

MARIN.

APPLE SHIPMENT.—Petaluma *Argus*, Sept. 4: The Messrs. De Long of the Novato ranch, last week made a shipment of some 600 boxes of apples to Australia, to fill an order received direct from that point. The varieties selected were the Roxbury Russets and the Talpahawkins. They were all carefully picked from the tree and each apple nicely wrapped in paper. It is confidently believed that the fruit will reach its destination in good condition, and if such should prove to be the case, large orders are expected to follow. Messrs. De Long inform us that they have received proposals from parties in San Francisco, for making extensive shipments of winter apples to Liverpool and London markets, where it is claimed that prices will rule very high this season.

MENDOCINO.

MOWING POTATO TOPS.—Point Arena Cor. Santa Rosa *Times*, Sept. 4: The potato crop has been blighting badly for a few weeks past. One man took his scythe and cut the tops off a small patch and they went to growing beautifully. This may be a good plan, at least it is worthy of a trial. We had a very nice shower of rain on Wednesday, the 20th of August.

MORE FINE SHEEP.—Ukiah *Press*: Mark York brought in 10 head of very large fine French Merinos last Friday, for his own use. Same day Geo. Henley arrived here with 40 fine ewes and 160 thoroughbred and graded bucks. They were purchased at bankrupt breeders' sale in the southern counties. Only 54 head of thoroughbred sheep appear on the present year's assessment roll, but we look for them to increase in time for next year's list. Mr. York obtained his bucks from the Cotate ranch, near Petaluma.

EARLY RAIN.—On Thursday of last week came the first shower of the season. It misted and sprinkled for two or three hours, and altogether gave us .12 of an inch. Reports from Potter indicate a much heavier fall there, making the roads muddy and stopping the threshing machines for some days. Dry feed is seriously injured, and unless we soon have another shower heavy enough to start the young grass, what we already have had will prove damaging to stock interests.

CORN.—Round valley can boast of some of the largest corn raised anywhere in the county. I think the claim is well founded, for the stalks are from 13 to 16 feet in height, caring out much above the height of the average man, and from four to six ears on the stalk. This corn is raised by Mr. G. B. Walker. The seed, six grains, was sent from Washington, D. C., to John Thompson in the spring of 1878. Mr. Asbill first planted it and it returned an immense yield. It is justly called the "mammoth" corn.

GOOD WORK.—Richmond Carner reports grain rather thin but remarkably plump and heavy headed. He run his header 37 days, cut a little over 600 acres, and came out with his team in good order and nothing broken. A good average on small fields.

MERCED.

CROP PREPARATIONS FOR 1880.—*Argus*, Sept. 6: The farmers of Merced county are better prepared for pitching a large crop of grain for next summer's harvest than ever before since the county was settled. The late spring showers enable them to summer-fallow an extraordinary breadth of land, which, added to the lands that were plowed during the winter and sowed too late to make a crop, and which are now in nearly as good condition for planting as the summer-fallow, will enable them to seed a very large proportion of their lands before the rains set in, and enabling them to devote the whole of the winter and spring to winter planting and sowing and summer-fallowing for the following year, and thus the failure of this year will enable most of them to sow a large percentage more of land with a good prospect for a heavy yield next year. The lands have had a year's rest, and are in good condition for seeding this fall, and with early rains we may look for the most prosperous time next year that Merced has ever witnessed.

MONTEREY.

ITEMS.—*Democrat*, Sept. 6: All the available stubble in these parts has been taken up for stock, sheep principally, and its price under the demand has advanced several hundred per cent. The oaks in this portion of the county are covered with acorns. Some say it is a sign of a dry winter, and it is certainly a sign of plenty of wild pigeons.

THE RESULT.—*Index*, Sept. 4: The crops in the Salinas valley have, as a general thing, turned out better than was expected the fore part of the season. Harvest is about over for this year. Both grain warehouses at this place are full to overflowing with wheat and barley.

NAPA.

CHERRY WINE.—St. Helena *Star*: August Jean Monod, wine maker at Oakville, has tried the experiment of flavoring wine with cherries, putting 50 pounds of the fruit into 20 gallons of wine. It makes a very strong wine, with a sherry flavor, and will make your head buzz about as quick as so much brandy.

ST. HELENA.—*Star*, Sept. 5: Wine-making has not commenced yet, properly speaking, though Thomann, at Vineland, crushed one lot of grapes for Frank Stetzel, this week, to save them from the birds. He expects to begin in the regular way next week. Crabb, at Oakville, intends to begin a week from Monday. Brun & Chaix, Oakville, in about 10 days. A. Jeanmonod, Oakville, the middle of next week.

