

GOVERNMENT COTTON REPORT

North Carolina Leads in the Decline With 17 Points.

THE AVERAGE 70 PER CENT.

In the Grain Report Corn Shows a Falling Off, Being 77-Oats and Rye Increase.

The cotton returns to the Department of Agriculture indicate an average condition on October 1 of 70.0 as compared with 78.3 on September 1, a decrease of 8.3 points. The average condition October 1, 1896, was 60.7 and the average condition on October 1, for the last ten years is 74.5. There has been a further decline more or less marked, in every cotton-producing State, the decline in North Carolina being 17 points; in Tennessee 12 points; in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida and Arkansas 10, in the Indian Territory 8, in Alabama, Mississippi and Missouri 7; in Louisiana and Texas 6; and in Oklahoma 5 points.

Florida is the only State in which the decline is not attributed wholly or in a large part to the long continued drought. The complaints of "no top crop," or of an exceptionally small one, are almost universal, and the reports of small bolls and short staples are very numerous. The only favorable reports are those which relate to the conditions for picking which are in the main everything that could be desired.

The averages by States are as follows: Virginia, 70; North Carolina, 70; South Carolina, 74; Georgia, 70; Florida, 53; Alabama, 78; Mississippi, 74; Louisiana, 72; Texas, 64; Arkansas, 67; Tennessee, 65; Missouri, 74; Oklahoma, 50; Indian Territory, 85.

The Grain Report.

The October report of the statistician of the Department of Agriculture shows that the condition of corn on October 1 was 77, as compared with 73.3 on September 1, with 59.5 on October 1, 1896, and 82.5, the average for the last ten years. There has been an improvement during the month of 6 points in Maryland and 4 in Iowa. On the other hand, there has been a decline of 3 points in Kansas, 6 in Nebraska, 3 in Ohio, 3 in Illinois, 4 in Missouri and a general decline in the Southern States.

The preliminary estimate of the yield per acre of oats is 28.1 bushels, an increase of 3.8 bushels per acre over the October estimate of last year. The principal increase is west of the Mississippi river, Missouri, Nebraska and Kansas showing an increase of 6.13 and 15 bushels per acre last year. The average for quality is 87.

The preliminary estimate of the yield per acre of rye is 16.1 bushels or 2.8 bushels per acre greater than the October estimate of last year, 15.3. The principal rye-producing States all show increases as follows: New York, 4; Pennsylvania, 3; Michigan, 4; Wisconsin, 1; Kansas, 7 bushels per acre over last year. The average for quality is 92.7, as compared with 89.9 in October last year. In New York and Pennsylvania it is 2 and 5 points, respectively, and in Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska it is 1, 2 and 4 points respectively.

EXTENT OF THE RAIN.

The Backbone of the Long, Trying Dry Spell Broken.

A special from Memphis, Tenn., says reports from the Central and Southern States say the backbone of the long, trying dry spell has been thoroughly broken. The rain which fell in Memphis on Monday, was the first which had fallen in six weeks, and dire consequences had already resulted from the drought, with worse to follow if relief did not come. The rains were very general, being spread over a large proportion of the territory most in need of it. Throughout the entire Mississippi Valley rains have fallen. Texas, Oklahoma and the entire region south of the Ohio have been treated to grateful showers. The heaviest rain fell in Georgia.

Senator George's Successor.

Jackson, Miss.—(Special.)—Governor McLauren, of Mississippi, has appointed Senator-elect Hernandez de Soto Money, as United States Senator to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late Senator J. Z. George, whose term expires in 1899. Senator George, before his death, having declined to become a candidate for the high office, an election for the regular term was necessary, and the last Legislature after a long debate, elected Mr. Money for the regular term beginning in 1898.

Great Labor Strike in London.

London.—(By Cable.)—The secretary of the Federal States, comprising thirty important industries, announces that the executive committee has definitely decided to call off all its members in sympathy with the struggle of the engineers against their employers. It is estimated that a total of 400,000 men will be out of work on account of the great labor dispute.

