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ANOTHER VITICULTURAL REPORT.

By the courtesy of the Hon. Geo. West and Secretary Wheeler, of the State Viticultural Commission, we are this week enabled to give our readers the former gentleman's report.

We have not yet received from Commissioner Blowers the conclusion of his report, of which we published the first portion last week.

COMMISSIONER WEST'S REPORT FOR

SAN JOAQUIN DISTRICT.

STOCKTON, Jan. 15, 1884.

To the Board of State Viticultural Commissioners:

GENTLEMEN:—Of the six counties comprising my district, but one has, in the past two years, made any material advancement in viticulture. This one is Fresno.

In the immediate vicinity of Fresno City there are about 2,700 acres of wine grapes and at least an equal acreage of raisin grapes, although the raisin vineyards are planted in such small plots that it is almost impossible to obtain an accurate estimate.

The first planting was made by Mr. Eisen, in 1872, and more or less has been done each succeeding year, although most of the vineyards have been put out in the past four years.

The principal wine vineyards are those of Messrs. Barton, Eisen, Eggers, Kirby, Woodworth, Mallice & Denicke and the Fresno Vineyard Co.

The Barton vineyard contains 500 acres and is the largest in the district. The Eisen, Eggers, Mallice and Fresno Vineyard Co.'s vineyards each contain over 300 acres. These vineyards are planted chiefly in Zinfandel, Charbono, Malvoisie, Fehér Zagos, Burger and Blau Elba, although a considerable acreage of Trousseau, Mataro, Grenache, Carignan, Folle Blanche and Sauvignon has been put out by Mr. Kirby, and Messrs. Mallice & Denicke. 300,000 gallons of wine were produced in 1882; 200,000 by E. F. Eisen and the remainder by the Eggers and Trochich wineries. In 1883 a considerably larger amount was produced, five wineries being in operation, those of Mr. Robert Barton (E. Norel, Superintendent) and the Fresno Vineyard Co. being added to those heretofore mentioned.

Of the raisin vineyards, the most important are those of Messrs. Butler, Goodman, Forsythe, Pew (Prof. Eisen, Supt.),

Hinds & Rose, White, North and Miss Austin. In addition to these, there are many small vineyards situated in the various colonies surrounding Fresno, comprising in all, probably, 2,000 acres.

These vineyards are planted almost exclusively in the Muscatella Gordio Blanco, and from them a raisin has been produced by Miss Austin and Mr. T. C. White which will compare favorably with any produced in the State. The climate of Fresno, with its dry, warm nights, seems peculiarly adapted to the curing of grapes, and I believe she is destined to be one of the largest raisin producing counties in the State.

At Madera, 25 miles north of Fresno, 400 acres of wine grapes have been put out by Messrs. Doyle & Minturn, Stockton and the Madera Vineyard Co., the varieties planted being the Zinfandel, Folle Blanche, Grenache, Trousseau, Mataro, Verdál and Sauvignon. None of these vineyards have come into bearing.

At Minturn Station, near the northern boundary of the county, 500 acres were planted last season by West & Minturn and J. W. Minturn; the chief varieties being the Folle Blanche, Colombar, Frollich, Trousseau, Charbono, Mataro, Chaucé Noir, Verdál, Crabbl's Black Burgundy and Fehér Zagos.

The productiveness of Fresno vineyards is something almost incredible to vinegrowers in other sections of the State. On the Eisen vineyard, Zinfandel vines two years old have produced six and one-half tons per acre. The growth of these vines, however, was forced by seepage from the canal, and the average crop of a large vineyard would not be over two or three tons per acre for the third year.

It was formerly considered necessary to irrigate these vineyards in the summer; but now most of the growers irrigate only in winter and spring, achieving the true principle of irrigation to be simply to supply the lack of a sufficient rainfall. Some vineyards have not been irrigated since planted. In the Butler vineyard it was seen what continued irrigation will do for a country as this has never been irrigated, while the land adjacent to it has been flooded for years, and although this vineyard, as I said before, has not had a drop of water artificially, it is as thrifty as any in the county. In the vicinity of Fresno City it is considered necessary to level land before planting in order that the vines may be more readily irrigated in rows. At Madera and Minturn, however, where there is a more abundant supply of water in the winter, the land is flooded by a system of high checks, or levees. This system is also used here, up to a certain extent, but the land is generally leveled.

The Fresno vineyards have heretofore been grown without staking, but the Fresno Vineyard Co. staked 100 acres last summer, and Mr. Barton and others will follow the example next season, believing that the quantity and quality of the grapes will be improved thereby.

It is still considered advisable to grow Muscats near the ground.

I am sorry to say that pests of various kinds have appeared in Fresno this year, and have done considerable damage. The tobacco worm appeared in vast numbers in the Washington Colony and cleared many acres of vines of their leaves. The fruit being exposed to the hot sun was, of course, ruined.

Killing them by hand was the only means found for checking them, as many as 200 worms from one to four inches in length having been killed on a single vine. This pest will probably not appear often and is consequently not so much to be dreaded as the yellow mite, which has appeared in some of the vineyards east of Fresno and threatens to become a formidable enemy to the vigneron.

The common road beetle appeared at Madera in July of this year in the new role of a vineyard pest and destroyed nearly forty acres of young vines. Nothing was found to check their progress but the strongest insecticides proving entirely ineffectual. Whether or not this beetle will appear again is simply a matter of conjecture, but it is certainly a pest much to be dreaded in young vineyards, although older vines were left untouched.

The tripp, or vinchopper, did considerable damage, but no more than in other parts of the State.

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