

AGRICULTURAL NEWS AND VIEWS

NUBS OF NEWS

Citizens of Canado, Texas, recently held a meeting and decided to take active measures to induce immigration to that section.

It is reported that the fruit crop of California will this year exceed that of any previous year. Especially is this true of oranges.

A special agent for rural free delivery has been at Burleson, Texas, recently, arranging to start rural free delivery at that point. He will recommend that five routes be established.

R. S. Battle, of Milam county, has sold his farm to T. S. Henderson and nine other parties for \$27,000. The farm consists of about 1,050 acres of river bottom land and is a magnificent piece of property. The sale also carried with it the stock, farm implements, feedstuff, etc., connected with the place.

The New York Chronicle, in its issue of December 29, said: Advice to us by telegraph from the south-to-night indicates that the weather has been fairly favorable during the week. In most districts there has been some rain, but generally the precipitation has been light.

A report from Richmond, Texas, says: T. C. Blakely, Len McFarland, Robert Pleasant and Al. will leave this week for their rice fields in Matagorda county. The Fort Bend county party will plant 5500 acres. They have purchased during the past ten days \$2600 worth of plows. Several farmers in this county will plant rice this year. They will get their supply of water from wells.

Miss Mary Utiger, of Pottsboro, Texas, has carefully nurtured and looked after an experimental lemon tree. It is hanging full now, and among the lemons there were two of phenomenal growth. The one taken off weighed nearly a pound and the one still on the tree is still larger, and it is necessary to hold it up with netting to keep it from breaking the small limb upon which it matured.

DIVERSIFICATION NEAR DENISON.—C. P. Harrison, who resides near Denison, Texas, has several acres in orchard and cultivated twenty-three of cotton this year. On the acre of ground adjoining his home he planted Tennessee "Triumph" potatoes. The ground was thoroughly broken and harrowed before planting and after the potatoes were in he planted the ground between the rows of potatoes in radishes. He sold radishes to the value of \$40.10 and the Irish potatoes were sold for \$72.20. He then prepared the ground again and planted it in pumpkin yams and realized from this crop

182, making a total of \$194.30 realized from one acre ground. Mr. Harrison stated that the land adjoining the acre which he farmed could be bought for \$50 per acre. He raised fifteen bales of cotton and sold 700 bushels of apples beside the crop mentioned.

HEAL INDIAN CORN.—Hon. G. W. Dean, one of the state lecturers of farmers' institutes of Illinois, exhibited recently an ear of corn which was raised the present year from seed recently found in a piece of pottery in an Indian grave in Arkansas, and which is supposed to be fully 2000 years old. The corn was raised by J. B. Turner of Christian county, Ill. The stalks are erect in height and measure nearly 10 feet from the ground to the first ear. The roots are many of them above the ground and the brace roots strike the ground about 4 feet from the stalk, making it almost impossible to be blown over by the winds. The kernels are small and in color are a very deep brown.

SHRINKAGE OF CORN.—In the fall of 1897 a scale company sent a scale to the Iowa state agricultural college, at Ames, which was built a small crib. The scales were balanced and the crib filled with corn out of the field. In the midst of the experiment the scales were broken down and the matter was delayed. The next year new scales were provided and the experiment continued. The shrinkage from October 19th to January 19th was nine per cent. In the next three months the shrinkage was five and four-sevenths per cent of the original weight. During the next three months the loss was three per cent. During the three months from July to October, the loss was two and five-sevenths per cent. The loss on the whole for the year was just twenty per cent. The shrinkage will vary from year to year.

HESTER'S REPORT.—Secretary Hester's weekly cotton exchange statement, issued December 28, shows an increase in the movement of cotton from the south with the tree is still larger, and it is necessary to hold it up with netting to keep it from breaking the small limb upon which it matured.

TOBACCO EXPERIMENTS.—Milton Whitney, chief of the division of soils, U. S. department of agriculture, reports a successful termination of experiments conducted in co-operation with the Connecticut experiment station in the production of Sumatra tobacco near Hartford. One-third of an acre was planted under a chesecloth shade and high cultivated and fermented under the direction of M. L. Floyd, tobacco expert of the department. The yield of cured tobacco was 700 pounds, making an estimated yield for one acre of 2,100 pounds. This loss was 10 per cent of the 2,300 pounds of the crop as it was in the fermenting stage. The crop has been sold for \$472.70, making an estimated value for one acre of \$1,421. The cost of production, including the whole cost of the shade-frame for which will last for five years, was \$1,000. The net profit was \$421.70, leaving a net profit of over \$900 per acre. This was an average price of 71 cents per pound. The crop grown in

