

NAPA VALLEY.

A gentleman who had occasion to make a busy business trip through the Napa Valley last week, writes for the MERCHANT as follows. It was his first visit to a wine district, and it is needless to say that, though familiar from reading the papers with the general facts concerning our wine product, he was astounded at the extent of the vineyards and the substantial buildings and cellars connected with them.

The first vineyard met with on leaving St. Helena is that of Beringer Brothers. These gentlemen have fine rock cellars and are adding substantial improvements to their property. They produced during the past season some 75,000 gallons of wine and about 2,000 gallons of brandy. They have 55 acres of old vines, Zinfandels, Rieslings, Chasselas, etc., and are planting extensively.

Chas. Krug's fine place is next met with. He has some 225 acres planted in vines, 150 acres of which are producing, and intends this season to set out 100 acres additional. He has 50 acres in Riesling, 30 acres in Zinfandel, and the remainder in Golden Chasselas, Sauvignon Vert, etc. Mr. Krug has a very large and well-appointed wine cellar, to which he will shortly make large additions. It is at present stored about 400,000 gallons of wine, of various ages and many varieties. The wine yield this year was 209,500 gallons. Mr. Krug does a very large business direct with dealers throughout the Union.

Mrs. J. C. Weinberger is the owner of a fine vineyard a little north of Mr. Krug, on the opposite side of the valley. Here are 100 acres in vines, about one-half being productive. Preparations are being made to put in 30 acres more. The wine produced amounted to 49,000 gallons and that of brandy to 4,000 gallons. Across the road is the cellar of J. Laurent, with a record of 70,000 gallons of wine and a few hundred of brandy. His vineyard consists of 50 acres, about one-half bearing.

The next vineyard of any consequence is that of Mr. W. W. Lyman, several miles north. He has a vineyard of 65 acres, chiefly young vines, planted in the standard varieties.

A short distance farther on we take a very pleasant and picturesque side road to the left, and a ride of a couple of miles brings us to the mountain vineyard of Jacob Schram. This gentleman has in his rock-excavated wine cellar some 100,000 gallons of wine, 35,000 gallons of which are from this year's vintage. He does a large business direct from his cellar with jobbers, hotels, clubs, etc., and his prosperity is shown by many solid improvements he is making. He is talking of putting in an orange orchard, as fruit has been obtained from one of his few trees that measured seventeen inches in circumference. The persimmon and other fine fruits grow readily at this place, with the same rate of cultivation as elsewhere in the valley.

Surrounding Calistoga the vineyards are mostly small, a notable exception, however, being in the vineyard of A. L. Tubbs, President of the Napa Valley Wine Company, who has now 135 acres in young vines, all being of the finest European varieties.

Calistoga boasts of but one wine cellar. It is owned by Louis Kortem, and produces as yet but little. It is reported that Lang & Co., wine merchants, of San Francisco, will shortly commence the erection of a fine wine cellar at Calistoga to meet the needs of the growing vines. Hundreds of acres in this vicinity will come into bearing next year. The crop of the past season in this locality was almost a total failure, owing to the hot winds.

On the western outskirts of St. Helena, under the shade of protecting hills, lie many pleasant places. Mr. E. P. Palmer has here a large tract of timbered land, which he is busily clearing and putting in

vines, expecting to make the roughest of country produce fine grapes. He has now only about 50 acres in vines, but is rapidly increasing his acreage.

Adjoining him, Louis Sander cultivates 51 acres of the old standards, Riesling, Zinfandel and Chasselas, and makes about 25,000 gallons of wine a year.

Towards the south, at a short distance, lies the fine property of W. Scheffler, "Edgehill," who has now 180 acres in vines, chiefly of the finest foreign varieties. His is planted and cleared, and has plenty of land for vineyard purposes. His wine yield this year was 100,000 gallons and the brandy product will exceed 8,000 gallons. Mr. Scheffler has recently added to his very complete establishment a large cooper shop, an action which attests hope for the future.

South of the city, away up in the hills, ex-Railroad Commissioner Beerstecher is at present devoting his talents to the raising of grapes. He has now about 50 acres in fine varieties and is planting to fill up an even hundred.

On the road leading from St. Helena to Napa lie several extensive vineyards, that of Capt. Niebaum being perhaps the most important. Capt. Niebaum is at present on an extended European trip, but his vineyards and vines are under the charge of a most competent manager, H. W. McIntyre. A fine rock cellar is under course of construction, and many other improvements are being made upon the place. In the vineyard are nearly 200 acres, in which the vines, though of various ages, are nearly all bearing. The product this year was 75,000 gallons of wine and 2,000 gallons of brandy.

At Rutherford Station, J. B. Atkinson has had a vineyard of 105 acres planted. These are all young vines and of the best varieties only.

A little further south is located the fine property of H. W. Crabb, whose vineyard consists of about 500 acres, largely bearing or beginning to bear. His wine yield this year reached 150,000 gallons.

In this vicinity, also, are the vineyards of Hastings have large vineyards.