Lee on His Way to Cuba.

General Fitzhugh Lee, Consul General to Havana, is in Washington. It has been generally understood that General Lee was to return to Havana about the middle of October, and his return to the capital at this time presumably is for the purpose of receiving his final instructions from the President before sailing for his post.

True Bills Against Bank Officials.

At Lynchburg, Va., the grand jury finds three indictments against James Hancock, president; B. E. Hughes, vice president; W. P. Roberts, director; and T. E. Conell, acting cashier, for receiving deposits, knowing the "Traders' Bank" to be insolvent at the time.

Decided by One Vote.

At a local election in Atlanta, Ga., a single vote decided the contest in one of the wards, thus controlling the City Council.

DROUGHT CALLS A HALT

Distribution of Merchandise in the West is Delayed.

Bradstreet's commercial report on the past week, says: Distribution of general merchandise in the West and Northwest is further checked, owing to the prolonged drouth in Kentucky, Illinois, portions of Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and the Dakotas. Telegraphic advices to Bradstreet report serious damage in Kansas and parts of Nebraska and Iowa, where early planted wheat is up and budding out, that planted later is not likely to sprout. Fall plowing is now impossible, six weeks without rain having dried up pastures and compelled farmers to feed stock. Manufacturing industries throughout the Central West, particularly iron and steel, continue active, and there is an increasing tendency on the part of the interior merchants to remit promptly. While the volume of trade has decreased at Chicago, it is ahead of the like record in recent years. There is a moderate improvement in business in the South, Alabama having raised the quarantine against Georgia cities, and Central and Northern Texas points having resumed commercial relations with Galveston.

Planters continue to hold cotton, which delays collections. Higher prices this week are reported for cotton, which has been declining for some time. Wool and clothing, in sympathy with coal and iron, are depressed. The iron and steel market, by larger traders; wheat, wheat flour and eggs, fruit, lard, beef and sugar have declined. Hides are weaker, lead is lower and Bessemer pig has sold off 50c. A ton under heavy speculative offerings, notwithstanding the iron and steel markets as a whole remain active and firm.

Exports of wheat (four included as wheat) from both coasts of the United States and Canada show a heavy falling off, aggregating only 4,838,641 bushels, against 8,241,000 bushels last week, and compared with 4,050,000 bushels in the week a year ago, 2,244,000 bushels in 1895, 1,644,000 bushels in 1894, and 1,089,000 bushels in 1893.

Corn exports also show a heavy drop, aggregating only 3,100,000 bushels, against 2,108,000 bushels last week, 2,722,000 bushels in the week a year ago, 1,367,000 bushels in 1895, 164,000 bushels in 1894, and 1,089,000 bushels in 1893.

There are 237 business failures reported throughout the United States, compared with 189 last week, 280 in the week a year ago, and as compared with 406 in the first week of October, 1893.

FOR SEVEN WEEKS.

No Rain Has Fallen and Man and Beast Suffer.

A special from Tusculum, Ala., says: Not a drop of rain has fallen in this section within the past seven weeks, and but for the big spring here, from which the farmers and others for miles around Tusculum procure water, the suffering would be great. The spring flows over seventeen thousand cubic feet per minute, is inexhaustible and is proving a blessing to man and beast.

Fully 90 per cent. of the cisterns and wells in this vicinity are dry and have been for several weeks, and all vegetation has long since been parched and burnt up.

Great Dismal Swamp Abiase.

Forest fires have again broken out in the great Dismal Swamp, and millions of feet of valuable timber have been destroyed. The big game which abounds in the swamp has been driven into the open by the flames, and many deer and bears have been shot. The farmers who allowed their cattle to roam have suffered heavily, as many valuable animals have perished. It is almost impossible to subdue the flames, as the forest is dry as tinder, the result of the long-continued drought.

Yellow Fever Situation.

