

magne to our own is that proprietors will denude their lands of wood if their immediate interests seem to point in that direction."

The preservation of the timber necessary for use in future years is in itself no light matter. If the destruction of our forests continues for a few years more, timber will be a very scarce and costly article. A year's sojourn in the prairie country of the West would teach us who are blessed with an abundant supply of timber, something of its value, and that is great. It is abundant here, hence the wisdom of saving it from further destruction. Had we to pay half the prices paid in some of the Western States, we would think that the forests after all were worth possessing.

Nor can we be ignorant of the serious loss experienced in our farming from the want of that protection for our crops and live stock that is rendered necessary by the severity and changeableness of our winters. Every year is an additional lesson in the injury done to our fall wheat, much of which would, there is no doubt, have been prevented, were we so provident as to leave standing timber for shelter.

In parts of the neighboring country they cannot raise fall wheat at all, owing to the want of forests; and in many parts it is only by planting forest trees for screens that they are able to raise fruit. We have no doubt some crops, but little grown here, such as rape and tares, might be grown with profit in many places, were our fields better sheltered by the preservation of sufficient of our native woods.

In favor of the preservation of our forests there is yet another reason too little thought of. It is that they have a great influence on the sanitary condition of a country—so much so that well wooded countries are sure to be healthier than those without trees, other circumstances being equal. Dr. Pettenkofer, of Bavaria, well known for the soundness of his judgment, as well as for the extent of his scientific research, has, after careful investigation, published a treatise on the subject, demonstrating by facts carefully collected, the great influence of forests in checking cholera and other contagious diseases. The state of the Campagna, in Italy, at the very gates of Rome, is well known. It was, in historical time, teeming with life, a scene of active agricultural industry, the abode of thousands of citizens. The forests were then cut down; the land denuded of the trees which had counteracted the effect of the deadly malaria that depopulated that populous territory, and the husbandman now makes his home not there, but in haste goes and gathers in his crops, and returns home to a more healthy place.

The improvement in the sanitary condition of Egypt in consequence of the groves and gardens planted there by Mahomet Ali, is cited as another of the many instances of the improvement of a people's health by this simple but efficacious method. Though there is no such deadly malaria in Canada, as in Egypt, from which forests are needed as a preventative, yet there are extremes of cold and heat to be guarded against. These extremes lay the foundation of those pulmonary complaints so very frequently met with, and to moderate these extremes—even had we no other inducement—it should be sufficient for the better preservation of the forests. In proof of this, compare the wooded country of Canada with the bleak prairies of Iowa.

Since writing the above we have received the report in Ottawa of gentlemen engaged in the lumber business, and from it we make a brief extract confirmatory of what we have written:

"The committee recommend that a committee be appointed before the close of this meeting, to investigate and report fully with regard to the best practical means of bringing the supply of timber and lumber into accord with the demand, and to check the waste of the valuable

raw material that now goes on by excessive production."

In seconding the motion for the adoption of the report and recommendation, the Hon. Mr. Skead said:

"He had been 34 years in the business, having had experience of it in all its phases, and if he lived 34 years more—which in the course of nature he could not do—he believed he would see the production reduced to a hundred feet for every million now being taken out. Our forests were getting denuded quickly, and there was about twice as much being taken out of them as there ought to be."

Let us, then, for the sanitary condition of our country, for a protection of our crops and stock from the injurious inclemency of the weather, for a wise provision for future years, guard against the wasteful destruction, and plant young trees wherever necessary. —S.

Change of Seed.

This can often be done by farmers without cash payments or loss in any way, except a little care and forethought.

We were conversing with Mr. Pontey, of St. James' Park Nurseries, near this city, and he informed us that two years ago he sent some Early Rose potatoes to be planted on a farm at Watford, for which he was to receive, two years afterwards, a few bushels from the same stock for seed. This spring he received the potatoes from Watford.

These potatoes were planted in the same field, with the same cultivation, and planted at the same time that he planted his general crop. The other potatoes or seed planted was from his own crop and from the same stock that the potatoes from Watford were raised from. The seed from Watford appears as if it will yield near double the crop that his own stock will produce. The plants are about twice as high and more vigorous.

The stock of his own raising had been successively planted on his own land for four years. He is determined to change stock for seed purposes oftener in future. Some of our readers may profit by this suggestion to a far greater extent than many of them imagine.