Your correspondent's round of the St. Helena district concluded at Yountville, where is located the extensive vineyard and vineyard of G. Grozinger, having a record for the past season of 150,000 gallons of wine.

Fruit-Growing in Central America and Mexico.

(Written specially for THE MERCHANT.)

Outside of citrus fruit or other varieties of purely tropical origin, we met in the highlands of Central America with many fruit varieties of a northern origin, many which do well or grow to perfection in California. Among such we count apples, pears, peaches, figs and cherries. The similarity between our fruit and theirs is more a scientific one than one of outward appearance. It is somewhat astonishing that the varieties growing wild in northern latitudes, should be so similar to those growing wild or insufficiently cultivated fit for degrees from the Equator. The climate and fertile soil of the southern countries seems not to have changed these fruits in the least for the better, and the latter gain nothing by being compared with their respective growth or originated under much less favorable circumstances. The apples of Central America are astonishingly similar to the smallest Russian crab apples, both in size and taste. Their size is that of a large cherry, the color yellow, taste tart and flavor quite agreeable. These apples grow wild on the highlands of Mexico, Guatemala and Salvador, and seem especially at home on the slopes of the many volcanoes, up to a varying height of 5,000 to 7,000 feet, according to the latitude. A considerable trade is done in these small apples; the Indians collect them in great quantities and sell them in the markets at quite remunerative prices. When boiled these apples are excellent, but raw they are only palatable when there is nothing else to eat. I never heard of any one having endeavored to raise any seedlings with the object of creating new varieties with larger

and better fruit. In fact, none of the natives know anything about horticulture, and the few foreigners who might know something, have most likely never expected to remain long enough in the country to profit from the opportunities horticulture. It may, however, be asked why, if wild apples grow there, could not our fine cultivated varieties be introduced? No doubt there are many places both in Northern Mexico and Central America where our apples would grow and grow fruit in the country very few. The greatest obstacle to growing northern fruit is the absence of frost, and some other peculiarities in the seasons.

I saw several apple trees in Guatemala; they grew well enough—in fact, never ceased to grow, never set fruit; in fact, buds blossomed, and I never saw any fruit buds form. In places where frost and snow divide the seasons, no doubt both apples and pears could be grown; but then, such places are necessarily situated at a great altitude, and the cold winds, if any, of the valuable varieties could be brought to maturity there. Around Quetzaltenango, in the northern part of Guatemala, I heard that apples were cultivated, but I do not know if they were any better than the common wild ones. Perhaps the cold winds, and frost, the two requisites for growing the fruits of the temperate zones. Sufficient experiments have, however, not been conducted to decide the question whether apples and similar fruit could or could not be grown in the lower regions, where the climate is nearly the same all the year round, except in regard to rain. Grafted on the wild apples of the country, no doubt, fruits might be produced of improved varieties of one place. A foreign farmer had on the Manzana de apple stock growing on his hill side; and he related to me that the tree thus produced had borne a quantity of large, fine fruit. But he was now leaving the country, and his experiment will most likely be forgotten. From this little experiment, however, was plainly demonstrated that foreign grafts on native stock adapted themselves to the seasons and lasted sufficiently to produce fruitfulness.

GUSTAV EISEN.

A flutter has been caused in scientific circles by the announcement, in the *Union Monthly* of the 1st of April, of the discovery of a new fossil, in a coal mine in Vally-Grény (Pas-de-Calais), of a series of very remarkable caverns. In the first were the intact fossil bodies of a man, two women and three children. Beside them were petrified pieces of wooden utensils, such as spoons, manuals and fish, as we are accustomed to see. A second subterranean cavern revealed eleven bodies of gigantic size, the fossils of several animals, and a great number of various objects, including precious stones. Into a third and larger chamber the miners could not enter, on account of the carbonic acid it contained. If all this turns out to be true as it appears to be, the existence of prehistoric man is a stern fact, even to the most sceptical.—*Boston Globe*.

TOBACCO MARKETS.

SAN FRANCISCO.—There have been a few sales of Sumatra and good Havana during the past week, but business dull with no prospect of further purchases of importance until the holidays are over. The large dealers in manufactured tobacco report a very light business this week, and expect no improvement for at least a fortnight. Our local cigar manufacturers are fairly busy and in spite of the loss of time by the holidays will probably show when the revenue returns for the month are known, a very good December business. Some weeks ago we announced in the MERCHANT that a demand for an advance in the price of cigars by our smokers, ranging from 50 cents to \$1.00 per thousand, according to quality. These Chinamen are now asking a further advance of \$1.50 per thousand. If they obtain it, it will open the business to a large number of white cigar makers, who have hitherto been prevented by the low price of Chinese labor from earning a living on this coast. It will also deter our Eastern export of low priced cigars by increasing the cost. Moreover, the gradual reduction of the number of Chinese on this coast by the usual departures and the restriction of immigration, will lead to the larger factories making medium and high priced goods, drawing from the other factories all the hands engaged in making cheap cigars.

