenness depends on the care of breeding. Part of which consists in destroying all the barren and lazy stalks in a field before it, through the agency of pollination association, contaminates and decreases the yield of nature's favorite stalks. By this simple, but important practice, the breeder elevates his corn as regards its productiveness and high germinating power in a geometrical ratio by the succeeding years go by.

Our disgracefully low average yield of corn—about 25 bushels per acre—throughout the United States, combined with the very low prices which have prevailed for several years, are forcing the corn farmer to employ every evolving means of annually increasing his yield. As you well know, the corn plant is a very sensitive creature. It is very delicate and must be managed with the help of the cows, poultry, etc., to live without ceasing to produce corn. The burning question of the times, is, "How can we secure the largest yield?" Every farmer quickly admits that a large yield on a small acreage is always much more profitable than a small yield on a large acreage. It stands to reason that the farmer is most prosperous who gets the largest yield from a given area. The expense incurred in so doing does not increase in proportion to the increased yield. The bottom is out of farming in the old way.

The ship-aboard, happy-go-lucky method of many corn farmers of the present day is alone responsible for our low average yield of corn. There are no sensible reasons why our average yields should not approach the maximum yield obtained every year by the most enterprising farmers. Let every farmer set aside an acre of ground next year, and plant it twice as thickly in the hill as his main crop from seed which he selects by

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A. P. CARRICO, Special Representative.

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The Journal will insert in advertising contracts if desired an agreement that it will forfeit all payments due under them if it fails to show, when given an opportunity to do so, a larger regular circulation than any other weekly publication in Texas; proof to be made by comparison of official statements of postage paid each week for the preceding six months.

Coming Sales.

DECEMBER 15-19, 1900.—C. A. Stannard, W. S. Van Natta & Sons, Scott & March and William Humphreys, Hereford, Fort Worth, Texas.
FEBRUARY 26-28 and MARCH 1, 1901.—C. A. Stannard, W. S. Van Natta & Sons, Scott & March, Hereford, Kansas City.
JANUARY 22-23-24, 1901.—T. F. B. Rotham and others, Hereford, Kansas City.
JANUARY 15-16, 1901.—Gudgall & Simpson and others, Hereford, Kansas City, Mo.
JANUARY 17, 1901.—J. Dimrock, White Cloud, Kas., Shorthorn, Kansas City, Mo.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All correspondence and other matter for the Journal should reach us not later than Monday morning to secure prompt publication. Matter received later than this will necessarily be carried over to the issue of the succeeding week.

COTTON CROP ESTIMATES.

The cotton crop has not yet recovered from the effect of the drop caused by the estimate made by the government of a crop of 10,100,000 bales. The fact that last year's bureau estimate of 8,800,000 bales was followed later by the marketing of 9,100,000 bales and a final commercial estimate of 9,450,000 bales, has been a very decided bearish factor. Still, however, there has been some show of firmness and there is an undercurrent of feeling that perhaps all the world's low estimate of 8,500,000 to 9,700,000 bales may not have been so far wrong as was believed on the receipt of the government report. Latham, Alexander & Co., of New York, have, since the publication of the government report, announced an estimate of 9,747,000 bales and no two of the experts agree in their figures. There is a variation of nearly a million bales in the estimates made by the statisticians, each of whom claims to have used unusual care in the collection of statistics. Altogether it seems to be a case where "You pay your money and take your choice."

INCREASED GOLD PRODUCTION.

The report of the director of the mint on the production of gold and silver in the United States during the calendar year 1899 shows only slight variation from the approximate figures given out early in the present year. The final figures are \$71,053,400 for gold and \$32,563,700 for silver at its average commercial value during the year. The gold product was the greatest in the history of the country, exceeding that of 1898 by \$6,590,400, and greater by \$6,053,400 than the estimated product of 1893, the record year in the working of the California placers. The principal gains in 1899 over 1898 were in Alaska, \$2,934,700, due to the Cape Nome district; Colorado, \$2,787,500, and Utah, \$1,165,400. Texas in 1899 produced \$690 in gold and \$312,000 in silver.

