

EUROPE'S GREAT SHORTAGE.

Needs Millions of Bushels of Wheat, Rye and Potatoes.

SHOULD ANYTHING LIKE THE

Figures Be Realized, More Than One-Half of All the Farm Mortgages in the U. S. Can Be Paid Off.

European advices to the American Agriculturist show a shortage this year in the European crops, as compared with average crops as follows: Wheat, 200,000,000 bushels; rye, 225,000,000 bushels; potatoes, 1,000,000,000 bushels.

The heaviest shortage in rye is in the countries of the largest production—Russia, Germany, Austria and France. In these countries, also, is the heaviest decline in potatoes. The seriousness of the situation is emphasized from the fact that rye, far more than wheat, is depended upon as a bread-stuff by the European masses.

The potato crop in these countries is found by the American Agriculturist to be about 25 per cent. less than last year. It may be still smaller. The United States has no potatoes for export, but if prices go high enough the United States can spare 240,000,000 bushels of wheat, 200,000,000 bushels of corn, 100,000,000 bushels of oats and 10,000,000 bushels of rye—a total of 650,000,000 bushels.

This will be the biggest export ever made of American grain. It is just about enough to offset Europe's needs for wheat and rye, but where is she to find a substitute for her enormous shortage in potatoes? Must she not take every bushel of foodstuffs that America can spare?

In the twelve months ended on June 30, 1897, following Europe's short crops of 1891, the foreigners bought from the United States flour and wheat amounting to 235,000,000 bushels, at an average export price of \$1.10 a bushel of corn, 177,000,000 bushels, at an average value of over 55 cents a bushel; of rye, more than 12,000,000 bushels, at an average of 95 cents a bushel.

The American Agriculturist thinks that foreign demand for our wheat and rye prices this year, as the export supplies in other countries that were available in 1891 are exhausted now. It even looks to a possibility of \$2 wheat.

A canvas of the farmers in the centres of commercial production has shown that the farmers are very firm holders. They think that they control the situation and say they want to net at their local shipping stations for wheat, rye and potatoes, \$1 a bushel, corn 30 cents; oats 25 cents; hay, \$12 and \$15, cotton 90 and 100 cents, respectively, 50 to 150 per cent. above last year's sales.

Should anything like the above figures be realized, more than half of all the mortgages on all the farms in the United States can be paid off this year.

INCREASE OF EXPORTS

At Southern Ports, While Those of New York Fall Off.

The forthcoming annual report of the Bureau of Statistics will show the percentages of the aggregate exports of the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, at 70 of the principal customs ports. It is shown that the exports from the port of New York have fallen from 49.32 per cent. of the whole in 1895 to 37.2 in 1897. Boston's exports were 9.11 per cent. in 1896 and 9.60 in 1897. New Orleans has made a gain from 8.47 per cent. in 1895 to 9.66 in 1897.

The increase in the exports from Boston is 5.2 per cent. in 1896 to 8.15 per cent. last year. This increase is said to be due to the large increase of the shipment of corn. The exports from Philadelphia have increased from 7.52 per cent. in 1896 to 8.15 per cent. last year. This increase is also due to the shipment of wheat. There was also an increase at San Francisco from 2.79 in 1894 to 3.77 in 1897.

Galveston, Texas, increased from 4.12 per cent. in 1896 to 5.54 last year and Newport News, Virginia, from 1.68 to 2.17. Baltimore, Md., increased from 1.23 to 1.49. Philadelphia increased from 5.62 to 6.29. San Francisco fell off from 5.41 to 4.50. Chicago fell off from 1.99 to 1.51 per cent.

THE NEXT ENCAMPMENT

Of the Grand Army of the Republic to be Held in Cincinnati.

The Grand Army of the Republic, in session at Buffalo, N. Y., last week, was one of the greatest of recent years. The reports presented showed that more than seven thousand members have died within the year just closed. Pensions, patriotic institutions and the public schools received particular attention in the commander's address.

The selection of the next place of meeting resulted on the first ballot 526 for Cincinnati and 214 for San Francisco in 1898.