The Seal Rock injunction suit and petition for a receiver which has hung fire so long, again went over last Friday because a jury case was on trial. On Tuesday the plaintiff, Whither Jones, by his junior counsel, asked for a further postponement because one of the attorneys for Mr. Brandenstedt to do the duty. The judge finally fixed the hearing for this morning at nine o'clock, limiting each counsel to two hours argument. There are other defendants besides Mr. Brandenstedt who have little or nothing really to do with the affairs of the Seal Rock Co., but have had, with the main defendant, Mr. Brandenstedt, some attendance in court for a week after week while the petitioner was seeking evidence in hopes of strengthening his case. We have some doubt whether an injunction ought to have been granted and more certainly we have doubts whether it ought to have been maintained when the plaintiff confessed he was not ready to prove his allegations.

OVERLAND RECEIPTS OF CIGARS AND TOBACCO

Consignees.	TOBACCO.		CIGAR.	
	Manif. lbs.	Leaf lbs.	Cs. Cs.	Cs. Cs.
M. Phillips.....	2900			
Eberg, Bachman & Co.....	2600			
Blum.....	1500			
Oppenheimer Bros.....	1400			
Weilman, Peck & Co.....	500			
Sanderson.....	3100			
A. Mau & Co.....	500			
Meier Bros.....	700	31,500		1
Boschen & Bros.....	140	560		17
L. E. & Wertheimer.....	900	560		
W. J. Johnson.....	500	560		
Wm. John.....			4	4
Michalschke Bros & Co.....			3	3
A. Boyer.....			1	1
C. T. Strong.....			1	1
Lieske Bros & Co.....			1	1
W. J. Johnson.....			1	6
H. Gussow.....			2	2
Thannhauser.....			1	1
Willems & Bendel.....			2	2

Total imports by sea and land, 12,290 lbs. Manufactured Tobacco, 33,440 lbs. Leaf Tobacco, 17 Cs. Cigars, 25. Total exports by sea and land, 2952 lbs. Manufactured Tobacco; 574 lbs. Leaf Tobacco. 1 cs 10 cigars, 150 Cs. Cigarettes.

U. S. Tobacco Journal.]

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—It is binders the people want. In all the dreary stillness of the market the cry for binders, at least for breaking the monopoly! While there is an abundance of cheap wrappers there is a striking dearth of binders. The unfortunate '82 Connecticut second made a gap in the usual yearly supply, and the few binders of '83 steps have been left up to now heavily drawn on, and the void is severely felt. If the low priced wrappers in the market possessed their flavor competing with that emanating from the body the demand could easily be filled. There is a peculiarity in the seed leaf in the market not exhibited in former years. With the exception of a thin, thin leafy stock, everything else is exceedingly thick. Outside of this unusual inquiry for binders there is a fine craving for so-called Little Dutch filters. They sell at 15 to 24 cents, and appeal strongly to the nostrils, their flavor competing with that emanating from a cup of aromatic tea. (As there seems to exist a decided preference on the part of the average smoker for somewhat small cigars, it is not surprising that he inclines himself into believing that he is using up a clear Havana cigar, manufacturer, especially the middle size, has settled upon Little Dutch filters to suit the occasion. The whole crop of Little Dutch, whose birthplace is Ohio, only consists of a few thousand cases, and the market is not glutted with an appalling demand, has probably been almost exhausted, a suspicious link in our market, and the price of the same has risen to a point where it is in the hands of unscrupulous manufacturers as being the only true and original Little Dutch. We repeat this is merely a suspicion, of which we cannot feel feeling considerably shaken, especially as a recent law suit in this city demonstrated the fact that the dealers and jobbers in the New York last market euphonic consider the sale of Massachusetts tobacco as Connecticut, and that no one manufacturing the same would they contemned. Outside of this unusually heavy very few of the market are in the hands of the same in this city, excepting those making very cheap grades, and on this point we have no further to contribute any regret at this. They see in the conservative demeanor of the jobbing trade a financially healthy condition, and a moderate revival of business whatever for a depressed or disorganized business in the near future, a strong and active trade is expected, and on this point we have no further to contribute any extraordinary anxiety about the present dullness. (New York Tobacco Leaf.)

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.—Virginia Leaf.—Nothing of any consequence has been heard of late in some of wrappers and cutters comprising the sales. Not much business will be done until after January 1, as manufacturers are waiting for the market to get well out until they take stock and balance their books for the year. (New York Tobacco Leaf.)—But little has been done this week, so far as Virginia Leaf is concerned, from 7 to 10¢ cents. (Western Tobacco Journal.)

CINCINNATI, Dec. 10th.—There was a much better offering of cigars than we have had for some time, but yet it was comparatively small. This consisted in most part of the commonest sorts. This was caused by the market being so well supplied until they take stock and balance their books for the year. (New York Tobacco Leaf.)—But little has been done this week, so far as Virginia Leaf is concerned, from 7 to 10¢ cents. (Western Tobacco Journal.)