The world's production of gold in 1899 was the value of \$306,534,900, an increase of \$19,156,300 over the yield of 1898. The increased production of gold has not been without its favorable influence in increasing the commercial activity both of this country and of Europe, though not wholly responsible for it. It is one of the factors which has contributed to the prosperity now manifest in all sections and particularly evident in Texas.

WHEAT IN TEXAS.

The high prices received for cotton this fall should not cause the farmers of Texas to neglect their wheat crop next year. It is now a well established fact that North Texas can raise as good wheat as Kansas and the crop, which is not expensive to produce, brings in money at a time when money is needed. When properly harvested and cared for wheat will keep as well in Texas as in any other state and the losses which many farmers sustained on the last wheat crop were due, not to the quality of the grain but to negligence in handling the crop after maturity.

The theory generally held ten years ago that good flour could not be made in Texas has been thoroughly refuted and the man who would advance it today would be considered a numskull and an ignoramus. Texas mills can and do compete successfully with the mills of other sections in the production of high grade flour. The export trade is just beginning to attract attention and in the past few months numerous shipments have been made, several going to Mexico. To the South American countries and Mexico as well as to the

islands of the West India group, Texas offers as good flour as can be obtained from any quarter with a much shorter freight route than can be secured from the states further north. The Texas wheat farmer has advantages equally as great as those of the Texas cotton farmer and in a very large section of the state wheat and cotton growing can be so combined as to give yield to the land and at the same time result steadily a profitable cash return.

THE ISTHMIAN CANAL.

The outlook is very favorable for the final passage of the present session of congress of a bill authorizing the construction of an isthmiian canal and from the report prepared by the investigating committee, it is highly probable that the Nicaragua route will be chosen in preference to the Panama route, both on account of the engineering feats involved and on account of the foreign complications. The importance of the construction of the canal to the commercial interests of the United States is generally recognized, but the possibilities which it opens to the Southern states are too great to be readily realized. To the South the construction of the canal is the paramount question to come before congress at this session. The retention of the Philippine islands by the United States is no longer a matter of doubt and with such a water way giving the products of the gulf states a water route to send their cotton and other agricultural products to the Orient, an era of commercial development such as has never been known in the South would be begun. As yet the manufacture of cotton goods in the Orient is in its infancy, but with a water route for the direct supply of raw material from the great cotton growing section of the world there is every reason to believe that cotton mills would become common in China, Japan and the Philippines and the demand for raw cotton, as well as cotton goods, from the United States would be such as to maintain the price of the staple at a figure which would make its production highly profitable to the farmers of America. There are in the Orient countless millions of people to be clothed and the consumption of cotton goods is steadily growing. This country by its control of the Philippines, is in a position to exercise greater weight in the trade of Asia than any of the European countries which have so long been struggling for the partition of China.

America has only begun to realize its own strength. It has taken one long step toward commercial supremacy in Eastern Asia; the construction of the canal is the second step and is equally as important as the first. To the whole country it means much; to the South it is fraught with benefits that are limitless. The city of Washington last week held its hundredth-year celebration and statesmen, heroes and distinguished men from all sections took part in the festivities. Could President Adams have been present the national capital would have presented an entirely different view to that which met his gaze as he rode into Washington in his private carriage one hundred years ago. Then that city had only 3000 inhabitants. To-day it has 288,000. There were sixteen states in the Union in 1800, and there are forty-five in 1900. The congress which assembled in Washington then had thirty-two senators and 138 representatives. The congress which is in session there now has ninety senators and 357 representatives. Then the United States had a population of 5,000,000. Now it has over 76,000,000. Then its area was about 900,000 square miles. Now 3,800,000 square miles are included within its boundaries. The nation's progress for the century has been remarkable but the events of the past few years have opened the way for still greater development during the next hundred years.

The Paris Commercial club has taken up the appointment of Judge Reagan's successor on the railway commission, it being generally understood that he will soon resign, and in a letter to the governor strongly urges the appointment of a man selected from the mercantile interests of Texas. The club announces that it desires to make no endorsement of a man for the place but desires to have the politicians excluded. The motives of the club are good but it is generally a very cold day in Texas when the politician does not figure as a very prominent factor when there are any public appointments going around and the man with the longest pole usually manages to capture both the permission and the 'possum.