J. P. S. Gobin, of Lebanon, Pa., was elected commander-in-chief.

The Situation in Uruguay.

The last mail advices received here from Uruguay showed that a reign of terror existed. Three lieutenant colonels, six majors, ten captains and many lesser officers had been cashiered "for complicity in the revolutionary movement." Generals Vasquez and Tajes, in command of the southern frontier, had resigned. The Montevideo papers, in referring to the military dismissals and resignations, state that the government censorship prevented the significance of these acts from being known.

SOUTHERN MILL OPERATIVES.

Cotton Mill Operatives May Organize if an Attempt is Made to Employ Negroes.

A special from Charlotte, N. C., to the New York Evening Post says: Organization among the cotton mill operatives in the South, often vainly urged by emissaries from labor unions in the North, may follow as the result of the attempt of a few mill owners to employ negroes. It is necessary in self-protection, some of the operatives say, and they add that an effort will be made to organize a union wherever there is a cotton mill, to which unions colored people will not be admitted.

In Atlanta, where a weak union was thought to have been potent in preventing the employment of negro women in a cotton mill, the membership has doubled since the incident. It is also announced that the mill operatives will ask for legislative action against the employment of children and fixing the limit of a day's labor.

If the efforts at organization succeed, relations very different from the amicable ones of the past may prevail between employers and employees, and the Southern cotton manufacturers may lose the advantage they have enjoyed in freedom from labor troubles.

SAVANNAH TO BE FREE PORT.

There Will Be No More Quarantine Charge There.

Savannah, Ga., will be a free port before the cotton season fairly starts. All quarantine charges will be removed and the commerce of the world will be invited to come into that harbor without paying anything for the attention given it at quarantine.

A majority of the members of the board of Aldermen favor doing away with all quarantine charges for vessels. They believe the way to increase Savannah's commercial business is to let the ships come there at as low cost to owners as possible, and acting upon this belief they have decided practically that all charges for fumigating, inspecting and cleaning ships shall be abolished.

SOUTHERN STATE FAIRS.

Secretary Wilson is Expected to Visit Them This Fall.

Many invitations addressed to Secretary Wilson to visit State and county fairs during the approaching autumn are being received at the agricultural department in Washington, a large number of them being from the Southern States. The invitations from this department express desire to have the secretary inspect the agricultural conditions and to have the benefit of his advice as a practical farmer after such inspection. It is known that he expects to go to Nashville during the fall, and it is considered probable that he may sometime visit there as to take in some of the fairs in the neighboring States.

MORMON ELDERS.

Utah Sends a Delegation to Work in Alabama, Georgia and Carolina.

A special from Chattanooga, Tenn., of the 24th, says twenty-four Mormon elders arrived from Utah today and registered at headquarters in this city. They are to be distributed at once throughout Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina. There have been more than 200 of these elders sent here this year so far.

Strength of Our Army.

According to officers of the war department, the present enlisted strength of the army is now nearly up to the full number allowed by law and can be easily maintained without any unusual activity on the part of the recruiting officers. The material now secured is of a higher standard than the army has ever had, and owing to the regulations designed for the comfort and happiness of enlisted men, the department predicts that this year will show fewer desertions than for some time past.

Boom for the Blind.

Superintendent John Russell Young has decided to introduce into the new congressional library at Washington a department for the blind. The library already contains a large number of volumes in blind letters, and it is Mr. Young's intention to make a complete collection of raised letter books. A reading room will be set aside for this department, which will be the first of its kind in this country.

George Will Not Build.

The Asheville (N. C.) Citizen has received a letter from Charles McNamee, with George Vanderbilt at Vauebeck, Germany, denying the recently widely published story to the effect that Mr. Vanderbilt intended to build a \$100,000 hospital in Asheville. Mr. McNamee says the story has no foundation in fact.

Father's Terrible Vengeance.

In Talbot county, Ga., E. E. Low was discovered by C. E. Womble in a compromising position with his daughter. Womble fired on Low, but missed. Low ran, but Womble pursued, and coming upon him beat his brains out with a stone, killing him instantly. He then went to the police headquarters and surrendered. Both men were prominent farmers.

