

AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR THE FARMER AND THE ORCHARDIST.

This Department is prepared for the SACRAMENTO RECORD-UNION by the Agricultural Editor. All matters relating to the agricultural interests will be found under this head.

CLEAN THE WHEAT.

But few California wheat farmers realize the damage they are doing to the reputation of California wheat both at home and abroad by putting that wheat into market in an unmarketable condition. A short time ago we called special attention to the presence of grit and gravel in much of the wheat from those sections of the State where the custom is to cut the wheat with headers, dumping the headed grain in low piles on the ground till a convenient time for thrashing, and then moving the same to the mouth of the machine by the use of the horse fork and self-feeder. This mode of harvesting and thrashing has become popular, and the fact that it largely a part of the work is done with machinery so rapidly and so cheaply, and the annoyance of uncertainty and unreliability of harvest hands is in a measure at the same time removed. But farmers must remember that they are producing wheat to sell, and that unless they put upon the market a marketable article there will soon cease to be a paying demand for their product. There is no economy in reducing the cost of production at the expense of quality, followed by a consequent greater reduction in the market value. There is no profit in saving one cent in the harvesting of wheat, and losing two cents a bushel on the sale of it, in consequence of the greater amount of grit, gravel and other foul stuff being introduced into and left in the grain by the cheaper mode of harvesting. Farmers must realize that the only wheat buyers in this State are the millers, who buy wheat to grind and make into flour for home consumption and for consumption abroad, and dealers who buy wheat to export to be converted into flour by foreign millers for foreign consumption. That all the wheat sold comes at last to the critical inspection and rejection or approval of the practical, interested and close-calculating miller who has to make it into flour for the profit there is to be made in the operation. That wheat that the miller thinks will be done to his bur-stones by the grit and gravel in the wheat; whatever shrinkage he estimates will be caused by cleaning out the foul stuff, and, in addition, the expense of cleaning, must be deducted from the price to be paid by him for the wheat. Farmers should realize also that for self-protection every miller is bound to leave a wide margin in his own favor and against the seller in making these calculations. Sound and safe business principles not only justify but make it necessary for him to do so. Farmers have of late had considerable to say against commission merchants or middlemen, but all the wheat exported necessarily goes through a number of hands before it leaves the Golden Gate, and a number more before it reaches the mill of the foreign miller, and each one, to save himself, in addition to his legitimate profits for ordinary risks, etc., must keep a special margin for the damage and shrinkage in the hands of the miller, in consequence of foreign material in the wheat. This margin all comes out of the producer, and the original purchaser of him is bound to see that it is large enough to protect not only himself, but all who stand between the producer and the miller. Hence it is to be expected that the wheat-farmers to clean their wheat for their own protection, for their own interest, to enlarge their own legitimate profits; that we ask them to see to it that no stones, or clods, or grit of any kind is introduced into the wheat by their derelict-fork, in gathering up and carrying the straw to the thrasher, or by the shovel, rake, pitchfork or anything else that will damage the looks of or lessen the real flour-making value of the wheat, is removed from it before it is offered for sale. Such wheat will be better than any other wheat in the world; but it is quite years we have different grades of wheat in our markets, till now our wheat is quoted below that of most any other wheat-growing State in the Union, and this is not because the wheat itself has deteriorated in any respect, but because, and only because, we have adopted different modes and careless practices in harvesting and cleaning. Our white and dark California wheat, and still is, almost a necessity to mix with the dark and damp English wheat and dark wheat from the Eastern States and Russia, but notwithstanding this natural advantage, we are allowing wheat from those countries to take precedence over ours simply from our negligence and carelessness in preparing ours for the market. One miller in Colusa county writes: "To millers in this coast clean wheat has become almost a curiosity. The leading millers in Sacramento say they are compelled to examine singly and closely every sack of wheat before they decide to grind, or sell as chicken feed, and the amount they are compelled to sell at a low figure for the latter purpose is so great that they have to figure prices down below a paying rate to the producers. Has it come to this, that California wheat, even in our own State, has so poor a reputation that the producers have to accept chicken feed prices for it? And this because when they can as well as not keep the grain and take the chicken-feed out of it? A prominent grain dealer and wheat exporter of Stockton, San Joaquin county, has just returned from an extended trip of observation through Europe. He went there to study the grain markets and milling business, with especial reference to California wheat. He met the inquiry everywhere: "What is the matter with your California wheat?" A French miller and grain-merchant who controls a large number of flour-mills at Havre and other places in France, said to him: "Mr. Bostwick, your California wheat is becoming very dirty; it is full of dirt and little gravel, that damage me very much. It is ruining my mills." He then took him into one of his warehouses, in which he had just unloaded a cargo of California wheat and showed him the bins. Mr. B. says, instead of emotions of pride at the sight of his State's chief agricultural product, he was actually ashamed to be told that this wheat was from the Golden State of the Pacific. The surface of every bin was a sheet of oats, barley, broken straw, wheat chaff and weed seed, and pretty evenly mixed through the whole was more or less gravel. Is it any wonder

THE PIRATES OF PENANCE.