twenty-five years there would not be money enough in the world to buy a single year's crop. China, the source of opium and ginseng, would have used all its wealth in purchasing long before the period of twenty-five years had elapsed. Notwithstanding these circumstances there is a profit in growing the plant, but it depends on the individual grower. If a grower has the right conditions for its culture must be supplied, either natural or artificially and intelligent cultivation given. There will probably always be a good demand for the root at high prices, and it is an article commanding cash at all times. These conditions for growing are readily found in nearly all the states of the Union, or can be produced at reasonable cost of labor and material. They may be stated in a few words: A rich, deep, well-drained, and moist soil containing abundant decayed vegetable matter and not too heavy or clayey. Humus or vegetable mold, obtained by using decayed forest leaves, is extremely beneficial, as it is thoroughly rotted compost. Shade sufficient to keep off the direct rays of the sun is almost necessary, particularly in sections where the heat is excessive. Shade may be obtained in many ways, and you have the secret; there really is any form of growing ginseng successfully. Lath covers are perhaps the best artificial shade, and apple-trees have been found good to keep the ground protected from pest in this and all other parts of Texas. In the well-watered portions of Oklahoma, it will likely produce a fine article, clean, well graded and perfectly dry, is more than repaid by the higher price such roots will bring. The writer, who has had many years of experience growing that root, will be glad to give fuller information as to the best modes to be used in its cultivation, but would warn the reader against the benefits of extravagant articles that appear from time to time and which will damage rather than help an industry that really does promise unusual returns for the labor and expense necessary to cultivate it successfully.

The Journal Institute

CULTURE OF AMERICAN GINSENG.—The subject of growing ginseng has recently received so much attention from the agricultural press of the country and from circulars and pamphlets sent broadcast throughout the country by dealers, that hundreds of people are being induced to try its culture.

Many of the articles are written by people who have no personal knowledge of the plant, and who are writing for profits to be derived solely, says Harlan P. Kelsey of Boston. The most extravagant figures are given showing enormous yields produced on a given acreage and Monte Cristo fortunes to be made out of a paltry investment while one leaf in the back yard watching the gold dollars sprouting.

Certain dealers have sent out figures informing the public that \$5 invested in their seeds and plants will show a value of \$44.340 the fifteenth year. A million invested in twelve years from \$1000 investment is advertised on another page. A value which can not be obtained except perhaps in small quantities on the seeds and young plants and the ratio of increase and loss is given very accurately and more extensively on paper. Can any of these versatile writers please inform us how many turpins can be grown on a \$5 investment in twelve years, the price the roots and seeds will bring each year, and how rich a man will be at the end of that period? Certainly not, and information pretending to figure it out would be absolute nonsense.

An article on ginseng entitled "Valuable Farm Land" appeared in the St. Louis Republic a short time ago and was extensively copied in newspapers in the South and Southwest. Among other wild statements the writer said that the seeds bring 5 cents each (another writer says there is unlimited demand at 25 cents each) and yearling roots 20 cents each; that the eighth year an acre should produce 3,120,000 seeds which sell at 5 cents each, giving an annual income to the fortune grower of \$100,000 from the seeds alone. Further states: "Say that a full crop of seed from one acre is available for planting. That will be \$30,000. Allow for the loss and failure to generate 1,120,000 seeds. This will leave 2,000,000 roots. In eighteen months these roots will be ready for market, and the price for them, assuming the present price being 20 cents each or a total of \$400,000 from the ginseng crop in eighteen months. This crop of 2,000,000 roots would require a space of approximately 40 acres. One acre should produce 50,000 roots, which at the market price of 20 cents each should, after eighteen months, bring a return of \$10,400.

Could anything be more baldly ridiculous? Let us suppose that only 1000 farmers had the above success as to yield. This would mean over three billion seeds put on the market each year, which at 5 cents each would require \$150,000,000 annually to pay for them, not to mention the value of the roots. Suppose further that the ratio of increase both in yield of crops and number of growers continued the same for

It has been 1,511,696, against 1,302,747 last year, 1,515,783 year before last and 1,510,045 for the same time in 1897.

The world's visible supply shows an increase for the week of 173,169 against a decrease of 4,851 last year and an increase of 128,328 year before last. The total visible is 4,073,393, against 3,950,224 the previous week, 4,294,476 last year and 5,566,792 year before last. Of this the total of American cotton is 2,406,293, against 2,276,224 the previous week, 3,625,476 last year, and 4,514,792 year before last, and of all other kinds, including Egypt, Brazil, India, etc., 667,099, against 624,000 bales last week, 650,000 last year and 652,000 year before last.