Bryan to Be at Nashville.

At the request of Gov. Silas H. Holcomb, of Nebraska, and the Tennessee Centennial Commissioners of that State, Oct. 8 has been set apart as Nebraska Day at the Centennial. Hon. William Jennings Bryan has promised to be in the party of Nebraskans who will attend the Exposition on this occasion.

Killed by a Folding Bed.

Al. Hankins, a widely known sporting man of Chicago, was killed by the collapse of a folding bed.

THE FROZEN GOLD FIELDS.

One Hundred Interesting Facts About Klondike.

GOLD IS FINE ENOUGH TO FLOAT

It is as Large as All the States East of the Mississippi and North of the Ohio, Including Virginia and W. Virginia.

The following interesting facts about the new gold fields in Alaska are taken from the Chicago (Ill.) Times-Herald, and we submit them as conveying more in a nutshell than any other article we have as yet seen: Alaska is two and one-half times as large as Texas.

It is eight times as large as all of New England. It is as large as the South including Texas. It is as large as all the States east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio, including Virginia and West Virginia.

It makes San Francisco east of our center. Its coast line is 26,000 miles. It has the highest mountain in North America. It has the only forest-covered glacier in the world.

The Treadwell is one of its greatest gold mines. It has the best yellow cedar in the world. It has the greatest seal fisheries. It has the greatest salmon fisheries. It has cod banks that beat Newfoundland.

It has the largest river in the world. A man standing on a bank of the Yukon 150 miles from its mouth cannot see the other bank. The Yukon is twenty miles wide 700 miles from its mouth.

With its tributaries it is navigable 2,500 miles. It is larger than the Danube. It is larger than the La Plata. It is larger than the Orinoco. It discharges one-third more water than the Mississippi.

The water is fresh fifteen miles from its mouth. It has more gold in its basin than any other river. Its color is beautifully blue to its junction with the White river, 1,100 miles above its mouth.

Alaska runs 1,500 miles west of Hawaii. Yukon basin gold is estimated at \$5,000,000,000. The necessary eruptive force for the formation of great fissure veins is everywhere evident in Alaska.

Silk should be worn next the body, the clothing should be made of wool. Citric acid should be taken to prevent scurvy. The food that produces rectal diseases. Take medicine. Lima beans are good portable food. Snow glasses should not be forgotten.

Nowhere are mosquitoes so numerous. There are two kinds of poisonous flies. There are no snakes in Alaska. Moose are plentiful. The flesh resembles horse flesh. Capital of stock companies organized to do business in Alaska aggregate \$200,000,000.

It is probable that within twelve months Dawson City will be within four days from Juneau. In Central and Northern Alaska the ground is frozen to a depth of 200 feet. Snowfall in the interior is very light—six inches or so.

The heaviest rain and snow are on the southeast coast. No land contains finer spruce timber. In its low temperature gold filling in the teeth, contracts and falls out. Use amalgam. Men born in the southern latitudes have become insane in the long dark. Take a chess board and men. They prevent dementia. The medicine chest should hold pills, pills, pills.

A temperature of 75 degrees below zero has been recorded. When it gets below 50 there is no wind. A tent is as good as a house, and is cheaper. No shelter is needed except when the wind blows. At other times a sleeping bag answers all purposes.

Just below rapid ice forms only nine feet thick, and there fishing is done. In other places it will reach 40 feet. In the dark season here twilight lasts six hours, and almost any kind of work can be done. Elk, caribou and grouse are common and easily killed. Don't eat snow or ice. Melt them. Else quinsy. In low temperature the inside of the throat sometimes freezes. This is locally called "frost burning."

For frozen fingers use cold water. You can bathe only the feet and face. Sweat under blankets in summer or get rheumatism. In summer all land not mountain is swamp. Underfoot is ice cake, overhead 22 hours' sun. Everybody gets lice. Boil underclothing. Freeze sleeping bags. Talk on the ice pack is hear a half mile. An expert placer miner can pan dry.

