

THE CONDITION OF CROPS.

October Report of the Department of Agriculture at Washington.

WASHINGTON, October 21.—In addition to the synopsis furnished by the Associated Press, the following extended extracts from the October report of the Statistician of the Department of Agriculture, issued today, will be perused with interest:

COTTON.—The cotton season has been too variable in temperature and precipitation for the best development and largest fruitage. It was too dry in September on the Atlantic coast, resulting in further shedding of bolls. The boll-worm has wrought local injury in the Gulf States, and the caterpillar in lesser degree. The weather has been comparatively favorable for picking, except for excessive heat and for rains in the Mississippi Valley and Texas. The season is late, and the risks of early frost are therefore greater than usual, and liable to discount the present apparent condition.

The Georgia and Alabama condition is reported the same as last month. Tennessee makes a slight improvement. The Carolinas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas show a small reduction. The averages are: Virginia, 72; North Carolina, 75; South Carolina, 74; Georgia, 81; Florida, 87; Alabama, 80; Mississippi, 79; Louisiana, 79; Texas, 74; Arkansas, 86; Tennessee, 96. The average of condition is 79.3, against 82 last month, and 78 in October of last year. It is six points below the October average of the crop of 1879.

Local estimates of yield per acre, in fractions of a bale, are made by correspondents, subject to the vicissitudes of the later season, and especially the lateness of killing frost. They must not, therefore, be cited as official predictions of the result of the harvest. The State averages are as follows: Virginia, 32; North Carolina, 32; South Carolina, 31; Georgia, 30; Florida, 27; Alabama, 29; Mississippi, 40; Louisiana, 49; Texas, 37; Arkansas, 52; Tennessee, 35. General average, 36.

As a summary of the situation, the average of condition is a point higher than last year, the area is one per cent. more, and the season is later. The difference between a long and short season may easily be a half million bales.

CORN.—The area of corn has increased twenty per cent. since 1879, with very little stimulus from exportation, which has been but about three per cent. of the quantity produced. It still occupies more than half of the area in cereals, and produces greater value than any other crop except grasses for hay and pasture. The increase is more rapid in the West, and the crop is most productive and profitable between the parallels of 36 deg. and 40 deg.

This year there was a slight decline in area in several of the Atlantic coast States, with some increase in other States of the South, and a larger advance, as for many years past, west of the Mississippi. The preparation for the crop in the corn growing States was delayed somewhat by spring rains. In the Gulf States planting was later than usual, while on the Atlantic coast it was generally earlier.

The temperature of the Ohio Valley in planting time was normal, and high in the Missouri Valley; in the Southern Atlantic States it was low in April and nearly average in May; while on the Gulf States it was generally near an average during the season of corn planting. July temperature was low in all the corn-growing region except the Missouri Valley and the Northern Pacific coast region.

At the first of September the condition of corn was low, from deficiency of heat in the Northeast, from excess or irregularity of rainfall in the Atlantic coast States and those of the Gulf coast, with deficiency of moisture west of the Mississippi and some excess of heat, causing an injurious drought, which also affected some districts east of the Mississippi. The effect of these injurious conditions was to reduce the general average from 95 in July to 81 on the 1st of August, and to 77 on the 1st of September. The high temperature of September, however, with the absence of injurious frosts, made a very material improvement in maturing the crop, and brought the general average up to 80. The difference between this season and that of 1885 is quite fairly indicated by the October average of condition, which was 95 last year, the same as the average for July this year. It means a reduction of four bushels or more per acre for the entire area—equivalent to about 300,000,000 bushels.

The August decline was unequal, and in the Carolinas, Georgia, Mississippi and Louisiana, there was some improvement, with less moisture and more sunshine. In Texas drought caused a decline of two points. The Upper Ohio region also made some improvement, while Illinois and the States west of the Mississippi suffered heavy reductions during August, in consequence of the prevalence of drought.

The final averages of condition of the seven States which produce seven-tenths of the crop are: Ohio, an increase from 89 to 90; Indiana, from 92 to 93; Illinois, from 72 to 74; Iowa, from 67 to 78; Missouri, from 62 to 73. While the improvement was quite marked, it is possible that a small part of the depression in the August figures comes from the uneliminated "panic," which is an element in bad returns that always causes trouble in scientific consolidation.

Condition is high in New England, from 92 to 98, and nearly as high in New York and Pennsylvania, and changes from 80 to 90 in the Southern States east of the Mississippi, is still higher in Arkansas and Louisiana, and falls to 75 in Texas in consequence of drought.

INTERESTING PARAGRAPHS.

A crematory is to be built at Pensacola, Fla. Miss Kate Field is to pass the early winter at Old Point Comfort. Will Carleton, of "Betsy and I Are Out" fame, has been lecturing in Europe. Frederick Douglass and his white wife are a great success in London. Forty-two new ice factories have been started in the south during the past nine months.