Mr. Lemme does not expect to begin wine-making under four weeks yet. Grapes up there are usually about a fortnight later, anyway, than those in the valley.

SACRAMENTO.

BANANAS.—*Record-Union*, Sept. 4: We made reference last winter to the efforts made by J. C. Carroll to save from the severe weather his fine banana plant. He succeeded in keeping off the frosts, and it is now about 20 feet high and 10 inches in diameter near the ground, with leaves from five to six feet long and about two and a half feet wide and attracts a great deal of attention. C. H. Cummings, also has a fine plant of the same species a little younger. Carroll's is about 15 months old, and is expected to bud in a short time, after which it takes the fruit about nine months to be perfected. Gentlemen well acquainted with such matters say that the growth of the plants in Sacramento has been remarkable, and shows peculiarly fitted soil and climate. Their owners (the plants) are already considering how they shall protect them next winter.

SAN BENITO.

INCUBATION.—*Gilroy Advocate*, Sept. 6: Mr. E. W. Bowman, of San Juan, has for some time past been hatching chickens by means of artificial heat in one of Prof. Corbett's incubators. He has so far been successful in producing the chickens; but cold nights and winds invariably kill them off. He is now engaged in building a "hover," or "artificial mother," to be heated with hot water by means of pipes, and a patent stove. The pipes will be enclosed in a box and covered with goat skin, the long hair of which hanging down, the chickens are enabled to get under it, and thus be kept warm and comfortable. The frame building is 100 feet long containing 14 pens, 6x25 feet, capable of holding 700 chickens each; one side of the pens will be composed of glass windows, and will extend into the field for forage. By this means, and regulating the heat, Mr. Bowman expects to be able to raise chickens for the market all the year round.

SAN DIEGO.

GRAPES WITHOUT IRRIGATION.—*News*, Sept. 5: On Saturday evening, Mr. George Kimball of National City, brought us a basket of what we think the finest white grapes, two varieties, that we have seen this season. The bunches weighed from 2½ to 4 pounds each, and the fruit was well matured, and very luscious in taste. The beauty of the facts in connection with those elegant grapes is that, for the last two years, the vines have not been irrigated, as Mr. Kimball tells us. The growth and size of bunch has been secured solely by cultivation, the ground having been fairly cultivated five times in the two years. Mr. Kimball's vineyard occupies high mesa land of the red sort, just east of National, where, only a few years ago, it was held to be next to worthless, so far as anything outside of pasturage was concerned. We begin to believe that good plowing and cultivation will dispense with much water, and those grapes seem to prove it.

SAN JOAQUIN.

LODI ITEMS.—*Review*, Sept. 6: Hop-picking began last week. The yield is not as good as last year, but the prices are more than double, therefore the cash value will be considerably more than for the last two or three seasons. The roads are in a terrible condition and should be strawed at once. Threshing is nearly finished in this vicinity, the yield has been more than the general average.

SAN MATEO.

COAST CROPS.—*Redwood Times*, Sept. 6: The grain crops on the coast are not turning out as large as expected. When in stack there seemed to be a big crop, but when threshed it is found that the straw takes up more than its usual share. Farming on the coast the coming season will be limited. The hills, by all means, should be used for stock and grazing purposes, and more wheat should be sown. Potatoes are found to be a very risky crop, and farmers should not plant any but for their own use. Flax will be sown in large acreage, especially at Pescadero.

OPIMUM EXPERIMENT.—A new enterprise is being tried at Spanishtown by the gentleman from Mount Ararat. It is the raising of poppies for the opium. He is a great enthusiast on the subject, and believes money can be made at it. His poppies are growing finely and can be seen in the large space of ground fronting the Dolloff homestead. If successful, the gentleman will venture on a few acres of ground.

SANTA BARBARA.

EDITORS PRESS.—Crops have been generally good in this county, but farmers are not very happy; prices are low, and we have not yet become fully accustomed to the new state of things. Where much hiring has been done, farmers have actually lost money on some of their crops, even when tolerable good. We are not yet sufficiently self-sustaining, we must raise more of the necessities of life on our farms and buy only such things as cannot possibly be raised. Then we can worry through with abundance of economy and industry until times ease up a little. God pity those in debt, for their day of relief looks far in the future. Better sell half the farm, yes, and go half naked and live on hog and hominy, than mortgage the homestead. Debt is deplorable at all times; such times as these it is fearful. Beans, a good crop are being harvested; corn is good; an insect works on the pumpkin crop, the vines grow well, but pumpkins rot.—S. P. SNOW, Santa Barbara, Cal.

