

OLD WORLD PLANTS.

Government Importations Promise Much to Our Agriculture.

GUY ELLIOTT MITCHELL.

At the recent meeting of the National Board of Trade in Washington the report adopted from the committee on agricultural statistics presents many facts of great interest to the farmers throughout the country and those dependent upon them for their prosperity, showing the large scope of the work of the Department of Agriculture and the enormous actual benefit which its investigations have been to all of our producing areas.

After discussing the question of the Department's methods of gathering statistical information regarding growing crops, the National Board of Trade recommending a modification of the present methods, including the cutting down of the great army of farmers and others who are called upon by the Department for reports on conditions of their crops, and the reorganization of the Bureau of Statistics upon a basis of fewer but more reliable reporters, carrying greater individual responsibilities, and also in the cutting down of the free seed appropriations and the substitution of a practice of distributing only those seeds and plants which will be a probable benefit to the various sections of the country as a nucleus about which to build up a substitution of more valuable crops than those now grown by the farmers. In response to a request, the committee received a statement from Secretary Wilson bearing

from 210,396 acres in 1898, to a total of 610,700 acres in 1904, raising the value of the land from between \$1.00 and \$1.50 per acre to from \$35.00 to \$50.00 per acre, and the output has been increased from 179,919,293 pounds of rough rice in 1898 to 869,436,800 pounds in 1904. In the matter of fruits, it will be remembered that the Department introduced the Bahia orange, known as the Washington navel orange, which has become the standard orange throughout California. More recently, the Department has expended in the neighborhood of ten thousand dollars in the introduction of the date palm into Arizona and California and although sufficient time has not yet elapsed to enable us to state positively what the outcome will be, there appears no reason to doubt that an entirely new industry will be built up in these sections as a result of the efforts of the Department. The present value of date importations is, roughly speaking, half a million dollars. This consists largely of the cheaper grades of dates, the finer varieties from the Sahara seldom coming to this country except in very small quantities. These can undoubtedly be grown in our southwest.

American Sugar Beet Seed.

The introduction of the sugar beet, while not due primarily to the efforts of the Department, has unquestionably been greatly assisted by the dis-

tribution of vegetable seed each year the real value to the country of such distribution cannot be compared with that of even one good introduction like macaroni wheat, Japanese rice, an improved variety of cotton or various other articles which might be mentioned.

WHY FENCE WIRE RUSTS.

Department of Agriculture says Farmers Use Cheap Material.

A bulletin setting forth the results of an investigation made by the Department of Agriculture into the corrosion of iron and steel wire fencing was issued recently to the farmers of the country. Many complaints have been made to the department in the last year regarding the present quality of iron and steel wire used in fencing, and to improve these conditions, with the hope of determining some remedy for the corrosion, Secretary Wilson ordered a thorough investigation. The reports came to the conclusion that the chief trouble is that the average farmer insists on using the cheapest wire for fencing, and the cheap wire naturally corrodes.

The department claims that some manufacturers hold that if it were possible to make a better grade of wire at even a slightly higher price, it would be useless to put it on the market, as the American farmer would not buy it, because he desires cheapness above other considerations.

The result of preliminary experiments made by the Agricultural Department pointed to the manganese in the wire as undoubtedly being the chief cause of the corrosion, and it is stated that the more manganese there is present in fence wire the quicker it will rust or deteriorate.

To show the possible causes for the



JAPANESE BAMBOO TREE

The Bamboo is the Staple Wood of Japan and Its Uses Spell Legion.

growers whether this part of the work of the Department of Agriculture does not hold out the greatest possibility to the future of America of any branch of the government. Every now and then a new plant or new variety is discovered and introduced which may revolutionize that particular branch of crop production. The macaroni wheat which the Secretary mentions is a fair example. Extensive trials of this wheat have been made throughout the middle belt of the United States, just west of the producing area for ordinary wheat, and it is believed that a vast section of possibly a million square miles heretofore thought unfit for any agriculture, is capable of producing this new grain at the rate of from 15 to 20 bushels per acre. With such a startling showing as this due entirely to the experimental work of the Department who shall say when the food producing limit of the world may be reached?

Bringing Asia to Our Doors.

For every section of the vastly diversified soil and climate of the United States, says Secretary Wilson, there is a corresponding spot in some portion of the old world where agriculture has been successfully prosecuted for centuries. What we need is full and complete information regarding the old world agriculture and the intelligent application of that knowledge to our own country.