A SKETCH OF THE NEW OPERETTA BY THE AUTHORS OF "PIRANEOSE."

[From a New York Letter.] Of course you will know all about them—everybody does. And so I am going to set myself seriously to try and present a narrative that will give you some little inkling of the great treat in store for the public when the "Pirates" shall find a home in this city. The quotations from the music, which are kindly furnished me by Mr. Sullivan, will give just enough to indicate the light games to illustrate the programme, as it were, to indicate a recognized something of the score, in the way that the artist's sketch permits you at once to know the original, all the while it does not introduce you to a title of the beauties of the completed work. And the words? Those, too, as I said them, do not give the tender light and shadow of Mr. Gilbert's exquisite fancy, but in a sketchy way, they will give you a summary of the more than fully liberated. So, good reader, do not think I serve you the dish that soon will be set before you. I merely offer a sample of its deliciousness, full of wit and wit, and make you earnestly crave the full dinner.

THE STORY. The curtain opens, showing a sketch of the Cornish coast, on a pleasant sunny day as one could wish for a quiet vacation. In the foreground, a picture of a rocky shore, with a lighthouse on a cliff, and a boat in the bay. The scene is described in detail, including the lighthouse and the boat. The scene is described in detail, including the lighthouse and the boat. The scene is described in detail, including the lighthouse and the boat.

THE NORTH WIND AND WEATH.

We are having an unusual amount of north wind this season, and while it has not been of that very warm dry character which we have experienced some seasons, nevertheless we are satisfied that great damage has already been done to the wheat crop. In most, if not all, sections the early-sown grain on summer-fallowed lands has suffered most. This grain was very generally just in the stage of heading, and the heavy influence of these winds—going out of the blossom and beginning to form the berry when the north winds of two weeks ago commenced. The winds being cool and the grain being full of vigorous sap, farmers generally hoped and believed that little injury was done by that wind, but we are convinced if they have not already discovered their mistake they can easily do so by a close examination of the wheat heads. The prospects at that time were good for one of the heaviest yields of wheat the State had ever produced. The straw was heavy, strong and thick on the ground, and the heads or ears were long and well developed, promising almost uniformly three and four kernels in each glume or set of blossoms alternating to opposite sides of the spikelet or head. Had there been no north wind to interfere with the prospect at that time, we have little doubt that the average crop of the State would have reached thirty and possibly forty bushels to the acre. But a few days blasted this prospect, and the frequent winds since are doing their work more effectively than even farmers generally are aware of. If they will now go into their best-appearing wheat fields and examine the heads carefully, they will find that, though they have the appearance of being well filled, but very few have more than two kernels, when there are hanks or glumes for four in a single glume not noticeable to the casual observer. Reducing the prospect of the crop fifty per cent. We are now speaking of those fields and spots that still retain the best appearance and present the most favorable prospect. The early and most promising wheat in nearly every section of the State has been rendered more or less spotted and sheathed. Those spots and streaks that promised best as a rule have been the most injured. This is the result not, as many imagine, of different temperatures in different streaks of the wind, but of different qualities and different degrees of the soil. What wheat has a high spot as a rule has suffered more than that on soil adjoining that has no alkali in it. Sometimes the same quality in the same field, but in different condition from some artificial cause, has the wheat more injured upon it than the soil immediately adjoining. Strips of soil to exceed two feet wide and running the whole length of the field may be seen completely ruined—the straw and heads having no life in them, and having a dead white color. This has not been caused by any difference in the character or quality of the soil or streaks in the wind, but in the peculiar condition of the soil, which has produced a different state or condition of the grain at the time the north wind struck it. For instance, this strip, if examined, may be found to be where the land was struck out in plowing, and two furrows may have been thrown together—called back-furrows—and, being a little higher and lower, became warmer and brought the grain forward a little faster and happened to be in the exact condition that is most injured. We know from experience that is an unpleasant thing to do, but if farmers would know the worst, the actual condition of their wheat and their real financial prospects, they had better go into their wheat-fields and examine the heads of wheat in all the differently appearing spots and strips, and base their calculations upon what such examinations reveal.

