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Sheep Ranch For Sale, Ruel Stickney, Little River, Cal. Farm For Sale, Ivar P. Weid, Los Angeles, Cal. "Abel Stearns Ranches," Alfred Robinson, Trustee, S. F. Log Sawing Machine, W. W. Giles, Chicago, Ill. Muller's Optical Depot, San Francisco. Stallion For Sale, A. Bilz, Pleasanton, Alameda Co., Cal. Meizo Spring, Manufacturer of Artificial Limbs, S. F. Grape Cuttings, H. W. Crabb, Pateville, Napa Co., Cal. Annual Meeting—State Agricultural Society.

The Week.

The new moon, or some other bright agency, has brought us genial skies again, and as the warm sun beats down upon the chilled frame one seems to grow an inch in every direction at every step. It is to be hoped, both for humanity and horticulture, that the frigid regime is over. This protracted series of frosts has been severe upon the sensibilities of those who had cherished plants exposed. Often we have looked out into the cold starlight to measure the weight of the chill our plants were taking, and as the cold was biting deep, the impulse was to seize the warmest blankets in the house for their protection. But the second thought, that every effort thus to cover a plant would uncover a baby, restrained the hand. We never saw in California gardens, scenes so much like April garden views at the East. But the revival will be speedy from roots uninjured, and a generous planting of choice annuals will bring bright flowers upon the graves of wholly departed favorites until new stock can be obtained. The replacing of killed plants will give our nurserymen and florists a trade which will bring coin to their boxes and smiles to their faces.

The event of the week, the solar eclipse, was true to its engagement, and the heavens were most propitious to observation of the phenomenon. Our representative, in the line of the totality in Fresno county, reports the scene grand beyond adequate expression. The Government observers upon their mountain top obtained accurate records, which will add another item to scientific truth. The moon has survived the shock; the sun is the brighter for the going-over which the dame gave his countenance, and the season is propitious for plenty and comfort to all who merit them.

Retrospect and Prospect.

The farmers of the United States may be earnestly congratulated upon the prospect which now opens before them. All the solid interests of the country are experiencing a most gratifying revival, and as these interests are all allied and interwoven, the good influence of prosperity will be universal. To agriculture, the underlying and all-supporting industry, the signs of better times come most opportunely. The era of prices, which have often fallen below the actual cost of production, not only robbed farmers of their small accumulations, but went farther and placed many mortgages upon fair rural homes. Thus the agricultural interest has for several years been carrying heavy burdens, and the time for casting off encumbrances and for restoring our grand producing interest to an independent and untrammelled position should be hailed with joy by the whole people.

In our own State, the drouth of 1877 left scars which the but partial successes of 1878 and 1879, coupled with the low market values for our great staple products, could not efface, and but few producers escaped accumulating debts. But now with wheat, wool and grape products all profitable, and other minor specialties taking new heart from the advance in staple products, there is found a basis of success, which is giving our farmers new strength and hope, and is inciting them to put forth new and vigorous efforts to avail themselves of the benefits of a season which has already so auspiciously begun.

It is worthy of note that great progress is continually being made in the discovery and development of special lines of agricultural production which minister to particular demands. Thus California raisins, equal to the best imported, have been eagerly purchased this year, and the producers are enjoying the high prices which a partial failure in European raisin districts occasions. Our canned fruit is taken quickly for export, and is finding consumers in every civilized country in the world. These are but instances of a large group of productions which may be said to have been newly undertaken, but which are bringing prosperity and comfort to thousands of citizens who are laboring intently to advance them. The principle involved is one which may be earnestly urged upon our agriculturists upon the broad ground of diversification in production, and which wins success by utilizing the special adaptations of our varied resources of soil and climate; by supplying wide demands which are as yet unsatisfied; by concentrating values so that the cost of transportation to most distant points takes but little from producers' receipts, and by giving employment to thousands. This is a secret in our agricultural growth which is being daily more widely recognized, and the result is the uprising of happy, prosperous homes on the hills and in the valleys far remote from the centers of transportation and of trade.

Local statisticians in their summaries of the city's trade during periods closing Dec. 31, 1879, enable us to give some idea of the status of our various producing interests. For example, in wheat the exports during the half year from July to December, in several years, have been as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Year, Quantity, Value, and another Value. Rows for 1879, 1878, 1877, 1876, 1875.

For the full year 1879 exports of wheat were 10,511,347 centals, valued at \$19,221,958; in 1876, 9,967,941 centals, valued at \$17,124,576. These amounts were influenced by unequal amounts carried over from preceding years.