Alaska "dust" is as big as wheat. Some gold is fine enough to float. Wear silk gloves and then fur. The Eskimo is virtuous, the Chilkat is not. Canadian rapacity will drive the miners into American territory. Canadian police are highly efficient. Reindeer will be the future locomotives. Alaska dogs are wonderfully intelligent—the result of selection and heredity. The natives eat much decayed fish. They are all honest.

THOUSANDS OF MINERS FROM OTHER NATIONS WILL GO.

A Chicago company leads in Alaskan exploration. Hay grows as high as a man's head. Hardy vegetables can be raised. All streams show true gold fissures. Take plenty of flour. Buy all you think you need, then buy more. Last winter a man killed himself because he had five pounds of baking powder and flour.

Under act of Congress communities of miners can make their own laws. No thief gets a fairer trial anywhere, nor a wiser execution. Alaska caches on platforms six feet high. Wolves. They will prey to wait a year or two. It costs \$1,000 now and will cost \$300 then.

All distances are gigantic. It is 2,000 miles from Sitka to Klondike. A boat leaving Dawson September 20th is chased to the mouth by freezing water. All wood in the Aleutian Islands grew on glaciers in Alaska. Whole forests break into the sea. Some streams are bridged by glaciers.

Some wood is beautifully polished by glacier action. Avalanches in the interior are unknown. Owing to dryness there is not much suffering from the cold. Take a 45-90 rifle with telescope sights.

One small tribe makes \$2,500 a year from silver fox skins. They are worth \$250 each. Exposed portions of the body freeze in ten minutes. Enough library. One Bible, one Shakespeare. Snow-shoes are not needed in the mine country. Buy mines from discouraged miners.

Trading companies will not carry goods for competitors. Next year competition will bring down their prices 50 per cent. Meals on the boat up the river cost \$1 each. Men who have gone this winter to make their living sawing wood will not have time to say much.

A CAR FAMINE ON.

Advanced Price of Wheat Causes Increased Shipment. The Rock Island road is experiencing a car famine, particularly on its lines in Oklahoma and the Indian Territory. It also has all the grain it can handle at South Chicago, where it delivers the largest part of its grain, there are 1,800 cars of corn on the track. There has been more corn sold for September delivery within a fortnight than the road will be able to haul. The St. Paul, Northwestern and Burlington have all they can do. The Chesapeake & Ohio has all its cars employed, and has leased 1,000 more.

Farmers throughout Central and Western Kansas are using every means possible to get their wheat on the market. The shipments were never before so large. As a result of the boom of wheat, several large sales of farm property have been made, and holders have increased values 25 per cent.

Charged With Embezzlement.

Thomas M. Arrington, of North Carolina, for twelve years past an employe of the postoffice department and recently charged of the Washington division of postoffice inspectors has been arrested at Washington, D. C., charged with embezzling government moneys. An investigation of Arrington's accounts has been in progress for some time and, it is said, resulted in the discovery of a shortage of about \$3,000. He was released on \$2,000 bond.

McKinley in Cleveland.

President McKinley was the guest of the American Bar Association at its banquet Friday evening, though the fact that he was to be there was kept very quiet. The President entered the banquet hall after the speaking began. He was accompanied by Secretary Alger and Senator Hanna. A seat had been reserved for him between the new retiring presidents of the association. After the applause which greeted the President had subsided the toastmaster announced that the executive committee had reported the election to honorary membership in the association of William McKinley, of Ohio. The announcement was greeted with cheers.

A POSTOFFICE ROBBED.

The Safe Blown Open and \$300 in Money and Stamps Secured. A special to the Charlotte (N. C.) Observer from Goldsboro of Aug. 28 says: The safe in the postoffice at Mt. Olive was dynamited early this morning and robbed of \$300 in cash and stamps. The negro postmaster saw a strange white man about the office yesterday, who seemed to be interested in the amount of business the office was doing. All left to him this morning was a demolished iron safe with plaster Paris strewn in every direction. It was a neat job.

SARGENT OBJECTS

To Sympathetic Strikes—Better to Remain at Work.