Official report of the board of health at New Orleans up to the 9th: Cases of yellow fever 25; deaths 6; cases to date 440; deaths to date 56; recovered 223; under treatment, 362. At Mobile, Ala.: Total cases to date 114; deaths 18; recovered 62, remaining under treatment 34. At Edwards, Miss.: Total cases to date 406; total death 20. At Biloxi, Miss.: Cases to date 291; deaths to date 12. Dr. Guiteras reports 8 cases at Galveston, Tex., but it is of a mild type.

Cuba Will Not Accept Autonomy.

Thomas Estrada Palma, head of the Cuban junta in New York, in a signed statement telegraphed to the Atlanta Journal, declares that Cuba will not accept autonomy from Spain. He states that he reflects the unanimous opinion of the Cuban generals and government when he says that the only solution is their independence.

Took a Smoke on the Scaffold.

At Monroe, La., Pat Paine, the wife murderer, was hanged privately in the jail yard. He asserted his innocence to the last, was perfectly cool and collected, and drank a glass of cognac and smoked a cigar on the scaffold. His neck was instantly broken.

Kentucky Tobacco Crop.

Commissioner of Agriculture Moore, of Kentucky, in his monthly report, says that the tobacco crop has been cut short 16 per cent. as a result of the drouth in Kentucky. The corn crop is also badly damaged. Hogs are reported dying in many counties for want of water.

Hay and Farm Buildings Destroyed.

A disastrous fire is raging in the Kanakawa Marsh, twelve miles south of Crown Point, Ind. The flames have spread over twenty sections of land and thousands of tons of hay and many farm buildings have been destroyed.

Charlotte's New Postmaster.

The President has appointed W. H. Smythe postmaster at Atlanta, Ga., and J. W. Mullen at Charlotte, N. C.

FLORIDA'S FISH CONGRESS.

The Government Has Extended Invitations to Other Countries.

A BIG OCCASION AT TAMPA

To Talk about How to Grow Fish, Oysters, Turtles, Sponges and Bull Frogs.

Washington.—(Special.)—The Fish Commission is very much interested in the National Fishery Congress which convenes at Tampa, Fla., in January, 1898. The congress will, it is believed, prove to be one of the most noteworthy gatherings of the kind ever held in this country. A large attendance of representatives of the various State fish commissions, angling and fishing associations and the National Fish Commission is expected; and all persons interested in fishing, angling and fish culture will be welcomed. The United States government has extended invitations to the governments of Great Britain, Germany, Russia, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Sweden and Norway, Denmark, Belgium, Austria, Hungary, Greece, The Netherlands, Japan, China, Mexico, Brazil, Venezuela and other countries. It is proposed to organize an International Fish Association at the congress.

The call for the congress was issued by Governor Bloxham of Florida. One of the main objects is to secure harmony among the States in providing for the preservation, propagation and protection of their water products. Fish culture, oyster culture, turtle culture and frog culture are down on the programme for discussion. The application of modern methods to the cultivation of oysters is a subject in which all the coast States will be interested. Turtle culture is an innovation, but is fast becoming a necessity in the absence of protection to the young and eggs of the green turtle. The utilization of waste marsh land and ponds for the rearing of bull frogs for market is a subject of great interest to many thousands of people. The opportunity for discussing small means to engage in this business is excellent.

One of the timely topics that will be prominently presented to the congress is the sponge industry. While Florida is the only State actively participating in the sponge fishery, every State is directly interested. Already some of the best sponge grounds have been depleted and the necessity for artificial measures to maintain the supply is being generally appreciated. Sponges are in great demand in the transportation of some of the finer grades of Mediterranean sponges to Florida waters. The best Turkish and African sponges bring \$40 to \$50 a pound, while the choicest of the Florida sheep's wool sponges are worth only \$2 to \$3 a pound.

