

CROPS ARE GOOD.

Department of Agriculture Reports Increased Yield.

WHEAT AND CORN ABOVE PAR.

North Atlantic States, Including New York and Pennsylvania, Show a Falling Off From the Ten Year Average.

Washington, Aug. 11.—Crop conditions in the United States on Aug. 1, 1909, were in the aggregate slightly higher than on Aug. 1, 1908, and moderately higher than a ten year average condition of all crops on Aug. 1. In addition to the higher condition the acreage of cultivated crops is about 1.6 per cent greater than last year.

Winter wheat, spring wheat, corn, oats, rye, flax and grapes were better than last year and the ten year average. Barley and potatoes were better than the condition on Aug. 1 last year, but slightly below the average condition. Tobacco and sweet potatoes were better than the average and lower than last year.

Important crops which were below both last year and an average condition are cotton, rice, hay, buckwheat and apples. Conditions vary, however, in different sections of the United States.

Summarized the relative condition of crops in the aggregate in the different sections of the United States on Aug. 1 was: North Atlantic states, including New York and Pennsylvania, 79.7, or 7.5 per cent below the ten year average on Aug. 1; north central states, east of the Mississippi river, comprising Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, 88.5, or 6.6 per cent better than the average; north central states, west of the Mississippi, 88.8, or 8.7 per cent above ten year average; south Atlantic, 86.10, or 3.8 per cent below the average; south central, 91.4, or 10 per cent below, and the far western states, 83.4, or 4.8 above the average.

The following is a summary for the United States of conditions on Aug. 1, with comparisons, as estimated by the department for crops not previously reported:

Rice, 84.5; timothy, 85.8; clover hay production, 78.7; quality, 89.3; alfalfa, 94.4; millet, 84.7; kaffir corn, 85; pastures, 84.8; sweet potatoes, 84.9. Apples, 49.3; peaches, 45.4; pears, 56.4; grapes, 82.7; blackberries, 79.0; raspberries, 81.1; watermelons, 75.0; cantaloupes, 77; oranges, 86.3; lemons, 87; tomatoes, 84.2. Cabbage, 83.3; onions, 88.8; beans (dry), 89.1; beans (limb), 85.7; peanuts, 85.1; broomcorn, 83.5; hemp, 91.7; hops, 82.7; sorghum, 83; sugar cane, 88; sugar beets, 36.4.

COLONEL ALBERT A. POPE DEAD

Pioneer Bicycle Manufacturer and Maker of Automobiles.

Boston, Aug. 11.—Colonel Albert A. Pope, the pioneer bicycle manufacturer of the United States and one of the first advocates of the existing good roads system, died at his summer home in Colchester.

Colonel Pope had been in ill health for months, due to the breaking down of his nervous system, which followed the financial embarrassment of his bicycle company, which had its headquarters at Hartford, Conn.

Albert Augustus Pope was born in Boston in 1843 and started his business career as a clerk in a shoe findings store at \$4 per week.

He served in the civil war with marked distinction. At the close of the great struggle he was brevetted lieutenant colonel of the Thirty-fifth Massachusetts Infantry for gallant conduct.

In 1876 the first imported bicycles began to make their appearance in this country, and Colonel Pope decided to start manufacturing wheels in the United States.

The venture proved a success from the start. A craze for bicycling swept over the country, and in the very first few years of his business Colonel Pope amassed a fortune. The sudden drop in the bicycle boom a few years ago, however, caused him financial embarrassment. He was also interested in the automobile business.

CORRAL FOR PRESIDENT.

Mexicans Believe Diaz is Grooming Him to Succeed Himself.

Mexico City, Aug. 11.—Following the report that President Diaz would remove General Bernardo Reyes as governor of the state of Nuevo Leon comes a report that President Diaz after the election next year may resign the presidency and for this reason is working so earnestly for the re-election of Ramon Corral as vice president.

President Diaz is leaving nothing undone to aid Corral in his campaign, and it is believed he is trying to name his own successor.

Gendarmes Killed by Robbers.

Novotrivok, Russia, Aug. 11.—Two gendarmes and two robbers were killed and a gendarme captain and lieutenant and a robber were wounded here during a fight with the robbers, who were endeavoring to loot the post-office.

Short Sermons For a Sunday Half-Hour

MATERIALISM OF THE DAY

By George Clarke Peck, D. D.

Text: "Is not the life more than meat?"—Matthew vi., 25.

Time was when a transatlantic trip made the event of a lifetime. People prepared for it with all but fasting and prayer. When an outgoing passenger went up the gangplank his friends had good reason to fear and his enemies just ground for hoping that he would never return to his native shore.

But in our day all is changed. An ocean voyage now instead of being an epoch in life is scarcely an event. Travellers count their voyages as a commercial man might reckon his trips to Boston. One's chief anxiety nowadays is concerning the size and location of his stateroom and the excellence of the chef. Few ocean travellers wake in the morning with a sort of wonder at being alive so far from shore, but rather speculating as to whether the coffee will be better than yesterday's.