The settlement of the Chinese trouble is now in sight and the course of events has been in a large measure due to the position taken by the United States. This country has constantly sought to ally rather than aggravate the disturbances in China and that the Flowery Kingdom in a great degree owes its preservation to American diplomacy beyond question. The basis of settlement at first proposed by the European power was greatly modified through the diplomatic intervention of this country and the result is one of which citizens of the United

States may well feel proud and for which the people of China should feel grateful. Although as a breed they have fewer admirers in Texas than either the Herefords or the Shorthorns the Galloways take first coming to the front in the state. Frank Hearne, the efficient secretary of the American Galloway Breeders' association, reports twelve new members from Texas during the past year and there are in Texas now about twenty-five breeders of Galloways. The recent show and sale at Chicago was the greatest ever held by the Galloway breeders of America and the average price of \$230 for nearly 100 animals sold was one which would reflect credit on any breed.

Both the President and the secretary of the treasury favor a reduction of about \$30,000,000 a year of the \$100,000,000 war imposts. The ways and means committee proposes a further reduction, making a cut of \$40,000,000. There are some plans in congress for cutting still deeper but the fight, which will not be altogether a partisan one, will bring out the strongest forces on both sides.

The ratio of increase in population for the thirty years ending in 1900 has been 74 per cent. The growth of other products of our progress has been much greater; for example: In cotton production the increase has been 800 per cent. In corn production the increase has been 425 per cent. In wheat production the increase has been 375 per cent. In oats production the increase has been 2,653 per cent. In taxable values the increase has been 430 per cent. In the large increase in population has been 1,323 per cent. The cotton product of 1870 was 350,000 bales, or about one-ninth of the total crop of the United States—3,011,996 bales. Of 1880, 805,234 bales, or about one-eighth of the total crop—5,755,359 bales. In 1890, 1,471,811 bales, or about one-fifth of the total crop. In 1894, the product reached 3,154,000 bales, or about one-third of the total crop, and since that date has advanced to a record of 9,450,000 bales, and this may be estimated as the crop of 1900. The increase in Texas has been over six times as great as in the balance of the country.

The large increase in 1894 was followed by a corresponding decrease in price, which arrested progress in cotton culture and turned attention to other crops, so that the corn crop, which was 69,112,150 bushels in 1890, reached 107,905,565 bushels in 1895. This in turn was followed by a corresponding decrease in the hog product, which went from 2,527,476 in 1890 to 3,035,119 in 1895, ranking the state in 1895 and 1896 fourth among the great hog-producing states of the Union.

GROWTH OF TEXAS.

The corn product of 1870 was 29,055,538 bushels. The corn product of 1880 was 29,055,538 bushels. The corn product of 1890 was 69,112,150 bushels. The corn product of 1900 was 100,000,000 bushels. The wheat product of 1870 was 415,112 bushels. The wheat product of 1880 was 2,567,737 bushels. The wheat product of 1897 was 9,242,458 bushels. The wheat product of 1900 was 14,000,000 bushels, estimate. The oats product of 1870 was 762,683 bushels. The oats product of 1880 was 4,933,630 bushels. The oats product of 1890 was 12,584,310 bushels. The oats product of 1897 was 21,121,639 bushels. The oats product of 1900 was 20,000,000 bushels, estimate.

ADVANCES OF THIRTY YEARS REVIEWED BY JUDGE Z. T. FULMORE.

Judge Z. T. Fulmore, of Austin, in the Current Issue says: The closing month of the closing year of the century affords the proper occasion for a partial review of the material growth of Texas since she resumed her place in the Union in 1870 under the changed conditions brought about by the great civil war. No comprehensive summary would be practical in a paper of this sort, even though the data were available; hence this review will be limited, in the main, to our growth in population, wealth, agriculture—our main pursuit, and the transportation facilities, which have become so necessary to our development. The data have all been obtained from official sources of the state and United States, and embrace the period from 1870 to 1900, with just enough from the reports of 1869 to give a proper understanding of some conditions existing after the war.