The conditions in the transportation and needs of the great question of fisheries will receive considerable attention, as will the question of fishery legislation. Exhibits of fishing apparatus, fishery products, and appliances for preserving or preparing fish are solicited from dealers, manufacturers and others. Some device for drying fish like fruit is said to be needed on parts of the Southern coast and inventors would do well to take advantage of this opportunity to exhibit methods for this. Sessions of the congress will be devoted to the angling interests. Florida in winter is an angler's paradise, and an opportunity will be afforded for an experience by anglers from all parts of the country. An angling tournament and competitive tests in fly casting with appropriate prizes have been provided for.

SEVEN YOUNG GIRLS PERISH.

Burned to Death in a Fire at a State Industrial School.

The girls' cottage at the State Industrial School at Plankinton, S. D., has been burned and Thelie Hooper, in charge of the sewing department; Nellie Johnston, aged 13, of Grafton, N. D.; Mabel Kobert, aged 9, of Sioux Falls; Bessie Kerby, aged 14, of Hot Springs; Eva Warner, aged 10, of Watertown; Christian Bergman, aged 11, and Lillian West, aged 11, of Sioux Falls, perished in their night clothes. The loss is about \$20,000 with no insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown but was probably caused by a lamp exploding.

Living Huddled Together Like Sheep.

A special from Raleigh, N. C., says: Another ark load, forty-nine of Lynchites or sanctified band, arrived at Southport. There are now over 200 here, and they say more arks are coming. They are living huddled together like sheep, without regard to sex. Joseph Lynch, their leader, works daily for farmers. So do all, or nearly all, his flock work till they actually fall from exhaustion. Their women get any work they can do. Their meetings are held in the court house and some Methodists are meeting with them to the horror of others of that church.

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Earthquakes in Borneo.

According to the statistics of the United States Bureau of Labor, there are 27,000 married men in New York city who are supported by their wives

CONFEDERACY'S DAUGHTERS.

Fourth Annual Convention of Their Society to Meet in Baltimore.

The Baltimore Sun says the fourth annual Convention of the United Daughters of the Confederacy will be held in Baltimore, beginning on November 10, and lasting probably three days. Lehman's Hall has been secured for the meetings.

About one hundred delegates are expected to be present, representing all the Southern States, Indian Territory, California and New York city. Mrs. Jefferson Davis is the honorary president of a large chapter of the Order in New York city, and she may attend.

Mrs. D. Girard Wright, wife of Judge Wright, will deliver the address of welcome. Mrs. Wright is first vice-president of the order and president of Maryland Chapter. The response will be made by Mrs. Augustine T. Saythe, of Charleston, S. C., second vice-president of the Order. Miss Fitzhugh Lee, wife of Gen. Lee, will preside at the convention. It is also expected that Mrs. William H. Felton, of Cartersville, Ga., will repeat during the convention her address on the education of the daughters of Confederate soldiers deported at the Confederates' reunion in Nashville some months ago. Reports will also be made to the convention by the various chapters of the work of the year and officers will be elected.

Among the distinguished Southern women expected at the convention will be Mrs. Elision Capers, wife of Bishop and Gen. Capers, of South Carolina, and president of the division of that State. Mrs. John R. Currie, daughter of Gen. W. L. Cabell, of Dallas, president of the Texas division, Mrs. L. H. Raines, of Savannah, president of the chapter of Georgia, and president of the national society in 1896; Mrs. C. Helen I. Plano of Atlanta, president of the Georgia division; Mrs. John P. Hickman, of Nashville, Tenn., national recording secretary, and Mrs. L. J. Jefferson Thomas, of Atlanta, national treasurer.

The Anna Stoneval Jackson Chapter of Washington, headed by their president, Mrs. Walter R. Bullock, will attend the convention in a body. The local members will entertain the delegates, and there will be a reception during the Convention at the Confederate Soldiers' Home, at Pikeville. Miss Kate M. Rowland is the corresponding secretary of the Order.