PEA LOUSE IN WISCONSIN.—Wisconsin's pea industries have a very uncertain outlook for next season because of the pea louse pest in that section. In an interview William Larkin of Green Bay, one of the largest pea canners in the country, said: "There is every reason to believe that the pea louse will return next summer. It has been the experience in Maryland and other states that have suffered from the pest that the insects returned for three successive years. It is a generally accepted fact that we will have the trouble in this state for three successive years. The state entomologist of Maryland, after making a thorough investigation, returned a report to the effect that there is no method known for successfully combating or exterminating the pest. If scientists cannot offer relief, the pea-canners can scarcely hope to devise means to protect their fields. The only thing that can be done is to allow the insects full sway until they disappear in the natural way."

ORANGES FROM MEXICO.—The orange crop at Montemorelos, Mex., this year is exceptionally small. It is estimated that only about 100,000 oranges will be shipped from that section. There are also disposed of there at the rate of \$10 per bushel, and come mostly from the grove of J. W. Taylor. The severe frost which have occurred in the last few years have dealt orange culture, in the north-east part of the republic, a blow from which it will take many years to recover. Twice has it occurred that trees which were just beginning to bear have been cut down to the roots and below the bud by frosts, making it necessary to re-bud them in order to have a sweet orange, which not only entails an immense expense, but delays the bearing of the trees for four or five years more. To this is attributed the smallness of the crop.

For small areas, poisons are used—the best of which employed by this station consists of 1 lb. white arsenic and 1 lb. sal soda dissolved in 5 gallons of boiling water and applied upon 100 square feet of soil. The ingredients prescribed do not appear expensive but when we attempt to apply them to large areas, such materials cost over \$100 per acre; other than this, we must consider the fact that these poisons are extremely beneficial, as they are applied from one to three years. JOHNSON GRASS IN OKLAHOMA.—Granton, Ok.

Will you please give me what information you can in regard to the seed of Johnson grass? It is being sowed here to some extent and a very large per cent of our farmers are very much opposed to it.—J. C. Johnson.

ANSWER: Johnson grass is a decided pest in this and all other parts of Texas. In the well-watered portions of Oklahoma, it will likely produce a fine article, clean, well graded and perfectly dry, is more than repaid by the higher price such roots will bring. The writer, who has had many years of experience growing that root, will be glad to give fuller information as to the best modes to be used in its cultivation, but would warn the reader against the benefits of extravagant articles that appear from time to time and which will damage rather than help an industry that really does promise unusual returns for the labor and expense necessary to cultivate it successfully.

TEXAS EXPERIMENTS.—The following questions are answered by Prof. J. H. Connell, director of the Texas experiment station at College Station, Tex.: TESTED METHODS OF KILLING JOHNSON GRASS. Fort Worth, Tex.

If you have any information in regard to the killing of Johnson grass, with certain few exceptions, would you be kind enough to communicate it to us? We have a number of farms in this state that are practically covered with Johnson grass and if there is any reasonable method of killing it out we would like to know it. Any information that you can give us we assure you will be highly appreciated. Answer: We have had quite a little experience in killing Johnson grass and the results of our investigations go to prove that where large areas are covered with the grass, there is no opportunity to kill it economically unless severe drought conditions prevail. Suppose further that the ratio of increase both in yield of crops and number of growers continued the same for

the same field without shade and fermented under the direction of M. L. Floyd, tobacco expert of the department. The yield of cured tobacco was 700 pounds, making an estimated yield for one acre of 2,100 pounds. This loss was 10 per cent of the 2,300 pounds of the crop as it was in the fermenting stage. The crop has been sold for \$472.70, making an estimated value for one acre of \$1,421. The cost of production, including the whole cost of the shade-frame for which will last for five years, was \$1,000. The net profit was \$421.70, leaving a net profit of over \$900 per acre. This was an average price of 71 cents per pound. The crop grown in

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speed rate of a mile in 2:03 1/2 and 1:59 1/2, respectively, with a long list of performers faster than 2:10. The perfection of a breed of horses taking each of five different gaits at a word from their riders, which every Kentucky gaited saddle must do, is another monument to the agricultural skill of the age.

Col. Randlett, the agent in charge of the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Indian reservation, in Oklahoma, has asked the interior department to alter the rule which permits outside traders coming onto the reservation on payday to collect their accounts. It is understood that the grounds on which the request was made are purely personal, and that the request will not be granted.

United States that has such a law. Prohibitionists the country over assert that all that is necessary to secure absolute temperance is for the federal government to pass a prohibition law, that such a law would solve the liquor question completely and that the people, their children and their children's children forever after would be contented and happy, and that want and misery would be things of the past.

THE TWIN TERRITORIES

In discussing matters of importance to come up in the settlement of the Indian Territory, one of the most important questions has been overlooked both by the Indian Territory and the United States government agents in the Territory, and that is the matter of providing for public roads through the Territory. For public thoroughfares through the Indian Territory there has been absolutely no provision made.