SOLANO.

WHEAT MOVING.—*Vallejo Chronicle*: A train of 80 cars loaded with wheat came down from the upper portion of the county to the grain wharf at South Vallejo, Thursday. This is the largest train that has ever arrived at any one time since the road has been in running order. About 50 men are employed by the company at the present time, engaged in unloading grain cars. Thursday they discharged the grain from 114 cars, and the day before 117 cars. Most of the grain is transferred from the cars on board of the ships lying at the wharf, and some of it is put in warehouses, and the rest piled on the wharf so as to be ready for shipment. A person can hardly estimate the vast amount of grain that is hauled to South Vallejo without personally inspecting it themselves. For instance, on the train that came down Thursday there were 800 tons of wheat, besides several smaller trains arriving at various hours during the day.

SONOMA.

THE DISTRICT FAIR.—*Marin Journal*, Sept. 4: The Sonoma and Marin District fair will open at Petaluma, Monday, September 20th, and continue until Saturday, October 4th inclusive. It is gratifying to know that the dark shadow of hard times which is upon us, and the engrossment of the public mind in the election from which we are just emerging, have not defeated a widespread interest in the annual exhibition of our varied products and that the managers assure us a grand success is already made certain. The Directors have been obliged to provide extensive new accommodations for stock, and the pavilion has been materially enlarged by providing outside apartments for special classes. The speed programme is the most attractive ever presented, and there will be few races at any fair this fall more interesting than the best in our list. The district boasts a very large number of fine horses, and several herds of thoroughbred cattle, of the various fancy bloods. It comprises large areas of the richest grain and root lands, and its annual products would be marvelous in any exhibition in the world. Its dairy produce is famous throughout the nation.

ITEMS.—*Russian River Flag*, Sept. 4: O. L. Soules recommends Egyptian corn for late fodder for cows, finding that it is the most vigorous thing in that line that he can raise. Hop-picking is at its height at Grant's and will commence at Alderson's to-day. The crop will be in fair abundance of fine medium-sized hops. We have learned this week that even our Mission grapes have been blighted in some vineyards, and have not done well since they were the size of peas. Cause, either mildew or heat, or both. Blind Tucker displays an onion brought up from Santa Rosa, the weight of which is 2 pounds 13 ounces; measurement, 20 inches in circumference, or 6½ inches in diameter. The Sonoma *Index* makes its brag that Sonoma valley is hard to beat in the matter of raising plums. A Mr. Shaw there presented the editor with six, that weighed two pounds and two ounces. Cannot some of our pomologists beat that? Shearing of the fall wool-clip has begun on Russian river. The general clip will be clean and nice. The huckleberry crop is nearly all gathered and is much lighter than that of last year.

STANISLAUS.

RESULTS OF IRRIGATION.—*News*, Sept. 5: Hill's Ferry shows the benefit of irrigation, this year adopted for the first time under the line of the Miller & Lux canal. As a result there has been considerable grain raised, and the town evinces a corresponding life in a business point of view.

FAIR.—*Modesto Herald*, Sept. 4: The third annual exhibition of the Stock Growers' Association of Stanislaus county will be held at Modesto from the 23d to the 26th of September, inclusive. The purses amount to \$2,000. Entries to close on the 15th. The track is in splendid condition, and there is no faster one in the State. A grand time is anticipated.

TULARE.

HANFORD NOTES.—*Cor. Delta*, Sept. 4: A fine crop of tall weeds has grown up around Hanford in the last few weeks, which renders the town almost invisible. At a ditch meeting at Robinson's hall on Saturday, August 30th, an arrangement was effected by which the Lake-side ditch is to receive water from the Mussel Slough ditch by means of a channel from the regulator of the latter, above town.

YOLO.

GRAIN.—*Democrat*, Sept. 5: The threshing season is about over, and our town is thronged with farmers every day. Most of the business men are in good spirits—money seems more plentiful, and every indication for better times is apparent. There is scarcely any wheat arriving now at the warehouse, the farmers have about finished hauling their grain to market. The trains from above pass through this place daily with several carloads of wheat, but very little is being shipped from this point.

FRUIT.—The shipment of fruits from the orchard and vineyard of R. B. Blowers has become such an item that the railroad company have built a side track for his accommodation. The other day we noticed two cars loaded with fruit from his vineyard for shipment. A Davisville correspondent says: G. G. Briggs, the noted pomologist, is busily engaged in converting his large grape crop into raisins.

IMPROVEMENTS.—*Mail*, Sept. 5: The Puget Sound Lumber Company have done a rushing business the past month in this place. They

have sold and delivered no less than 19 carloads of lumber during the month of August last, mostly for farmers and others in the immediate neighborhood of Woodland. This shows how the country is filling up and improving around here.