Crop Reports of the Season.

In another column will be found a report of the crops in this part of the country from the inspection of the Editor. Though there have been some failures and light yield in some places, the fruits of the season have been, on the whole, such that there is a promise of full granaries, with lower prices than we have had for some time. We can hardly speak definitely as yet, but such are the general anticipations. The demand from Europe will not be so very great as it has been, and the increased number of acres under cultivation in America, will more than compensate for the failures in some places from drought and insects. We have given a report of the "Grasshopper Plague," as it is called, in some parts of the West; and we give from the *Prairie Farmer* of July 5, reports from Illinois, of the great prospects there.

A DROUGHT.

Everything now looks as though we had entered upon a period of extreme drought. But few localities in the Western States have been visited by showers for many days, and all the time the heat has been intense. It is too early, of course, to predict the damage that will ensue, and we all hope that the end of the dry term is near at hand. The effect upon small grain, except such as follow their increased propagation of insect pests cannot be very great, but the corn crop is not yet out of harm's way, and it, too, is in danger from the chinch bug, which is losing its hold upon the grain field as the harvest advances. The pastures, too, must suffer severely unless a decided change comes. The reports from Ohio are alarming. The following from Cincinnati, the 5th, is a sample:—

The severe dry weather that has prevailed in Eastern and Southeastern Ohio for several weeks, is resulting in considerable injury to farming interests. The pastures are brown and bare, and the ponds and streams are dried

up. Along the railway lines fires prevail, and a good deal of damage has been done along the Panhandle road by fire, wheat in the shock and fences being consumed. The greatest extent of damage is between Steubenville and Columbus. Corn is pretty badly curled, but is a good color, and if rain comes soon will make a crop. Old residents fail to recall any season when the heat was so severe and prolonged so early in the season. They greatly fear that unless relief comes in the way of rain soon the corn crop will fail, and cattle be driven to starvation for want of grass.

In Southern Illinois the raspberry crop has been greatly shortened, and the blackberries are almost a failure. The peach, and possibly the pear crop will be seriously affected. —*Prairie Farmer*.

REPORTS FROM MINNESOTA.

A late dispatch from St. Paul says that crop reports from all portions of the State are at hand. Grasshoppers have undoubtedly destroyed 500,000 bushels of wheat, and are liable to destroy another half million of bushels. Allowing for the grasshoppers' destruction, the whole crop will not be as good as last year. In the northern part of the state weather has been favorable, with plenty of rain. In the southern part, moisture has been scarce, while very fervent heat has been the rule. The yield in the northern part of the State will be good, probably fully up to the average, unless the weather of the next ten days proves unpropitious; while in the southern portion harvesting has commenced, or will soon commence with a generally light yield of all grain crops. It is too soon to make a close estimate of the wheat yield compared with last year. Allowing for the grasshopper devastation in the southwestern and western counties, and for a diminished yield from drought, the surplus wheat crop of the state may be roughly estimated at 22,000,000 to 25,000,000 bushels. Barley, rye and oats promise well, although barley is somewhat shrunk. In the lower counties potatoes are abundant, with no complaint so far of potato-bugs. The season has been excellent for hay in this region. Cattle are moderately cheap.

GOOD AND BAD NEWS FROM MORGAN COUNTY.

After four weeks of scorching, burning drought, we are to-day enjoying a beautiful and refreshing rain. One month without rain, and the mercury indicating 90° and 100° in the shade, has a more serious effect upon the agricultural interests of the country than the "Grass-Patch Brigade," (as the *Times* calls the water wasters of your city), are likely to imagine. Corn, with its rolled and twisted leaves pointing skyward—pastures brown and bare almost as in winter, and vegetation generally curled and twisted as if seared with a hot iron. By this drought the small fruit season was shortened nearly half, and the yield materially lessened. Blackberries are already ripening at less than half the usual size. The early potato crop was cut short nearly half, and all garden vegetables were greatly injured. The chinch bugs, too, have been operating without check, and many an acre of wheat, oats and corn have they destroyed. A farmer who has lately traveled over the country considerably, says that people here have no idea what a great amount of damage they have done.

Almost every farmer I meet reports 10, 15, or 20 acres of corn destroyed, and still the work goes on. The Soldier bug and Lebia Grandis have pretty effectually relieved us of the potato beetle, at present at least, and with plenty of rain the late crop may yet be a good one.