That due allowance may be made for what might seem extravagant estimates of United States agencies, the statement for a part of the year, under our resources in important particulars. For example, the census of 1890 credited the state with only 6,201,552 cattle. In the same year there were actually assessed for taxation 7,320,323, when our tax rolls showed 4,281,322; with 1,253,491 horses, mules and asses, the tax rolls showed 1,528,819. The rice product of the state has been regarded as of too small moment to be mentioned at all in the year books of the state, while other states producing less than half the product of Texas are listed as among the great rice-producing states of the Union.

In his visit to Texas in 1899, the Secretary of Agriculture made several public addresses, one of which was before our legislature, in which he urged the necessity for diversification in agriculture. In each of these addresses he stated that Texas ought to be producing as much as 2,000,000 pounds of butter, the reports of 1870 showed the product at that year to be 3,712,477 pounds. The report of 1880, 13,899,230 pounds, and the reports of 1890, 21,100,500 pounds, and if the rate of increase since 1890 had been the same as in 1880, the reports of 1890 would have shown over 50,000,000 pounds in 1899. Up to this date the greatest quantity of rice ever produced in the state, according to the United States estimates, is less than 110,000 pounds, when all the rice of the state is conserved. Estimates will give us all the way from 25,000,000 pounds up.

These illustrations are not cited to disparage the great value of the Agricultural Department at Washington, but rather to fortify the estimate based upon its reports. In order to get some idea as to the changes brought about by the results of the civil war, we may note that the assessed valuation of all property in the state in 1869 was \$294,815,659. The first assessment after that war was in 1866, which showed a shrinkage to \$122,749,232. Among the items of assessed value in 1869 was \$106,688,920 in the value of property. This was, of course, a total loss, but in addition to this there was a shrinkage in other property of \$64,977,596. It took the state 11 years, or until 1877, to gain sufficient value to overcome this loss in property values. The cotton product of 1869 was 481,463 bales, and it required seven years to reach that point after the war.

It is a fact worthy of notice that those counties which had an excess of negro population in 1860, and maintained that excess up to 1890, with an increase in white population of 61 per cent, and an increase of 114 per cent in negro population, produced 31 per cent less cotton and other crops in 1890 than in 1860. To be more specific, the counties of Brazoria, Fort Bend, Grimes, Harrison, Marion, Matagorda, Walker, Washington and Wharton

had, in 1860 a white population of 30,746, and a negro population of 39,938, and made 124,417 bales, or about one-third of all the cotton produced in the state. These same counties, in 1890, had a white population of 49,849, and a negro population of 39,529, and made only 93,148 bales, or about one-fifth of the state's product for that year, or about one and three-quarters of a bale per capita in 1890, the disparity in other products being still greater. The state started out in 1870 with a population of 818,879, an increase of 36.7 per cent over 1860. In 1880, the population was 1,594,449, an actual increase in numbers of 773,170, the ratio being 94 per cent. In 1890, 2,235,523, an actual increase of 640,874, or 40 per cent. In 1900, 3,154,000, an increase of 807,305, or 36 per cent, the number of the last increase being only about 11,000 less than the entire population of 1870, and the largest in the state's history.

The ratio of increase in population for the thirty years ending in 1900 has been 74 per cent. The growth of other products of our progress has been much greater; for example: In cotton production the increase has been 800 per cent. In corn production the increase has been 425 per cent. In wheat production the increase has been 375 per cent. In oats production the increase has been 2,653 per cent. In taxable values the increase has been 430 per cent. In the large increase in population has been 1,323 per cent. The cotton product of 1870 was 350,000 bales, or about one-ninth of the total crop of the United States—3,011,996 bales. Of 1880, 805,234 bales, or about one-eighth of the total crop—5,755,359 bales. In 1890, 1,471,811 bales, or about one-fifth of the total crop. In 1894, the product reached 3,154,000 bales, or about one-third of the total crop, and since that date has advanced to a record of 9,450,000 bales, and this may be estimated as the crop of 1900. The increase in Texas has been over six times as great as in the balance of the country.