The objects of the Order are memorial, monumental and beneficial. Aid is given to destitute families of Confederate soldiers and help is extended in the erection of monuments to commemorate the valor of Confederates. The Order is also assisting in the work of having introduced in the schools histories of the South will be properly treated.

BANKERS ARRESTED.

Embezzlement and Conspiracy the Charge—\$30,000 Bond Each.

A special to the Raleigh (N. C.) News and Observer from Asheville, N. C., says: Wm. E. Brees, president, W. H. Penland, cashier, and J. C. Dickinson, a director of the defunct First National Bank of Asheville, have been arrested on indictments from the United States Court, in session at Greensboro, charging them with embezzlement and conspiracy. Thirty thousand dollars bail was required in each case, which was given.

They have all been under \$5,000 bonds since July 1, for violating the national banking act. Since then, National Bank Examiner Maxey has been in Asheville, and has made some startling discoveries. One of these discoveries is alleged to be the fact that \$250,000 of "accounted for" bonds signed by insolvent persons, and filed out by the officials, and some forged papers, are in the bank. Some of the insolvent notes had been re-discounted at other banks. C. B. Leonard, the note signer, is an impressive, astute street car motorman, plasterer, carpenter and others of no financial standing, has fled to Mexico.

INVITED TO SEE OUR MILLS.

Southern R. R. Wants to Bring Cotton Manufacturers South.

The Southern Railway Co. has extended an invitation to the New England Cotton Manufacturers Association, to visit the cotton mill centers of the South, located along that system of railway, and it is expected a large number of the members of the association will accept the invitation. About 250 cotton mills are located on the line of the Southern Railway, and the number is increasing.

Weyler Refused to Resign.

Madrid, Spain.—(By Cable.)—At a cabinet council the government decided to grant autonomy to Cuba under the suzerainty of Spain and to continue the campaign as long as may be necessary. Señor Gullon, minister of foreign affairs, explaining to the cabinet the position of the diplomatic negotiations with the United States. Señor Sagasta, the premier, has received a cable message from Captain General Weyler, who offers his services to the government and says: "I shall not resign."

A Bank Robbed of \$3,000.

A special to the Louisville Post from Morganfield, Ky., says: Thieves entered the office of the Union City Bank and secured over \$3,000 in currency, which had been left in the cash drawer. When the bank officials returned they found that the drawer had been rifled. The vault was closed and locked, so the thieves had no chance to get the money without detection.

French Towns Ruined by Rain.

Torrents of rain have fallen in the departments of Aube, Ariège and Haute Garonne. Bridges have been demolished, villages have been flooded, many houses have been undermined, and great damage generally has been occasioned.

Infant Beat to Death.

In Opelika, Ky., a negro woman went to the field, leaving her infant in charge of her older children. The cry of the baby disturbed the other children and they beat the infant to death with switches and sticks.

Busy Mills and Better Pay.

The cheering information comes from Chattanooga, Tenn., that, on account of the improvement of the iron conditions in this section, Capt. H. S. Chamberlain, president of the Roane Iron Company, operating the Rockwood Furnace, and of the Citico Furnace Company, has announced an advance of 10 per cent. in the wages of all employees of the two furnaces. This advance was unsolicited so far as the wage-earners were concerned.

Murdered in the Public Road.

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Earthquakes in Borneo.

Earthquakes are reported to have shaken many places on the northeast coast of Borneo, and a new island has been thrown up near Memphis.

DESTROYED BY FLOODS.

Tens of Thousands Are Homeless in China.

Tacoma, Wash.—(Special.)—The steamer Victoria brings news of the most disastrous floods that have visited China for many years. Sixty villages near Sung Chou, containing over 80,000 inhabitants, have been destroyed by floods and the people drowned or forced to flee. There are no means of finding out how many thousands have been drowned, but the number is estimated by Chinese authorities at 15,000 to 20,000.