OKLAHOMA SALES.—J. C. Denton writes from Caple, Okla.: This is the finest weather for the time of year that any one has ever seen in this country—not a single bad day and no snow to date. Grass is of fairly good quality and stock is in good condition. Loco is plentiful in some localities but has not done any damage so far and now seems to be dying out some, owing to the present long spell of dry weather.

NEW MEXICO Delegate Pera, of New Mexico, has introduced a bill for the purpose of holding the auction of public lands which were donated to the territory by the government of the United States for educational purposes. He believes that they can be sold to good advantage at this time.

THE LEASE SYSTEM

Legislation to be asked for when the Texas legislature meets. Concerning the work of the legislature which is to assemble next week, a special from Austin to the Dallas News says:

DIAMONDS IN NEW MEXICO.—A dispatch from Alamoordo says: A prominent railway agent has received a box of fifty gems closely resembling and alleged to be diamonds. A week ago a party from different parts of the country, especially at the north, in reference to parties who come to the nation to kill and slaughter game for markets outside of the Territory. You are not authorized to arrest and keep parties under arrest should you find them, but you are authorized when you find such parties to place them under arrest and confiscate guns, traps, pelts, etc., that they may have in their possession for the purpose of hunting game.

LEPROSY IN THE PHILIPPINES. An official report from the Philippines to the war department gives some other startling facts regarding the production and prevalence of leprosy in the islands. According to the estimates of the Franciscan fathers, says Major Guy Lede, the writer of the report, there are no fewer than 20,000 lepers in the Visayas. Leprosy was introduced in 1633, when the emperor of Japan sent a ship with a leper on board to the Philippines as a present to be cared for by the Catholic priests. This seed was planted and as no practical methods were ever adopted to eradicate the disease or prevent its spread, it has taken firm root.

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A. C. THOMAS, Live Stock Commission Merchant. CENTRAL STOCK YARDS, KENTUCKY ST., WEST OF FAIR GROUNDS, DALLAS, TEXAS.

Davis, McDonald & Davis, (Successors to W. F. Davis) LIVE STOCK COMMISSION MERCHANTS. MONEY TO LOAN AT LOWEST RATES TO RESPONSIBLE PARTIES.

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FORT WORTH LIVE STOCK COMMISSION CO. (INCORPORATED) Live Stock Commission Co., Fort Worth, Texas. We have the best connections in all the markets. Market reports free. Correspondence solicited. Liberal advances made to our customers.

BOX-SAUNDERS COMMISSION COMPANY. We make a specialty of selling on commission Range Cattle, Stock, Hogs and Sheep. Main office: HOUSTON, TEXAS.

Tamblyn & Tamblyn, Live Stock Commission Agents, KANSAS CITY, CHICAGO, ST. LOUIS. TEXAS DEPARTMENT: B. T. WARE, Mgr., Fort Worth, Tex. J. T. SPEARS, Agt., Quinal, Tex.

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OKLAHOMA OPPORTUNITIES. 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 Reservations, commonly known as the "Fort Hill Country," which is to be opened for settlement in the near future.

EL PASO MID-WINTER CARNIVAL. Those interested are not exaggerating in the least when they assert that the Mid-Winter Carnival at El Paso will be one of the grandest justifications ever held in the Southwest.

Dallas Commercial College. Greatest business training school in the south. Absolutely leads all in practical results. Write.

A WONDERFUL HEALER. Hundreds of People, Suffering from So-called Incurable Diseases, Permanently Restored to Health.

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Horse Owners! Use GOMBAULT'S Caustic Balm. The Greatest Remedy Ever Used. Takes the place of all liniments for mild or severe cuts, bruises, sore shins, etc. SUPERSEDES ALL CAUSTIC REMEDIES. Every bottle sold is warranted to give satisfaction or your money back. LAWRENCE-WILLIAMS CO., Cleveland, Ohio.

THE LIQUOR PROBLEM.—One of the big fights to come up in connection with the opening of the Indian Territory to white settlement will be over the liquor question. Sporadic efforts are made to get congress to repeal the present prohibitory law, but without avail, and the open saloon cannot be accomplished anything in that line until the liquor territory comes up for consideration. It will then marshal its forces and make a determined fight.

STUTTERING CURED. Rev. G. W. Randolph and Dr. L. D. McCollough are curing many stutters now at St. George Hotel, Dallas, Tex. Many are coming hundreds of miles for treatment. A lady with her 10-year old child from Arizona, and three from Montreal, Canada. These specialists are known throughout the United States. Leading papers, both religious and secular, have much to say of their success in different cities. No stutters in Texas should fail to come at once and be cured.

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