

THE MERIDIONAL.

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SATURDAY JUNE 10, 1905.

FOUR CENT RICE.

**Breaux the Broker Predicts
Big Advance in Prices
This Year.**

"A crop of not to exceed 3,500,000 sacks now seems probable and four cent rice is a practical certainty", says S. Locke Breaux, of New Orleans, one of the leading rice commission men in the business, is the way the Signal quotes that veteran broker.

Mr. Breaux is spending a few days in Southwest Louisiana studying conditions and attending to business matters connected with his rice trade. "I do not regard the sharp advance in rice as an unmixed blessing by any means", continued Mr. Breaux. "What the rice industry needs most is expansion of market, and the low prices that have prevailed during the past year and a half have done more to increase consumption than anything else could do. The outlook now is that by reason of the short supply rice will go too high and consumption will fall accordingly. We are in danger of losing much of the ground we have gained in the way of increased consumption during the past two years, but the advance in price, on the other hand, has stimulated planting operations and this will have a tendency to keep the market within bounds.

"The farmers of this section are working hard to get in a crop, but the planting conditions have been persistently adverse all the spring. Excessive rains have been followed by dry spells which have made planting difficult. Just now this section is in need of showers. If they do not come soon planting will be seriously retarded again within a few days.

"My information is that the entire rice belt as a whole is in about the same condition. The Crowley conditions are about the average. Some sections of Texas have more planted than Southwest Louisiana while other sections have less. It seems to be the generally accepted opinion that about one third of last year's acreage has been planted in the whole belt, with about four weeks more left.

"One of the most encouraging features of the situation is that this crop is being put in cheaply. The average rice belt farmer has learned to support himself from the products of his farm outside of rice and will not feel adverse rice conditions that may occur as much as others engaged in the industry."

Following up this cheerful information about a certainty in the advance of prices the Signal gives its summary of conditions as they exist in the rice belt, as follows:

Extreme dry weather throughout Southwest Louisiana has retarded planting somewhat this week, a large amount of rice has been planted. More rice has gone in than any week since the beginning of the season. It is now

The Secret of Success.

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roughly estimated that about one third of the 1904 acreage has been planted in this section. Rain in the next few days will be necessary for further planting and if conditions are favorable a fifty or possibly a sixty per cent acreage may be planted. More than sixty per cent is now regarded as impossible, and a forty per cent acreage is regarded as nearer the mark.

There will be a very heavy fall-off in the vicinity of Iota. Under the most favorable conditions no more than forty per cent of last year's acreage would have been planted in the Iota section, but prominent farmers conversant with conditions now agree that thirty per cent will probably be the outside limit.

Around Crowley planting has progressed satisfactorily this week, in spite of the dry weather. Most of the pumping plants have started and a number of fields are under water. There will be a large acreage of volunteer rice this year, many farmers having simply closed their levees and turned water on their fields for the purpose of raising a crop of red rice. Many of these fields near Crowley are up to a good stand, with excellent prospects for an unusually good volunteer crop.

The local rice market shows a strong demand at good prices, but very little rice is moving, even at the prices offered, on account of the feeling that Japanese will go to four cents. Small quantity of Japs, a little better than medium, and considerably short of choice goods, sold on this market yesterday at three and three-eighths. The same goods went begging a month ago at one and seven-eighths. Large numbers of buyers from the Pacific Coast, the Atlantic seacoast and the large central markets are visiting this market daily, but only odd lots are being secured by them. The bulk of the rice is being held for higher prices.

Last year fully 5,000 acres of cotton was raised on lands formerly devoted to rice. This year no cotton will be raised on rice lands. Corn is being planted more generally than ever before and the parish of Acadia will have the largest acreage of potatoes in its history. Farmers are also engaging in live stock and the number of swine in the parish has at least doubled within the last twelve months. One firm of farmers at Egan, ten miles north west of Crowley, has twenty acres of truck and will ship three car loads of potatoes in about ten days.

The Good Old Way.

A severe cold or attack of la grippe is like a fire the sooner you combat it the better your chances are to overpower it. But few few mothers in this age are willing to do the necessary work required to give a good old fashioned treatment such as would be administered by their grandmothers backed by Boschee's German Syrup, which always liberally used in connection with the home treatment of cold and is still in greater household favor than any known remedy. But even with out the application of the old fashioned old German Syrup will cure a severe cold in quick time. It relieves the congested organs, allays the irritation and effectually stops the cough. Any child will take it. It is invaluable in a household of children. Serial size bottle, 25c, regular size 75c. For sale by all druggists.

LOUISIANA CROPS.

State Commissioner of Agriculture Reports their Condition.

J. G. Lee, Commissioner of Agriculture and Immigration, last Saturday gave out a report on the crop situation in Louisiana, being a summary of the situation as presented by fifty eight correspondents throughout the State in their first reports to the Commissioner. The report follows:

"Cotton—Too much rain" is the plaint of every correspondent. The reduction in cotton

Have You a Cough?