It would be possible to extend his letter almost indefinitely, the Secretary continues, were we to go into the various agricultural possibilities which are now being worked up by the Office of Seed and Plant Introduction and Distribution. We are now at work upon the introduction of the Japanese matting rush into the United States. There are imported annually into the United States something like one million dollars worth of matting. The owners of a newly invented loom guarantee that the value of the annual consumption of raw material to supply their factories will not be less than \$2,000,000. We are working to establish the culture of this matting rush in the abandoned rice fields of the Carolinas and the work has already progressed far enough to justify a reasonable assurance of success. We are also working to introduce a disease resistant strain of Bermuda or Easter Lily and with fair prospects of success. We are encour-



MITSUMATA RAIN COAT.

Woven from a Japanese Plant which the Department is introducing in the South.

corrosion and that manganese is at the bottom of all the trouble, the department quotes a number of steel, iron and metallurgical authorities on the subject.

SOUTHERN FARMS.

Rapid Increase in Values Makes the Whole South Prosperous.

Manufacturers' Record.

While it is true that the industrial development of the South is going forward with amazing rapidity, it is nevertheless true that, by virtue of the extent of the agricultural interests in the South, agriculture is yet the foundation of the business of that section. A change from poverty to prosperity of the farmer, and a change from land without selling value to land in demand at an advance of 50 to 150 per cent over the nominal price of one or two years ago, is the most far reaching development in Southern advancement of the last quarter of a century.

It is far-reaching in many ways. It means that within the last year or two Southern farm properties have increased not less than \$1,000,000,000 in value, probably at least \$1,500,000,000. But more than that, it means that under this improved financial condition the Southern farmer has gained new courage, new backbone, that he has learned how to market his cotton crop; that he has fought to a finish the great battle as to whether the producer or the speculator is to control the price of his staple. Having won this fight, the entire handling of cotton from the field to the factory, whether the factory be in this country or in Europe, has entered upon an entirely new stage in its history. It also means that land will be more thoroughly cultivated, for the successful man, whether he be a farmer, a merchant, or a manufacturer, is always better able to work to good advantage than the one who is fighting a losing battle.

More and more the diversification of agriculture has gone on and more and more have fruit growing and truck raising, "hog and hominy," with the meathouse at home rather than in the West, been developed throughout the South.

Rich from Everywhere.

The United States exported last year \$15,000,000 worth of oleo oil.

It is estimated that there are 4000 professional beggars in London and that they collect over \$1,500,000 a year, woman.

The United States sells nearly \$200,000,000 worth of lard, cattle, fresh beef, bacon, hams and oleo oil annually to Europe.

Paderewski says he keeps his hands oiled nearly all the time and soaps them in very hot water before giving a piano recital.

It has been estimated that the average man winks about 4,000,000 times a year. No actual count has ever been made, however.

In the Brazilian zoological garden there is a spider monkey which was operated on for cataract of the eyes, and which now wears glasses.

Copper prospectors and miners are opening up the ruined forts, villages and canals of a vanished race of men that once peopled the rock-walled mansions of southern Utah.

Free Catarrh Remedy Gives Instant Relief No More Bad Breath



My Secret Remedy Quickly Cures Catarrh.

Catarrh is not only dangerous, but it causes bad breath, ulceration, death and decay of bones. Loss of thinking and reasoning power kills ambition and energy, often causes loss of appetite, indigestion, dyspepsia, raw throat and reaches to general debility, idiocy and insanity. It needs attention at once. Cure it with Gans' Catarrh Cure. It is a quick, radical, permanent cure, because it rids the system of the poison germs that cause catarrh.

In order to prove to all who are suffering from this dangerous and loathsome disease that Gans' Catarrh Cure will actually cure any case of catarrh quickly, no matter how long standing or how bad, I will send a trial package by mail free of all cost. Send in your name and address to-day and the treatment will be sent you by return mail. Try it. It will positively cure it that you will be welcomed instead of shunned by your friends. C. E. GAUSS, 604 Main St., Marshall, Mich. Fill out coupon below.

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is 36 inch long, weighs 10 lbs., is finished, and also sent free of charge. It has a steel barrel, all working parts nickel-plated; walnut stock, pistol grip, pearl sights; used indoors or for killing small game; shoots BB shot and darts; most accurate rifle made. Send in your name and address for only six pieces of jewelry to sell at soc. each, return \$5.00 when sold. We will send this rifle once and a supply of shot. COLUMBIA NOVELTY CO., Dept. 12, East Boston, Mass.

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is the title of our new Catalogue for 1906—the most beautiful and instructive horticultural publication of the day—156 pages—700 engravings—7 superb colored plates—7 decorative plates of vegetables and flowers.