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Without consuming the space to itemize, the value of the products of this county exceeds by nearly \$500,000 the entire cotton, corn, wheat, oats, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, hay, and other crops. The total value of the products at present prices is \$7,093,447.50. The county's area is 969 square miles and the population in 1890 31,174, one-fifth of which was urban. This crop was produced on less than two-fifths of the county's area.

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RICE IN TEXAS.

THE RAPID STRIDES WHICH THE INDUSTRY HAS MADE IN FIVE YEARS.

F. M. Gray, secretary of the Houston Manufacturers' association says: We can no longer shut our eyes to the giant strides which the rice industry is making across a considerable portion of Texas...

The crop of 1900 will approximate 40,000 acres in some nine counties of the state. From preparations now being made fully fifteen counties of Southeast Texas will grow rice next year more or less extensively...

The rice belt of Texas practically extends from the Sabine on the east to the Nueces river on the southwest, varying seventy-five to 100 miles inland from the gulf.

Within this area are three classes of lands peculiarly adapted to three specific staple products—rice, sugar and tobacco.

The sugar and tobacco lands will not profitably grow rice, neither will the rice lands profitably yield sugar or tobacco.

The prairie lands, representing several millions of acres within this territory, present relatively the same conditions respecting soil, water and climate as the rice producing region of Louisiana, the prerequisites of which are:

- 1. Level prairie, susceptible of drainage. 2. Water, ample for irrigation. 3. Clay substratum for retention of water. 4. Temperature peculiar to this climate.

There is no likelihood of over production of rice. Statistics confirm that during ten years past, with a steady increase production each year, imports have maintained an equal proportion and the crop of the past season, approximately the largest yet grown, is selling at the best prices ever obtained.

Rice is the bread for more than one-half the earth's population. The East Indies alone devote more than 60,000,000 acres to its cultivation, while China, Japan and the Philippine islands grow it quite as extensively.

The United States imports about 60 per cent of her present consumption, principally from the West Indies, at a duty of cents per pound is paid. The Republic of Mexico uses very largely of rice and imports almost her entire supply from China and Japan.

Our new possessions of Porto Rico and the West Indies, the past year, have drafted rather heavily upon us for rice, and it is fair to assume when our production equals the consumption at home, an export business can be done to some extent in certain directions.

BALANCE OF TRADE.

HOW THE UNITED STATES HAS FORGED TO THE FRONT.

A statistical abstract of the world which will show the imports and exports of every country in the world having statistical reports is the ambition of the bureau of statistics of the Treasury Department. To present in a single volume a picture of the world's commerce not only of today, but extending back over a long term of years, and to show that commerce in detail as to principal articles, country by country with quantities and values stated in United States currency and measures of quantity, is a work of no small magnitude, but of such great importance to the commercial interests of our country that it is being resolved by the Treasury Department to undertake the work.

The opening chapter of the proposed volume has already been completed. It shows the total imports and exports of every country of the world having statistical data for the latest attainable year, as against an excess of \$54,542,131 in favor of the United States alone in the fiscal year 1900.

The secretary of the interior has ordered J. W. Ellis, chief of Indian police, to remove about 30 non-citizens from the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations. These parties are charged with non-payment of taxes due the nation.

FOR SINGLE STATEHOOD.—At South McAlester, I. T., recently a Single Statehood convention was held, delegates from the states of both Oklahoma and the Indian territory. C. E. Castle of Waggoner, I. T., was made permanent chairman, and F. H. Geer of Guthrie, permanent secretary.

INSPECTION STOPPED.—So far as inspection of cattle destined for the Kansas City market is concerned, the inspection has been discontinued during the open season under instructions issued by W. F. Gandy, secretary of the live stock sanitary commission of the Territory.

Eight carloads of cattle, which had been for several days waiting shipment at Shawnee, were last week turned back below the Oklahoma quarantine lines into the Seminole county.