Thus appears that it has not been a mean year in wheat notwithstanding the hardships which some regions have suffered. Although the amount is almost a million centals less than in 1876, the value has approached quite close to that of 1876, and thus nearly as much money has come into the State for wheat. In wool there has also existed the compensation of higher prices. By the review in another column of this issue it appears that the value of wool exported during 1879 was about \$9,000,000, which is an advance of \$2,000,000 over last year; and an advance of \$800,000 over the value of 1876, in which year the production was 5,000,000 greater than during 1879. Thus our flock owners received more money for a great deal less wool. And one of the best things about wool values is that they bid fair to continue, and the shepherd's industry may be fairly said to be on its legs again.

The exports by sea of other products, as compared with the last really good year, 1876, are as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Year, Quantity, Value, and another Value. Rows for Barley, Beans, Brandy, Flour, Hops, Hay, Hides, Leather, Lumber, Oats, Potatoes, Salmon, Wine, and other products.

Exports by sea, as those given above, comprise only a fraction of our production, for the overland road carries full trains of produce of different kinds for which much money is re-

turned. There is also a vast local consumption which is not included at all. The figures given must, of course, be taken relatively and with due cognizance of their partial character.

The records of receipts of domestic produce at the Produce Exchange during the last half year, as compared with previous years, furnish another guide to a general idea of our agricultural progress in certain directions.

July 1 to December 31.

Table with 4 columns: Year, Quantity, Value, and another Value. Rows for Wheat, Flour, Barley, Hay, Oats, Wool, Bran and Middlings, Potatoes, Onions, Beans, Dry Hides, Quicksilver, Corn, Hops, Rye, and Buckwheat.

One feature of the general trade of the year is the decrease of imported articles. The duties paid at the Custom House in 1878 amounted to \$6,310,196; in 1879, \$5,510,555. If this means that we are learning more and more to produce for our own needs, it is a satisfactory condition of affairs. On the other hand, our general export trade in merchandise and produce is increasing, as shown by the following:

Table with 4 columns: Year, Quantity, Value, and another Value. Rows for 1879, 1878, 1877, 1876.

The export of treasure does not keep pace with the advance of produce and merchandise. On the other hand, it is \$20,000,000 less than in 1877, and the total value of our exports is therefore less than in preceding years.

ENTOMOLOGICAL.

The Corn-Ear Worm.

EDITORS PRESS.—As my business is in raising fruit and vegetables, I am consequently interested in any combined movement to discover means to overcome the numerous insects that mar our prosperity by destroying our crops. First with me in the catalogue of pests is the corn worm. My investigations and experiments so far have only met with partial success. The eggs, from which the worms hatch, are deposited in the silk near where it leaves the husk, and are very small, and when the worm is first hatched out is scarcely discernible with the eye; but it grows rapidly, and soon makes its way to the corn. I have found that, to put any liquid on the silk strong enough to destroy the eggs or worms would interfere with the transmission of the pollen from the tassel to the silk, by which means the corn is fertilized. Neither will pinching the silk always be successful, for this reason: If done too soon it will injure the fertility of the corn, and if too late the worm will have passed to a safer place on the corn. Now, I should like to obtain a true description of the moth that lays the eggs, the precise time in the 24 hours it usually lays its eggs, and its size, color and habits. I intend next season to experiment against it in another direction, and if successful I will, by your permission, report to my fellow farmers through the medium of the PRESS.—MONTGOMERY PIKE, Sacramento county, Cal.

The corn worm (Heliothis armigera), as it is usually called (or the "corn-ear worm," as we term it, for we find that some of our readers understand by "corn worm" a pest that attacks the seed in the ground), is an old enemy of the corn planter and of the cotton planter, for it is the "boll worm" of the cotton districts. The moth measures about one and a half inches when its wings are fully spread: "it is of a tawny or pale clay-yellow color, with faint greenish tinge. The front pair of wings are branded with two or more bars or rows of pale olive and have a crescent-shaped, dark mark near the center. The hind wings are paler than the front wings and invariably have along the outer margin a dark brown or black band, in the middle of which is an irregularly shaped spot of the same color as the wing. There is likewise a dark spot in the center of the wing and the nerves are black or dark colored." This description will doubtless enable our correspondent to recognize the moth.

The moth does not show itself in the broad daylight unless disturbed. It appears about sunset and flits around depositing its eggs in the twilight. It is a nocturnal moth, and consequently feeds at night. Each moth is capable of laying 500 eggs, which hatch out in three or four days, and there are two or three generations in a season. It is therefore highly important that destructive efforts should be made early in the season, that the increase of the insect may be checked as early as possible.

Various means have been adopted to destroy the pest, with partial success. Fires lighted in the fields at dusk attract and destroy many of the moths. They are also trapped by placing plates of a mixture of vinegar and molasses here and there among the corn. This has been done by driving stakes into the ground, capping them with small pieces of board to support the plate. As many as thirty-five moths have been caught in a single plate. When this has been done for five or six nights, so as to catch the first moths of the season, a marked beneficial effect has been produced in the corn crop.

Previous articles concerning the characteristics of the insect and means proposed for its destruction, may be found in the RURAL of August 16th; also of September 13, 1879.