Every Empty Envelope Counts as Cash

To every one who will state where this advertisement was seen and who encloses Ten Cents (in stamps), we will mail the catalogue, and also send free of charge, our famous "Henderson" Collection of seeds, containing one packet each of Giant Mixed Sweet Peas; Giant Early Parsnips, mixed Grand Florida Apples, mixed Henderson's New York Lettuce, Early Ruby Tomatoes, and White Tipped Scarlet Radishes in a coupon envelope, which, if returned, will be accepted as a 25-cent cash payment on any order amounting to \$1.00 and upward.

PETER HENDERSON & CO

A SAFE INVESTMENT \$5 or More Per Month Buys Protected Interest in Tropical Plantation.

This Company is developing its plantation of 286,000 acres on the Gulf in Campeche, Mexico, and Guarantees 8 Per Cent Interest. Payable semi-annually to all who buy the shares. Whenever possible extra dividends are paid. Last year 2 1/2 cents was paid; this year (in January) 3 1/2 cents was paid. Shareholders will therefore receive at least 10% in year.

INTERNATIONAL LUMBER & DEVELOPMENT CO.

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ARIZONA PROPAGATING DATE GARDENS. Grown From Seedlings introduced by the Department of Agriculture. Being Prepared for Shipment to the United States.

tributed during this year 15,000 pounds of American sugar beet seed and the growers will probably produce in the neighborhood of 300,000 pounds next year, all of which has been contracted for at the present time.

Most of the Money Wasted. Although the amount of money which the Secretary may use, out of the annual appropriation for the distribution of seeds, for the discovery, collection and distribution of new seeds and plants is quite limited, and but a pittance of the amount authorized by Congress for the distribution of common cabbage, radish, tomato and other garden and flower seeds, the Department nevertheless is doing some re-



CAMEL LOADED WITH BERSEEM. This is the Clover of Egypt and is Believed to be of Great Value to Certain of Our Drier Climates.

ing upon the work of the Department in the collection and distribution of experimental seeds and plants which contains much of interest. The Secretary says to the committee:

"I am pleased to give you a statement showing in a general way the importance of the work of seed and plant introduction to this Department and to the agriculture of the United States. The appropriation for 1906 is \$290,000, which will be practically all used in this work."

In Touch With the Farmers.

Through the medium of the distribution of seeds and plants, the Secretary continues, the Department workers put into practice the discoveries which they may have made in the laboratories and in their field work. He mentions the distribution of disease resistant cotton seed to such portions of the south as are affected with the cotton wilt disease. The annual loss to the south from this disease will easily reach \$500,000, and the Department has done much to reduce or prevent this loss at a cost of not more than \$1,000 for the seed and experimental work. The introduction of some of the hardy oranges developed by the workers in the Bureau of Plant Industry is another similar illustration. By a series of cross-breeding experiments between the ordinary sweet orange and the hardy Japanese citrus trifoliata, a very valuable and semi-hardy orange has been produced, which will probably grow almost as far north as Washington. It is expected that with several more generations of improvement, an orange practically equal to the ordinary type of Florida or California orange will be able to withstand comparatively severe freezing weather. Through the cooperation of the Laboratory of Drug Plant Investigation with the Office of Seed and Plant Introduction and Distribution, we are endeavoring to introduce into the United States the culture of a number of different drug plants the annual importation of which at the present time runs into millions of dollars in value. It is this principle of co-operation which renders the work of particular value to the Department itself and of course enables the Department to do better work for the country at large.

Great Value from Small Expenditures

"In regard to the value of this work to the United States, in my opinion," the Secretary says, "there can be no doubt that the distribution of seeds from the time the work was first begun, introduced in the early sixties at once in the development of our agriculture. The rather hasty survey of the old records that the time at our disposal has permitted, shows that the Department has been helpful in the introduction of many of the crops that are at present considered the most valuable in the United States. Among these may be mentioned the fruits and other varieties of wheat; Chinese sorghum, introduced in the early sixties at a cost of about \$2,000 and now worth nearly millions of dollars annually to the country; Kafir corn, the introduction of which cost the Department not more than \$5,000, of which the annual value at present is estimated to be about \$30,000,000; macaroni wheat, on which, during the past three years, we have expended about \$10,000, and which has enabled the farmers of the arid west to grow crops worth from \$2,000,000 to \$7,000,000 on lands on which they could not grow the ordinary varieties of wheat; Japanese rice, which has been a large factor in the phenomenal growth of the rice industry in Texas and Louisiana. The savings devoted to this has increased