If nothing interferes with the grape crop it will be the largest ever known in the country. —*Prairie Farmer*.

Morgan Co., Ill., July 8.

The report of the Department, embracing all the States, gives a general view of the corn crop as the largest crop in America. From this it will be seen that there is a prospect of abundant crops.

THE DEPARTMENT REPORT.

The July Report of the Department of Agriculture, just received, says that an increase in the corn area of fully 2,000,000 acres is apparent, or 6 per cent. above the breadth of last year. The percentage is largest in the South; the increase in acres is largest in the West. Returns make the gain in Iowa over 300,000 acres; in Missouri, about the same; in Illinois, about 200,000; in Kansas, about 170,000. Georgia shows almost as large an increase as Iowa and Missouri; Alabama, 180,000 acres; Mississippi, 120,000 acres; Texas, 200,000 acres. The inducement to enlarge the corn area of the cotton States appears to have been less influential in the Mississippi Valley than in the more eastern states, Georgia particularly. The increase in Texas is simply due

to the natural expansion of crop areas from immigration, and is equally noticeable in cotton and other crops.

The number of States reporting a decrease in area small, including only Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Florida, Louisiana, Tennessee, West Virginia, Kentucky and California. In Northern New England a late unfavorable spring interfered with planting, and in Louisiana the area is less by reason of the overflow.

The Report says the general condition of the corn crop in the West is good, but elsewhere variable. We presume the most of the information on which the statement for the West is based, was received before the drought had done its worst in Illinois.

Emigration.

There is a time for all things. There has been a time to encourage emigration, but the past season has been the worst to do so, as just after the money panic in the States, and the great expenditures of money in Canada during the past year, these two causes give us this year an unusual number of unemployed hands, wages are much lower, and the best men only are wanted. The emigration agents should be more cautious than ever of the class they send out, and the season when they send them. The Government should now look after the emigrants that arrive here, and prevent starvation to some of them with part of the money that is paid to agents to send them here. There are no poor houses in our country, and a poor, honest, industrious emigrant arriving here, and being out of cash, might just about as well kill himself as submit to the hard and degrading task of getting a crust of bread from the relief officers of some Corporations in Canada.

We give the following picture sent us by one of our readers, a reliable person. It may tend to show even to our Canadians, that everything is not so far superior in the States, and leave the motto of "Stay at Home" more firmly impressed on your minds:—

FACTS WORTH KNOWING.

CHICAGO, August 3, 1874.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.—Outside of the United States, the idea is generally prevalent, especially among young men, that if they once set foot upon the dominions of Uncle Sam, their troubles are at an end; that gold and silver can be found on every side; that the fields are always green, and the land may be had for merely asking for it. It is time this nonsensical idea exploded. It is all moonshine, as many have found to their regret—not only Canadians but thousands from across the Atlantic. The steamship companies and U.S. emigrant agents have done so much to induce emigration to this country, that we are completely overrun with mechanics, laborers and men who have no particular calling, but who came here, like the others, on being told that there was employment for all. It is certainly a significant fact, and one well worthy of consideration by intending new comers, that many, very many, have returned to the old country, sick at heart, and indignant at the manner in which they have been duped; and these persons, when having once more set foot upon their native soil, and perhaps in the old homestead, will have many a sad story to relate of their hardships and trials since they were induced to leave home, and try their fortunes in the New World; and this will have a good tendency, as their experience will go far in deterring others from coming here.

The alarming frequency of suicides—especially among foreigners, and Germans at that—has awakened much interest, and it has been proven that nine out of ten of the victims ended their days because they could find no means of subsistence. Almost daily, some poor unfortunate is found floating in the river or hanging from a rafter in a barn, amidst these scenes of luxury and wealth; his purse is empty; his form emaciated; and when intelligence concerning him has been elicited, it is generally found that he is not many weeks from the old country, speaking, perhaps, a foreign language; had spent all his money, being then, as usual, cast out of his boarding house, and after searching fruitlessly for employment, is thrown into the utmost despair, and ends his misery, as many had done before him. Cases of this kind are of frequent occurrence in Chicago, as a reader of the daily papers cannot fail to see; but as we have become hardened in crime of all kinds, we give such things little thought.

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