The flooded district is within twelve miles of Peking, the capital of China. As a rule Chinese officials make very little stir when a calamity like this happens, but the proximity of the disaster has resulted in its being brought to the attention of the emperor, who has ordered that all possible relief be given.

Survivors from the villages nearest Peking have been allowed such shelter as they can find in the city walls but thousands are without protection against the rain, which continues to fall. Their distress is most pitiable. Public spirited and wealthy men of Peking and Tung Chou are actively assisting the authorities in providing them with food. The floods have greatly damaged a large number of estates belonging to Peking nobles. The unusual rains began July 23, and continued until Aug. 15. The crops in the flooded districts were destroyed. The prefects, local magistrates and people of the flooded districts prayed for the cessation of the rain seven days before they were finally driven out of their homes.

Early in September high officials of Peking and Tientsin suddenly forbade the slaughter of cattle, their object being to appease the wrath of God and stop the rain. Proclamations to this effect were posted. The result was to cut off the entire meat supply, which led foreign consuls to protest against the prohibition and to report the situation to the foreign ministers at Peking. It is claimed that the action of the officials constitutes a violation of the treaty rights.

VIRGINIA REPUBLICANS.

Patrick Henry McCaul Named as the Candidate for Governor.

The State Republican convention of Virginia, in session at Lynchburg, nominated the following ticket: Henry McCaul, of Culpeper, for Governor; Col. O. B. Roller, of Harrisonburg, for Lieutenant Governor, and James Lyons, of Richmond, for Attorney General. Col. Wm. E. Wickham, of Powhatan, was elected State chairman, and he with J. S. Patten, of Roanoke; Alva Martin, of Norfolk; T. K. Hacken, of Harrisonburg, and Colonel R. T. Hubbard, of Buckingham, compose the State executive committee. The State central committee is made up of three members from each congressional district.

A complete plan of organization was adopted. The platform is brief and endorses the National Republican platform, the McKinley administration, honest election, etc., and deals with State issues.

FIRE SWEEPS MANTOBA.

Some of the Towns Threatened—All Farmers Suffer.

Winnipeg, Man.—(Special.)—Reports continue to pour in from all parts of the province of destruction by prairie fires. In some districts not a farmer escaped loss by the fiery wave that swept over the country. Appeals were made in all the city churches for aid for those who sustained loss in the brush country east of the city. This was where the two women and five children lost their lives and many other families had thrilling escapes from fire which had hedged them in on all sides. Several families lost homes, crops and all live stock, and as they are new settlers are left destitute. The fire ran to within 100 yards of one of the principal residence portions of the city south of the Assiniboine, and firemen had to be called out to beat off the threatening flames.

ECLIPSE OF THE SUN.

To be Witnessed in India by American Astronomers.

Two expeditions will leave California this month for India to witness the total eclipse of the sun. Prof. Burkhalter astronomer at the Chaboy observatory, will go with a complete outfit, and Prof. W. W. Campbell, of Lick observatory, will represent the State Institution. The Pierson expedition for the Chaboy observatory will leave October 30. W. W. Campbell, of the Lick observatory, will start October 12, and it is probable that the two expeditions will meet in the Orient.

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AMONG THE COLORED RACE

Negro Preacher in Sweden a Great Curiosity to the Peasants.

NEGROES AND TRADE UNIONS.

About Our Progress—Strive to be Useful—Don't Be Afraid of Honest Labor.

The Minneapolis, Minn., Journal says the Rev. W. S. Brooks has returned to this city after an absence of two years and will take charge of St. Peter's African M. E. Church. After leaving this city Mr. Brooks went at once to Europe, visiting England, Norway, Sweden and Finland in turn. It is a question whether he was more interested than interesting while traveling in Scandinavia and Finland. He certainly saw much that pleased and instructed him, but his feelings probably were not to be compared with those of the peasants when they gazed upon the American visitor. Mr. Brooks, it must be understood, is quite black and distinctly African in his features. Now many of the natives of the interior have not been twenty miles from home