

The *New-York Herald* says the prospects for the sugar-crop of 1859 are decidedly gloomy, the stubble having generally failed. It gives the sugar-crop of Louisiana for the past ten years as follows :—

Crop of 1849	.....	247,923	hogsheads.
“ 1850	.....	311,201	“
“ 1851	.....	236,447	“
“ 1852	.....	321,934	“
“ 1853	.....	449,324	“
“ 1854	.....	346,600	“
“ 1855	.....	231,412	“
“ 1856	.....	73,976	“
“ 1857	.....	247,097	“
“ 1858	.....	365,000	“

From the above it will be seen why the Chinese sugar-cane, or SORGHO, which was in 1856 and 1857 most prominently brought to the attention of American farmers, was so eagerly adopted, that, in a single year, at least a hundred thousand acres were put to cultivation. If it shall be found that this year cane has been so injured by winter frosts as to reduce the sugar crop to minimum of 1856, we may expect with the aid of three years' experience with the sorgho, to see western sugar-making undertaken to a very large extent.

As regards the cereal crops throughout our Western States, there has not recently been a year when a full harvest was of more momentous importance. The short crops of the two years past have caused a prostration of trade and enterprise of such an extreme nature as to have reduced the price of land which in 1856 was worth fifty dollars per acre, to about twenty. Some five hundred millions of dollars have been expended for railroads, built solely to transport the products of western farms to Atlantic markets, and which, in consequence of the small quantity of products offered for transportation, and diminished arrivals of immigrants, as well as to internal mismanagement, are not paying interest on their stock, or, in some cases, their running expenses. A full crop for the present year would set matters comparatively to rights again; and if once the farmers get out of debt, and can lay by a little money, the re-action, passing through all the links of the chain, from the small western store-keeper, and the jobbers and importers in our seaboard cities, would soon be felt at the end which is held in your cities of manufactures. If a general European war is to be impending, with what momentous importance is the question of food production in this country invested! To England, with her powers of production taxed to the utmost, her population increasing at the rate of a thousand a day, and her importations of breadstuffs to the amount of forty or fifty millions sterling annually; to France, with her four millions of inhabitants, who eat no bread because her large crop of ninety-seven millions of hectolitres of wheat leaves no overplus for them after feeding their thirty-two million compatriots; to Spain, whose central table-lands have by shiftler cultivation become overgrown with weeds and reduced in fertility; to Prussia, Austria, Belgium, Holland, and other States, where the increase of population is attended by a decrease of the breadth of land devoted to cereal produce—to all these the question as to whether we shall or shall not have a bountiful harvest is of great importance. And so reflectively, to us, your wars and rumours of war, your prosperity and adversity, your political changes and your commercial aspects, are all fraught with an indefinite interest, and as carefully studied by intelligent Americans as the more immediate events which are transpiring within our boundaries.—*Mark Lane Express*.

H. S. O.

*New-York, April 1859.*