Children are children even in a Turcoman tent on the steppes of Asia. A correspondent writes how, while writing a letter there, "unkept children seize my ink-bottle and playfully empty its contents on my head, and if I leave the paper on the table for an instant, it is seized upon by the nearest member of the company and handed around the dirty, if picturesque, circle of visitors. Each individual in turn thumps it thoroughly, gets as much as possible of his palms and fingers in contact with its surface, crushes and crumples it, and seems intensely desirous of assimilating and identifying himself to the greatest degree with the unusual document. I am often in terror lest it be torn in shreds between them."

If each adult male in China smokes the conventional pipe, he smokes eight grains a day; but, as ten times that would hardly represent the average daily consumption, we may say that not ten per cent of adult males can possibly smoke opium.—[China Review.]

THE QUIET HOUR.

THE "TANGLER'S" PARADISE OF CHA-RADES, ENIGMAS, ETC.

[Contributions to this department should be addressed to "Quiet Hour," Room 1000, at 1000 Broadway, New York. Contributors will receive advance notice, and are privileged to engage in courteous criticism of the productions published.]

Answers to May 29th. 699. Spring flowers. 700. Zero, north, quail, Amy, key, hook. 701. Barbecue (Tangler, in this right) 702. 83 16 86 89 11 85 95 4 17 703. 14 69 21 81 23 77 28 31 87 100 22 36 62 42 25 60 68 79 1 91 82 40 47 44 56 53 61 19 10 9 76 63 54 45 41 48 38 25 92 97 26 44 53 52 60 45 37 78 94 My 11, 99 27 46 57 56 67 73 2 13 30 33 39 56 61 45 71 88 5 70 20 28 24 27 73 32 96 84 85 15 12 90 93 6 5 97 18

Answers to Correspondents and Correct Solutions. Rose—692, 694, 695, 696, 697 "I think," says Rose, that the two last being excluded are not correct, 698, 700, 701 (is it correct?), 702, 703. Rose says: "What would we do without 'Trinity' to stir up our wits once in a while? He should be given a prize for introducing us to the melange." Trinity—699, 702, 704, 705, 708 (in part), 709 (every good), 710. F. M. S.—692, 695, 697, 698, 702, 704, 705, 710. G. S.—698, 697, 700, 704. G. S.—701 (no sir), 698, 697, 694. Evelyn—703 (very nearly), 704, 709 (good), 710. Sister—705, 706. August—705 (it is on and let us see).

Answers to Correspondents and Correct Solutions. Master W. H. Lee will appear as a tenor next year. A new choir is being organized for Unity Church, Chicago. Miss Helen Dingle is to retire from the stage after this season. Mrs. Lina Kloss of Chicago has been tendered a testimonial concert. T. H. Howe, the well known composer, will pass the summer in California. A comic opera is being composed by Silas Hobbins to libretto by E. W. Davis. Gran's French Opera Bouffe Company has sung a small audience in Philadelphia. "Piranese" has been revived in Philadelphia with Miss Sallie Reber as Josephine. The Baltimore Terse Miss Emma Thursby "America's greatest soprano." Who shall decide? Misses Lina Merrill and Marion Elmore returned to England June 3, but will come back in the fall. Miss Eva G. Cummings of Brooklyn, who has been studying with Lamperti at Milan, has arrived home. Good singers are in great demand by the managers of numerous small companies now being formed for the summer season. Signor Cirillo, the eminent teacher, finds his health somewhat impaired by too close application to the duties of his profession. Miss Gertrude Ulmer has been engaged, and will make her appearance with the Boston Italian Opera Company at the Boston Theatre. Several concerts have been given at Middletown, N. Y., recently, at which Miss Julia Alexander, Miss Gertrude Ulmer, and Harry Stewart appeared. At the seventh Pastory Concert, Baltimore, under the direction of August Hamaker, works by Mendelssohn, Liszt and Kuhlau were sung. Miss Eliza Baraldi and Mne. Nannette Falk-Auerbach assisted. "Don't get out of anybody's way," advised Henry Ward Beecher. But Mr. Beecher, when you recognize your landlord only half a block away, and it is three days past rent day, and there are two cross streets, an alley and three four-story stairways with rear entrances, winding at you from the rear side of the street—Are you a man, that is to go straight ahead and collide with the landlord? Oh, nonsense; what kind of talk is that to give a decent body of your summer clothes not paid for?—[Hawkeye.]

MUSICAL NOTES.

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