Nevertheless the voyage itself is the real thing. What matters anything or everything else as compared with the safety of the voyage? Who cared afterward that the salon was luxurious and the cuisine unexcelled when the ill-fated Bourgoigne lurched to her frightful doom? It needed only the jar and shudder of steel to declare that the voyage itself is the real thing. Nothing really counts as against that. The stewards may gather the tips, but the crew deserve them.

So in life, the voyage ought to be the paramount concern. The real business of manhood and womanhood is to make port at length. Yet what preponderance of emphasis we put upon things which do not really matter twenty-four hours afterward. "What we shall eat, and what we shall drink, and wherewithal we shall be clothed"—these are the considerations that rouse us. It might almost be said that we gauge the values of life in terms of the stomach.

"What do I think of your cities?" said a much traveled man in my presence. "I do not think of them. I care nothing about them. I do not want to see your famous buildings or your historic sights. If you can recommend me to a luxurious hotel I shall call your city good and remember it with pleasure. It is not sentiment but beefsteak that counts with me."

Not twenty-four hours later I heard a prominent American just so describe his recent visit to Nuremberg. He went into rapturous reminiscences over that portion of his trip. Yet the object of his rapture was not the historic walls of the city, nor its great chapters of action, nor the shrine of its famous church, but rather a little restaurant where he procured the best sausage and beer he had ever tasted. Indeed, he might have forgotten the church altogether save that it served to localize the place where he bought the sausage and beer. "Is not the life more than meat?" It would not seem so; not much more, at any rate. At least it is difficult to raise life above that level.

Such is the condition we are set to fight. Not in the interest of asceticism, but of manhood; with a generous thought for every creature comfort, but with supreme concern for character, we may need to ask ourselves more frequently, "Is not the life more than meat?" Then, how much more? Life without a definite port at the end; life unthrilled and unloved by the Father; life un-sanctified, however sleek, is the sorriest failure.

True and Best Humanity.

We in our pride are apt to think that to humble ourselves is to be forced to an unwilling surrender, a hard necessity of submission. But with our gracious Father, to humble is not to humiliate. The true and best humanity is that which love wins from us as the sunshine and soft breath of spring woo the flowers from the hedgerow. Of old, when God would humble Israel, He fed them with angels' food, or, as it is rendered in the margin, "Every one did eat the bread of the mighty."—Psalm 78:25.—Mark G. Pearse.

His Strength Enough.

The answer to prayer may be, as it was to Paul, not the removal of the thorn, but instead, a growing insight into its meaning and value. The voice of God in our soul may show us, as we look up to him, that his strength is enough to enable us to bear it.—James Freeman Clarke.

Love and Truth.

O Truth who art Eternity, and Love who art Truth, and Eternity who art Love! Thou art my God; to Thee do I cry night and day!—Saint Augustine.

Christianity.

God and one man could make any other religion, but it takes God and two men to make Christianity.—Joseph Parker.

The Two Powers.

The two powers which in my opinion constitute a wise man are those of bearing and forbearing.—Epictetus.

THE SPORTING WORLD

Ball's Big Improvement.

It has often been said that a change of scene often benefits a ball player. This seems to be so in the case of Nell Ball, the former New Yorker, now a member of the Cleveland Americans. When with the Highlanders Ball played an inconsistent game, but since joining the Naps he has put up a rattling good game at short. In a recent game against Boston Ball made a triple play unassisted.

Ball's great achievement probably saved the game for his team. Wagner and Stahl of the Bostons opened the



NEIL BALL OF THE CLEVELAND AMERICANS

second inning with clean singles. On the hit and run Ball went over to cover second, and so was in a position to spear McConnell's vicious liner, almost directly over the bag. He had but to step on the cushion to double up Wagner, who had left with the pitch. Stahl had such a lead off first that he was unable to stop until he was within a step or two of Ball. Neal had then but to tag him before he could recover to complete the triple put out. Ball has the distinction of making the first play of this kind that has ever been seen in the major leagues. Only six times previously in the history of baseball has the play occurred.

To Boom Horse Racing.

August Belmont's announcement that he will race almost exclusively in America in future is regarded as excellent proof that the turf in this country will not be obliterated. Mr. Belmont has paid an unusual amount of attention to racing here this season, visiting the tracks almost daily, and says he is convinced that the public will support the game with enough liberality to keep it alive, even if it may be several years before the old popularity returns. Mr. Belmont's determination to have thirty nursery bred yearlings turned over to Trainers John Whalen and Thomas Welsh to be prepared for next season's campaign on the metropolitan tracks is the result of careful observation and, it is thought, will result in other big turfmen following the example of the Jockey club's chairman. Mr. Belmont will send three yearlings to England more as a compliment to Trainer Watson than for any other reason. But superb breeding establishments in Kentucky will be shown on the New York race courses.

Steady 2:10 Trotters Scarce.