NEVADA.

WITHOUT IRRIGATION.—*Reno Gazette*, Sept. 3: The practicability of growing grain without irrigation is gaining the public confidence. Wherever a squirrel drops a grain of wheat or barley it has been noticed that the grain comes up and grows finely. Hundreds of witnesses can testify to this. Frank Dickison harvested his crop the other day and got 2,000 bushels of barley off 60 acres. G. W. Hepperly got 800 bushels off 20 acres. Neither crop had one drop of artificial irrigation.

LUMBER FOR ALASKA.—The Truckee Lumber Co. shipped two carloads of boxes for salmon cases, to Sitka, Alaska, on Monday. Last week they sent a carload to Mexico for oranges.

News in Brief.

HEAVY, continuous rains prevail on the Island of Cuba.

THE Mechanics' fair opens at Portland, Or., October 15th.

THE yield of crops in Idaho this season is unprecedented.

THE weavers at Fall River, Mass., have voted not to strike.

WORK has been commenced on the Nevada Central railway.

THE Governor-General of Canada arrived at Toronto, Sept. 9th.

EIGHTEEN deep-water ships arrived in San Francisco Sept. 9th.

A SEVERE frost has caused immense injury to the coffee crops in Brazil.

THE steamer *Bengal*, from Montreal for London, grain laden, is ashore.

A MINISTER was beaten to death Sept. 9th at Zaleski, O., by his son-in-law.

THE inhabitants of Novi-Bazar have determined to resist Austrian occupation.

SIX miners were suffocated in a mine at Alta, Utah, last Saturday by poisoned air.

THE Memphis Odd Fellows appeal to the Brotherhood at large for material aid.

BLORE, formerly architect to Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey, is dead.

EIGHTY-FOUR young persons have left Moscow under sentence of hard labor in Siberia.

SILVER in London, 51½d, consols, 97 11-16; 5% U. S. bonds, 105½; 4s, 105; 4½s, 108½.

It is believed in Madrid that King Alfonso's marriage will be celebrated in December.

THE Indians have deposited their chiefs at San Bernardino without causing an outbreak.

ALL the Vancouver Island Indians have gone to Puyallup valley, W. T., to pick hops.

OF the ten-dollar refunding certificates, the Treasury Department has sold \$40,012,750.

THE surrender of Cornwallis is to be celebrated on the 19th of October at Yorktown.

CROPS in Bulgaria having failed, the government has forbidden the exportation of cereals.

LEONARD, son of Nathaniel Montefiore, of London, died last Saturday at Newport, R. I.

FULLY 1,000 silk operatives have arrived at Paterson, N. J., this year, from foreign lands.

PENNSYLVANIA is nearly clear of tramps, owing to the stringent law and the revival of business.

THE state of siege has been raised in the Bulgarian districts of Rasgrad, Simla and Osman Bazar.

SEVEN persons were drowned lately by the sinking of a yacht in Henderson bay, New York.

DR. SAMUEL A. FINLEY, ex-Surgeon General U. S. A., died in Philadelphia Sept. 9th, aged 82 years.

HIGH water prevails in St. Petersburg, and violent wind storms have done considerable damage.

AT Liverpool wheat is quoted at 8s 6d@9s 6d for average California white, and 9s 5d@9s 10d for club.

THE Mussulmans in Eastern Roumelia declare that they prefer a Russian to a Roumelian government.

AN insurrection has broken out in Kardistan. The Pennsylvania State fair is in progress at Philadelphia.

GENERAL GRANT is to be received in San Francisco, with a general welcome, outside of all party lines.

It is estimated that about \$100,000,000 will be sent to this country from Europe during the present year.

JAY GOULD tells the Howard Association of Memphis to keep at its noble work and he will foot the bill.

A LARGE force of men are engaged on the work of the locks and canal of the cascades of the Columbia.

A DISPATCH from Paris announces the death of Baron Isadore Taylor, the well-known author and traveler.

THE new Cassiar Mining district of British Columbia has been abandoned, the claims being worked out.

THE ship *Frank E. Curling*, from Maine to San Francisco with 2,600 tons of coal, has foundered off Cape Horn.

INDIANS raided a herd of cavalry stock recently near Ajo Caliente, N. M., killing the guard and running off the horses.

IN New York, Government bonds are quoted at 101½ for 4s of 1907; 102½ for 5s of 1881; 104½ for 4½s; sterling, \$4.82@4.84; silver bars, 111½; silver coin, ½@1 discount.