Grand Master Sargent of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, declares that he will not attend the meeting of union leaders at St. Louis; that he was opposed to sympathetic strikes and that the by-laws of the organization prevented him from taking part in them. Mr. Sargent said that the brotherhood would not be officially represented. He says it sympathizes with the striking miners and have shown it by their liberal response to an appeal for financial aid sent out by him, but they can do them more good by staying at work and earning money to contribute than they can by striking and thus cutting off the source of supplies.

ENCHANTING LAND, FAREWELL!

Rabbi David Marx Writes of His Visit to "The Land of the Sky." It is a relief to leave the busy haunts of men; the cities crowded with humanity, sweltering beneath the burdens of toil and the hot mid-summer sun and veer our course to the lofty summit of mountain.

How invigorating are the breezes that ramble through the cloud-kissed regions, sweet with the frankincense of fresh-leaved forests. The soul undergoes transformation. A new freedom possesses body and mind. The voices of the mountains stir to the quick every latent energy; and nature, unfolding within, breathes new life.

"Land of the sky!" Whoever named thee so, spoke no idle word, but truth were the thought: "Gateway to the earth and heaven." This region is most charming. Felton is not piled on Ossa, but backed against each other; like the huge waves of ruffled sea, the rugged peaks of the mountains rise with luxuriant foliage, until lost in the haziness of the distant blue, a veritable sea of mountains threatens to engulf the verdant valley that nestles below us, quietly resting, securely guarded by its heavy sentinels of thick-veined cliffs. Here earth looks to heaven with smiling contentment, and heaven rejoices at the gladness of earth.

The very clouds, that "rise like exhalations" from the valley, and uninvited enter our apartment, wear an air of fellowship. Phantomlike, as a breath they pass and airy their battalions of cumuli to glorify the departure of the day's sun.

And when night majestically spreads her star-studded mantle over the bosom of earth, and by one of the many pointed constellations twinkle with rough friendliness, how much more brightly appear these silvery decorations from our mountain retreat than when obscured and dimmed by clouds of valley or smoke of city.

Here the lover of natural scenery finds undying satisfaction. Every step shifts the slides of the marvelous panorama and throws before the eye a dissolving view of blending shades, color, outline and background, an entrancing picture, a view that never the same. Here nature charms by her creative powers. With unflagging zeal she cautiously retouches her handiwork, lest the eye grow weary and the soul become satisfied. Here heaven and earth meet in a kiss of such gentle tenderness that vision cannot discern the touching of their lips.

Softly, almost unconsciously, a spirit of pride enters our heart, and with the benevolence of a school lad, we claim ownership in this grand country. A patriotic impulse seizes us. Our soul harmonizes with nature. Our soul thrills with a new love for this "sweet liberty."

As we wind our way over roads carved through the timbered rock we marvel at the works of man and confess our obligations toward the skillful and daring engineers and surveyors who have wrestled from nature royal high ways.

Gratitude and recognition are due those whose brain and brawn devised and accomplished the wonderful winding mazes of these mountain paths over which we travel with ease, comfort and pleasure. Neither man nor beast seems to tire as mile upon mile of labyrinthine country pike is covered.

What a wonderful necromancer is this gaunt old mountain. Every bend of the road joggles with our senses and the grand orchestra of nature plays serenity of the conjurer. A low murmur as the Philomeneas and Baucis vow to one another love eternal; a soft rustle of the lowly plants, eager to make their presence known; a soothing sound from the contesting waters that in gentle rivalry precipitate each tender over the steep, rock cliffs amidst the plaudits of their moist friends, destined to fall into the rock-hollowed basin worn by centuries of battering—all these sweet melodies of the mountain hymn a psalm to the Maker of all, a glorious soul-stirring hallelujah. They lift the soul of man above the worries and burdens of life. The nebulae of cares are dissipated by the gentle wavings of nature, beautified by the land of deity.

Beautiful mountains of North Carolina, so calm and majestic; so lofty and inspiring! Would that mankind might behold ye, noted in the tints of wood-land, the hazy blue of atmosphere, the soft shadow of clouds and the benign radiance of heaven! Upon your summits, the king of day smiles with warm-hearted geniality, and the full-faced orb of night sheds her softest beams of silvery brightness. Round you play the storms of heaven, fiercely majestic and grand, you dwell the peace of sunshine and the grace of beauty!