The two minute trotter appeared six years ago, and the trotters that have beaten 2:05 number sixteen, but the person who can breed or develop a horse so that he can trot three successive heats in 2:10 can get a price for him that will pay well for the effort, and he can also earn money enough in one year with such a horse to keep the owner in good condition the following year. While the list of 2:10 trotters is a long one, filling over two pages in the year book, the fact remains that a 2:10 trotter is good enough to win in any country if he can trot three successive heats that fast, and the people who go to harness races will always enthuse over any trotter that can do it.

Changes in Athletic Rules.

At the last meeting of the Amateur Athletic Union of the United States steps were taken for important changes in the rules governing championships of the A. A. U. and the legislation committee was instructed at that time to prepare new rules providing for several new events—namely, the hop, step and jump and throwing the javelin. These have been added to the championship list, as has also the ten mile run. The ten mile run has not been given for several years past, but it is now made one of the annual fixtures.

Vanderbilt Heads Winning List.

W. K. Vanderbilt heads the list of winners on the French turf since the season opened on March 12 last, his horses having won \$160,400 up to July 15. Maurice Rothschild comes next, with a total of \$121,200. Baron de Rothschild's horse Verdam was the greatest single winner, \$110,000, including the \$75,000 Grand Prix. Mr. Vanderbilt's Oversight comes next, with \$61,000 to his credit.

HINTS FOR FARMERS

Conquering the Weeds.

A valuable means of keeping under control if not completely exterminating any form of noxious growth is the following of a rational system of rotating crops. It will have been observed that the different farm crops appear to have a sort of affinity for certain kinds of weeds. For instance, spring grains are congenial to mustard, wild oats and foxtail; fall wheat and rye to cockle, pigeon weed and chess, while meadows and pastures encourage the growth of curled dock, oxeye daisy and plantain.

These facts suggest a rearrangement of crops, such as sowing spring grains on lands infested with weeds common to fall grains, and vice versa. In the former case the cultivation required in connection with the seeding operations will destroy any weeds that may have started to grow the previous fall. In the latter instance the crops will be harvested and incidentally any foul growth kept from maturing. On pastures and meadows where the growth of grass is fairly dense annuals are pretty likely to be smothered out. The trouble will be from biennials and perennials. If a short rotation of, say, three or four years is practiced, which includes a hoed crop following sod, these may be held in check so as to give very little trouble.—Farm and Fireside.

The Poultry Yard.

Lack of business brings on liver complaint in hens, just as it does in men.

Poultry brings returns as quickly as any investment that can be made.

It is not enough to clean out under the roosts and think you have done a good job. Take out everything movable, and don't bring anything back till you have made it as clean as you possibly can.

Laying hens should not be too fat. Think of this when making up your rations.

Crop corn from your ration while the weather is hot.

Skip feeding at noon while the hens are out on good range in summer.

Feed sparingly of buckwheat in warm weather. It is a hearty, fattening feed.

Sloppy mashes are not half as good as those which are a bit crumbly. Don't get them too wet.—Farm Journal.

Soil Problems.

In experiments with soils and fertilizers by the Wisconsin experiment station it has been found that on heavily manured lands there is excessive leaching of fertilizing materials, particularly phosphates, which were formerly supposed to have been retained in the soil in a form available for future crops. Examination of the drainage waters shows that if large amounts of these materials are added there are heavy losses which cannot be regained. At some thirty-five points in the state co-operative experiments on soil problems are being made on the use of phosphates on clay lands supplemented by manure and other fertilizers. Most of this work is being done entirely by the farmers upon plans furnished by the experiment station.—Breeder's Gazette.

Care of Chickens.

Above all, the most important thing in poultry raising is to keep the chicks free from lice. But it is just as important to give plenty of fresh air. Of course chickens cannot grow without feed. This should be supplied in abundance, with plenty of pure water. If always supplied with plenty of each there is little danger of their gorging themselves, provided they are on free range. But there is no reason why they should run the entire farm. Exercise makes the flesh hard and confinement makes it soft, and a happy medium should be struck between these two extremes. Give a variety of feed, including milk and other animal products.—American Agriculturist.

The Self Running Farm.

Just as sure as one settles back and lets things on the farm run themselves they will do it, and the peculiar thing about it is that they always run one way, downhill, and they run faster than a horse can trot too. The day for that kind of farming has gone by. It is clear out of sight, in fact. It had to go, because there so many bright, up to date farmers who are pressing things sharply every day that there is no chance whatever for the man who is satisfied to go along in an easy, slipshod way. Up and at it must be the watchword of every farmer who expects to win at the present time.—Farm Journal.

The Age to Breed Ewes.

Probably the most important thing in flock management is the breeding season, says American Agriculturist. After a ram is chosen the ewes that he breeds should not be less than one year old, or never breed any lambs. It does not pay financially, as it decreases the size and runs the flock to scrubby, small and inferior animals. The breeding season will begin in October and probably last to Dec. 1, according to the lambing accommodations.

Holding Juices in a Silo.

It is not well to hold the silage juices in the silo. They become as acid almost as vinegar. Therefore a silo should not have a concrete floor, but the silage should rest on the earth, and it will be found in much better condition than if there is a concrete floor. Doubtless the retention of the juices would add to the side pressure upon the walls.—Breeder's Gazette.

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