Miss Hester Clarke, of Marion, Ala., says if she lives to see Christmas she will be 123 years old. Rosa Bonheur has received a wild mustang as the latest addition to her Fontainebleau menagerie. P. T. Barnum is to give a new schoolhouse, built on new plans, to the town of Bridgeport, Conn. The Harlan family will hold a reunion next year on the 30th anniversary of their establishment in America.

President Cleveland, it is said, usually wears a flower on his coat lapel now, which he never did before he was married. A professional beggar shipped \$70 in nickels, dimes and quarters from Sioux Falls, D. T., to her husband in Minnesota. Philadelphia housekeepers, tired of vain efforts to get good servants, are now experimenting with colored help from the south. The Austrian government thinks of introducing the tricycle into its postal service, and experiments to that effect are now being made.

George H. Boughton, the artist, has gone to the Hebrides, and there, as he writes, "I hope to get the last particle of London soil blown clean out of me." A hospital has been erected at Baldwinville, Mass., and dedicated to the treatment of epileptic children. It is the only institution of the kind in the world.

An Unprecedented Accident.—One would have thought it impossible that there should be an unprecedented accident; but it is said that the steamer of the Loch Fyne, by which 7 persons lost their lives recently, had never occurred before. It has been the custom of the bailies of Glasgow to attend the annual "monster blast" in the great granite quarries of that loch, and this year the custom was observed. Seven tons of powder were fired at once, dislodging, it is believed, some 80,000 tons of granite, and after the stone had fallen the "visitors strolled into the quarries to see the result."

Some 500 ladies and gentlemen were standing about the loch, and after another was observed to fall apparently dead, till nearly a hundred bodies were stretched on the stone. They were at once carried by to the quarrymen; but it was found that 7 were dead, and that 30 more were more or less injured, a few severely. The visitors had been asphyxiated by the sulphurous vapor caused by the blast, the shortest among them feeling it first and most severely. One witness, who fainted but recovered, testified that the sensation was "rather pleasant than painful." No blame attaches to any one, the vapor having been retained longer than usual by the horseshoe shape of the quarry, which stops the breeze on three sides.—London Spectator.

Property That Goes Cheap.—"You don't catch me paying full price for furniture and carpets," observed a thin man, who was craning his hat, as he stood in with a crowd at a down-town resort in Chicago, last evening. "I've got a better thing, and as my house is nearly all furnished I don't mind giving the scheme away. Perhaps you have noticed that every now and then a number or a suicide occurs at a hotel here. Well, that's just my persimmons. Such things are more dreadful to the average hotel keeper than the day of judgement. The room where the tragedy occurred is always ripped up immediately, and the carpet, furniture, bedding and everything carted out and new stuff put in. I have kept track of these sort of occurrences, and by presenting myself at the office early I have made a low bid and taken the property at my own figure. What's a few spots on things when you can furnish your house elegantly for nothing almost? There's only one thing that I need now, and I can get along without that, of course, but still I would like to have it. I have a parlor where a murder was committed, a dining room where a man shot himself, and three suicide bedrooms, one of them a cut-throat, but I have no library, if some gentlemen will kindly stop a hotel reading room for me I'll be pretty well fixed."—Chicago Herald.

Largest Woman in the World.—Winnie Johnson, who is on exhibition in Cincinnati, is probably the largest woman in the world. She is five feet eight and a half inches in height, measures three feet around the upper arm, four feet five inches around the thigh, eight feet nine inches around the bust, and is said to weigh 733 pounds. Winnie is a black woman.

Bitten by a Cottonmouth.—Rosa Fenton, an Arkansas girl, was bitten in the forehead by a cottonmouth snake. She shook off the serpent, ran to the wood shed, seized an ax, chopped off the finger, tied her handkerchief tight around her wrist, and, telling her mother to pour whiskey down her throat, fainted. She is all right now.

Mrs. Mark Hopkins.—The wealthiest woman in California is Mrs. Mark Hopkins, the widow of one of the four original founders of the Central Pacific railroad. Her fortune is estimated at \$40,000,000. She divides her time between San Francisco and Great Barrington, Mass.—New York Graphic.

Broke Up the Party.—A citizen of Holyoke, Mass., was drinking at a bar the other day with three companions, when his wife came in, joined the drinkers, and ordered drinks for the whole party. It is said that no more effective way of breaking up a drinking party was ever known in that section.

A Cool-Headed Girl.—Recently a New York girl of 13, who had taken lessons in "First Aid to the Injured," was in Fallsburg, N. Y., when a boy was thrown from a wagon and his leg broken. She at once put her knowledge into use, set the leg, and he is recovering fast.—New York Sun.

Delayed by Fallen Leaves.—Railroad trains running through woods are more or less delayed at this season of the year by leaves that are drawn to the track by the suction of the trains. They are ground under the wheels, and the moisture thus pressed out makes the rails slippery.

The New Certificates.—The Harrisburg (Pa.) Independent notes one advantage in the new certificates for credit: "They will enable liberal people to drop a dollar into a church contribution plate or box without attracting attention by the ring of its fall."

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