With regret we leave your hallowing presence and the abode of your hardy sons filling the steep slopes of your stout-ribbed sides. Back to the haunts of men we wander, our vacation ended. Homeward we turn our reluctant step, but with a new born strength to assume the duties of life; richer in health; wealthier in activity; nobler in thought.

Enchanting land, farewell!

DAVID MARX. —Atlanta's Constitution, Aug. 11.

PITY NEWS ITEMS.

David R. Rider, Jr., 60 years of age, was stung to death by bees at Whitefield N. Y., while living bees. A severe wind storm in Chicago did considerable damage to buildings, killing one woman and injuring three other people.

"Healer" Schlatter, who is in Chicago, Ill., denies the report that he married Mrs. Ferris, widow of the Ferris wheel inventor.

The American Pharmaceutical Association in session at Minneapolis, Minn., decided to meet next year in Baltimore. J. H. Bobbitt, of North Carolina, was chosen secretary. Price-cutting was denounced.

Chief State Constable W. N. Bahr, of South Carolina, has been suspended from the force indefinitely by the Governor for being too talkative. An investigation will follow to see if the order will be made permanent. President Borda, of Uruguay, was assassinated by a boy while he was coming out of the Cathedral after attending a fete in celebration of the independence of Uruguay. He was not popular.

EUROPE NEEDS OUR HORSES.

All Consular Offices on the List Have Been Promised.

WILL REMAIN IN WASHINGTON.

Better Mail Delivery—Prospectors in Alaska Dependent on Charity—Other Newsy Items.

The decision handed down recently by the Attorney General to the effect that Deputy United States Marshals cannot be considered covered by the civil service law, by reason of the fact that the Marshal is compelled to give bond not only himself, but for his entire force, has called attention to the fact that deputy collectors of internal revenue are in precisely the same category. When this decision was called to the attention of Acting Commissioner of Internal Revenue Wilson, the latter admitted that the decision was an exceedingly important one, and could see no reason why it should not apply alike to the employes of the internal revenue offices as well as those of the United States Marshals.

"Deputy collectors of internal revenue," said Acting Commissioner Wilson, "are supposed to be under the same law as the Marshals. However, the civil service law is a fifth wheel, so to speak. Deputy commissioners of internal revenue are appointed at the commencement of the term of the new collector and hold their office for a period of four years in the department. The idea, therefore, that the employes in the internal revenue offices are under the civil service law seems to be a fallacious one. The civil service acts only a fifth wheel, and is elastic as the collector may desire."

In connection with the coming French exposition, Secretary of Agriculture Wilson hopes to develop a plan by which breeding of horses for use in cavalry by European armies will be encouraged. The demand for horses for army use is very great in Europe. The French government sent an army officer to the United States to learn how far horses could be drawn from this country for cavalry use.

The report was most favorable to American breeding and as to abundant supply. The needs of England in her military operations in Africa and Asia have led her to look to South America for cavalry horses. The department of agriculture, therefore, has considered the advisability of sending abroad an expert, who will investigate the needs of the cavalry of Europe with a view of meeting this need by American-bred horses. It will doubtless stimulate horse breeding at a time when that business has suffered much through the inroads of electricity and the bicycle.

Several complaints have reached the Treasury Department recently that large numbers of men bound for the Klondike country, but without provisions or money, are now being landed at St. Michaels, Alaska. None of the regular lines of steamers, first and foremost, for the Klondike, who are not provided with a sufficient amount of provisions and money to maintain themselves for a reasonable time without danger of suffering. Some of the tramp lines of steamers, however, are said to ship any one who can pay their passage, without regard to the future. The result is said to be that a considerable crowd is accumulating in the vicinity of St. Michaels, who are becoming dependent upon the charity of others for their support.

Consular applicants will be interested to learn that every consular office in the gift of the administration has been promised, and the names of the fortunate ones are now on file opposite the post to which they will be designated when the President gets time to make the appointments. This information is vouchsafed by the State Department to a gentleman who called on behalf of the Republican National Committee to have a place fixed for one of Senator Hanna's friends.