DECISION REVERSED.—In 1861 the Indians ceded the Wichita reservation to the government by treaty, taking instead 160 acres in severalty. The Indians subsequently claimed to be entitled to the proceeds of the sale of the surplus land, an increase during that period of 64 per cent. The exports of home products were, in 1872, \$564,105,000, and in 1899, \$801,452,000, an increase of 42 per cent.

CONGRESSMAN BURLESON OF AUSTIN, TEXAS, has introduced a bill making an appropriation of \$6000 to be expended in the purchase of additional land to be used in connection with the Marco's fish station and for the construction of more fish ponds.

DRUNKENNESS CAN BE CURED. We have a sure cure which can be given at once, without the knowledge of the patient. Send for particulars, enclosing 25 cent stamp for reply. Address: Dr. W. H. Saunders, Co., Sta. C.

NEW MEXICO. D. L. Komp of Carlisbad, N. M., recently sold 250 head of stock cattle to Mart Fanning at \$17 per head.

LAND GRANT DECISIONS. The New Mexican court of private land claims the San Mateo Spring grant survey has been approved. This grant is situated in Bernalillo county and was claimed by Don Juan de Ure. It embraces 3547.46 acres. In the Santa Cruz grant case a formal decree of confirmation was entered giving the claimants valley lands on the eastern side of the Rio Grande and also valley lands along the plain. The grant is claimed by Frank Becker et al and is for 48,000 acres. Clayton G. Coleman was appointed court commissioner to take evidence in the San Miguel de Bodo case in the Canon de Chama grant case a decree was entered confirming the extent of the allotment. The Francisco Xavier Romero grant was rejected and dismissed.

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FORT WORTH STOCK YARDS COMPANY.

Operate the only Live Stock Market Center in the Southwest. The only market where you can sell your cattle and hogs at the highest prices. TOP PRICES FOR CATTLE AND HOGS. Every day, regardless of how many are on the market. PLANT HOGS. WE MUST HAVE MORE HOGS, HOGS, HOGS. G. W. SIMPSON, President. ANDREW NEMMO, Gen'l. Manager.

NATIONAL LIVE STOCK COMMISSION COMPANY. Ship your cattle and hogs to the National Live Stock Commission Co., Ft. Worth Stock Yards, Ft. Worth, Tex. Correspondence solicited. Market reports free on application. Liberal advances made to our customers. JAS. D. FARMER, Salesman.

MONEY TO LOAN ON TEXAS CATTLE. A. F. CROWLEY, Southwestern Agt., FT. WORTH, TEX.

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OKLAHOMA OPPORTUNITIES.

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Is the title of a little book published by the Passenger Department of the Great Rock Island Route, giving detailed description of the Kiowa and Comanche Reservation, commonly known as the "Fort Sill Country," which is to be opened for settlement in the near future. It also contains the laws under which settlers can obtain homesteads, together with other valuable information for those who propose to obtain a home in the fertile Indian Territory.

YOU ARE THINKING. Perhaps of visiting the folk back home during the Christmas holidays. If so you would do best to visit them via the Pacific Railway. Anticipating the enormous amount of travel to the South, this line has arranged for special trains in addition to its regular service, and will give patrons the choice of going by either "TICKETS TO THE OLD STATES," mailed free on request.

SPECIAL RATES VIA THE H. & T. C. R. R. To El Paso, account Mid-Winter Carnival, all agents will sell round trip tickets to El Paso, 14th and 15th, at rate of \$15, limit February 1st.

ALL POINTS IN LOUISIANA. All agents will sell round trip tickets to all points in Louisiana, on December 21 and 22, at one and one-half fare, limit 30 days from date of sale.

CHRISTMAS EXCURSIONS. To Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Colorado December 21, 22 and 23. The Great Rock Island will sell holiday tickets to above states at rate of one and one-half fare for round trip, good until January 20 for return.

SPECIAL RATES VIA H. & T. C. R. R. St. Louis, Mo.—Account Annual Convention Apostolic Church, Nov. 27th to Dec. 2nd. All agents will sell round trip tickets to St. Louis, on December 21, 22 and 23, at one and one-third fare for the round trip, on certificate plan.

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