We hope our correspondent will succeed in devising some way of destroying the insect which is more applicable to large fields, for it would require considerable crockery and "dope" to entertain the moths on a large corn ranch. We shall be pleased to hear the results of any experiments which he may make.

How a Louse Unseated a Commission.

They have just had a first-class phylloxera sensation in South Australia. When the insect

was first seen in another colony last year, South Australia adopted vigorous protective measures, passing a law and appointing a commission. In November the members of the commission treed gamed and shouted that the phylloxera had been found. The mighty wheels of government were set in motion, the public press sounded alarms, all the forces of the colony were being concentrated to drive the invested vineyard, vine and soil clear into the central fires of the globe, for fear that ordinary stamping out processes might fail. Everything was proceeding in duo form until some entomologist thought it might be worth while to take a look at the little chap which was occasioning such disturbance. He took a glance at this royal prisoner, so to speak, and found—not a phylloxera, but an aphid. Imagine the result. Government, press and people, with arms and tongues extended, must strike something. If not the phylloxera, then the commission must be stamped out. And thus it was. The man who now gets a commission in South Australia will doubtless be previously examined a little on the subject of "bugs."

The Grain Aphid.

Doubtless some of our Humboldt county readers who had their grain fields devastated by the louse (Aphis avenae) last year, are considering the chance of a re-appearance of the evil next summer. It may be remarked that the visitations of the grain aphid are sometimes very short. They may devastate large fields one year, and the next there may be so few as not to produce any appreciable effect upon the grain. Prof. Rathvon tells of a case in Pennsylvania when the whole oat crop all over Lancaster county and beyond, and in many cases the wheat also, was reduced almost to straw value. After the straw ripened the aphids disappeared and since then have not been seen again in ruinous numbers. The aphid is shown to be such an uncertain visitor that ordinary crops may be continued with a good chance of their being harvested in safety—so far as his evil work is concerned.

The Red Scale in Los Angeles.

We had a call on Monday from W. R. Barbour, of Orange, Los Angeles. Mr. Barbour informs us that the red scale (described in the PRESS of Jan. 3d) is hardly such an inconquerable scourge as it was at first feared, and that it begins to yield to treatment. One of the San Gabriel growers is reported to have arrested its progress with bluestone water forced upon the trees. Mr. Barbour is himself experimenting with kerosene and water, and finds the trees will stand a stronger dose of the oil than he thought. Another grower has been using crude petroleum. We trust all experimenters will keep us informed of their success or failure with different materials and methods.

A Proposition to Cheapen Bags.

The immense advantage it would be to the grain and other produce producers of this State to have the price of bags reduced one-half will be appreciable to anyone who has indulged extensively in these expensive envelopes. All will be interested to know that Gov. Perkins is of the opinion that by securing free introduction of the raw material, until it can be produced here, and manufacturing it into burlaps at the State prison, the problem of convict support can be solved and at the same time the farmer can secure cheaper bags by saving the profits made by the foreign burlap weavers. In his inaugural address Gov. Perkins has this allusion to the subject:

After Jan. 1, 1882, the Constitution prohibits the contracting of prison labor, and then an additional responsibility will devolve upon the Prison Commission. We cannot too early turn our earnest attention to a consideration of the uses that can be advantageously made of convict labor, so as not to conflict with and degrade the free labor of the State. For the handling of our cereals alone, upwards of 25,000,000 sacks are required annually, besides large quantities for other purposes. Millions of dollars go abroad yearly for the purchase of these necessary articles. It must be that the diversified soil and climate of this State are able to produce the jute from which the burlap is made. Its manufacture is not difficult, nor is the requisite machinery complicated, though somewhat expensive. If the raw material can be grown in California, of which I have no doubt, its manufacture by convict labor would open a new industry to the husbandman, and its full development would cheapen the cost of the manufactured article to the agriculturist. Employment would be given to convict labor without coming into competition with free labor to any appreciable extent. If experiments should establish the impracticability of growing the raw material, then we should ask Congress to abolish the duty on raw jute to be manufactured at the State prison. We have in the State but one factory for working up the crude material, and that is operated mainly by Chinese labor.

If this proposition to make the burlaps should prove practicable, and we hope it may, there would be another gain in giving work at sack-sewing to hundreds of our own citizens, and to women much in need of employment, instead of paying out money to foreign makers of the bags which now come ready made through the Custom-house.

ALFALFA IN COLORADO.—Colorado ranchers

are rapidly learning the value of alfalfa. The Denver Farmer states that one firm of that city has ordered ten tons of fresh seed from this State and other smaller lots are being taken hence. This growth of public sentiment in favor of alfalfa the Farmer considers all the more remarkable, as it remembers that when the first load of it raised near Denver was offered for sale, a prominent dealer in hay forbade its sale from his yards, believing it was not best to countenance the sale of the "worthless stuff."