The trustees and elders of the First Presbyterian Church are very positive that Dr. T. DeWitt Talmage has not accepted any call from Plymouth Church, Chicago, or anywhere else. They state that they have received no word from Dr. Talmage expressing any change from his avowed intention of returning to them in September and that they are sure he will inform them if he had have any new plans for his future.

First Assistant Postmaster General Heath has issued special instructions to postmasters throughout the country providing for the exhibition of train notices in cities. The instructions being intended specially to benefit the commercial travelers and theatrical companies.

The report submitted to the Navy Department upon the condition of work on ships building shows that there are under construction now five battleships, one gunboat and thirteen torpedo vessels, a submarine boat and a navy-yard tug. Not an unprotected cruiser or monitor is either in course of building or being remodeled.

Ambassador White, at Berlin, in a dispatch to the State Department says that so far as he can learn the only article for which Germany pays an export bounty is sugar.

WEEKLY CROP BULLETIN.

The Drought's Again Becoming Very Injurious.

The beginning of the week ending Monday, August 30th was favorable, but the latter half was very warm and dry, and as no good general rain has occurred in August, the drought is again becoming very injurious in the central and east portions of the State. Cotton has been almost heavily fruited, however, that notwithstanding considerable shedding a large crop must be made. It is opening everywhere and picking will become general next week. Corn is generally very good. Curing and curing tobacco continues in northern and west portions of the State with excellent results.

EASTERN DISTRICT.—Some light showers occurred at the beginning of the week (23d and 24th), but the remainder was warm and very dry. The clear weather was favorable for fodder curing, and most of that crop has been saved in good condition. Cotton continues to suffer considerably from drought, especially in Northampton, Halifax, Edgecomb, parts of Wilson, Brunswick and Wayne, where considerable shedding occurs; many complaints of rust have been received. The crops are opening fast everywhere and picking from now on will be general. It is feared that some cotton is opening prematurely. Grinding cane and boiling syrups has commenced. There seems to be a poor stand for fall Irish potatoes generally.

CENTRAL DISTRICT.—Following the rains on the 23d and 24th fair weather set in which was beneficial, but the middle and latter part of the week became very hot and dry and drought is having telling effect on unwatered crops; especially late corn and cotton. It is feared that the drought has injured cotton more than was at first thought; it is shedding to some extent; at the worst spots the fields look as brown as they do in October. Cotton is opening fast and picking becoming general; considering how heavily fruited the plants are, a large crop is still possible. Late corn needs rain badly. Fodder curing is over in south and beginning in north portion. Tobacco is curing well. Much hay has been saved.

WESTERN DISTRICT.—The weather was generally favorable in this district, with scattered rains on several days in small amounts and frequent dew. The nights have been cool, but weather became very warm and dry the latter part of the week. There are relatively few complaints of damage by drought, though it is very dry in a few eastern counties. The corn crop seems to be especially good, and is practically made. Fodder is being pulled; cotton still blooming, opening nicely, very little shedding reported and picking will soon begin. Tobacco is fine, cutting going on, some cured. Hay making progressing, crops little slow.

NORTH STATE PICK-UPS.

Concord has a fruit jar famine.

At Asheville on the 28d wheat was quoted at \$1. At Salisbury a wagon factory is to be established soon. The silk factory at Greensboro has not yet begun operations. Orders have been issued for the arrest of tramps on the Seaboard Air Line. A steam laundry is to be established at Concord by W. A. Wilkinson and F. L. Robbins.

Local shippers of Winston held a meeting to take action regarding discriminatory freight rates. The Winston tobacco board of trade have organized a fair association and will hold a tobacco fair this week. Mr. Avery Cashion was killed at a saw mill in Burke county, a plank flying up striking him on the head and fracturing his skull.

The labor bureau is sending out blanks to secure information regarding the lumber industry in this State, particularly as to saw mills. The State's first bale of new cotton was marketed at Morven on the 21st; weighed 464 pounds, classed good middling, and sold for 84 cents.