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Try it for whooping cough, for asthma, for consumption, for bronchitis. Mrs. Joe McGrath, 326 E. 1st Street, Hutchinson, Kans. writes: "I have used Ballard's Horehound Syrup in my family for 5 years, and find it the most palatable medicine I ever used. Sold by A. J. Godard.

acreage is figured, from the reports of correspondents in fifty-seven parishes, as 21.8 per cent. This reduction has come about from three causes: First, voluntary reduction; second, reluctance on the part of merchants to make advances; third, the unfavorable season, which has rendered it impossible to plant as large an area as last year. This last cause has unquestionably been the most potent factor in reduction. The figures 21.8 per cent reduction do not necessarily mean that these are the figures that will prevail during the entire season, for there is every probability, with favorable conditions in the month of June, that the present cotton acreage will be considerably increased. There is a great deal of land still unplanted, and some that has not even been broken. There is another fact which must figure to a small extent in this year's crop, which is the acreage which was planted in cotton and already abandoned on account of weeds and grass. In some localities the weather has not permitted the farmer to chop out.

"The culture of cotton begun in some of the sugar parishes has been practically abandoned. In other parishes, where the acreage has been about equally divided between cotton and sugar, there has been a very large reduction in cotton acreage.

"The stand and condition are figured at 70.76 per cent. This, I am inclined to believe, is somewhat pessimistic. The crop is from three to five weeks late, and in most places grassy, but the stand, as a rule, is fairly good. With any kind of favorable weather during June this condition and prospect will be materially advanced.

"Corn—There has been a material increase in the corn acreage, but the prospects are such that we cannot hope for anything like as big a crop as was made last year. Corn which was planted early in the season and has already been laid by will make a fairly good crop, but that which was planted late has been drowned out or over-run by grass and weeds.

"Rice—The present prospects for rice indicate a crop of about 60 percent of last year's crop. The stand and condition are fairly good, but there has been an enormous reduction in acreage. The stimulus of the recent heavy advances in the price of this cereal may, however, with favorable conditions prevailing during the next two weeks, cause considerable acreage to be planted.

"Sugar Cane—The prospects are exceptionally bright for this crop; one of our staples. There has been a big increase in acreage, and the plant, while small and about three weeks backward, is in fairly good condition. The stand is excellent, but the rain interfered with the keeping down of weeds and grass.

"Forage Crops—Oats, clovers, grasses and other forage crops are in splendid condition, the wet season not having been a disadvantage to these crops.

"Irish potatoes have been a failure this season, owing to the excess of water.

"Vegetables and berries were late this season, with poor yields on account of unfavorable season.

"To east Louisiana, where truck is raised for the Chicago market, the strikes in that city have proven very disastrous. These strikes came on at their heaviest shipping time, and practically cut them off from their own market.

"Live stock are reported as having been healthy by all our correspondents, with the excep-

tion of Morehouse, Natchitoches and Union, where a great many cattle have died from some unknown disease. It is to be regretted that we have no live stock sanitary commission to cope with such afflictions as this when the occasion arises.

"Labor has been scarce, and in almost every parish higher wages are being paid.

"While some of our people are inclined to be pessimistic, still the situation is not bad, when taken as a whole and analyzed. The cotton and rice crops are undoubtedly going to be short, but there is hardly any possibility of there not being good prices for both of these staples.

"The sugar crop bids fair to be a good one, and as for the price—good prices are almost assured for the next five years."

How's This.

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Rice Weeds in Louisiana.

Various Methods to Be Adopted for Their Extermination.

The rice fields of Louisiana offer conditions peculiarly favorable for the growth and dissemination of weeds that normally inhabit wet or flooded soils. Quite a number of weeds increase with such rapidity and grow so luxuriantly in the rice that expensive methods of getting rid of them are often imperative. All flowering plants that have a harmful effect upon the cultivation, development, harvesting or marketing of the rice crop will be designated as rice weeds. Besides what are commonly called weeds, grasses, sedges, and even red rice, would come under this head. In this article it is our purpose to discuss the weeds that have proven to be most menacing to the rice crop, with such information as has been obtained regarding their reproduction, dissemination, and general life habits, and to point out some of the advantages of various methods to be adopted for their extermination.

While we shall have occasion to refer to the weed seeds at the rice mills, the weed question must be solved primarily by the rice grower, and the most of the discussion will be from the standpoint of a planter. It is self-evident that a crop with weeds in it produces a less quantity and an inferior grade to what it would without the weeds. The weed takes up valuable fertilizing elements that rightfully belong to the rice plant, occupies a space that should be occupied by a plant, and the shade produced interferes with the fullest development of the rice. The presence of weed seeds in the rice causes more trouble between the producer and the buyer than most any other one source of contention. It is hard for the miller to tell how much is going to be lost in cleaning the rice of seeds, or how much will remain with the grain when it comes out as a finished product. It is simply a matter of self protection that he should cut down the price

very materially on account of the presence of any considerable quantity of seed from various weeds.

Besides these losses the efforts directed toward the destruction of weeds in the rice fields in Louisiana amounts to a great many thousand dollars annually.

The planter should not only be conversant with the habits of the weeds already infesting his rice fields, so as to adapt his methods of dealing with them to best suit the various conditions that obtain in different years, but he should know the most baneful weeds that are liable to invade his territory from without, so that the new enemies may be recognized and measures adopted to secure their extermination before they have become widely disseminated.

It not infrequently that the knowledge of the life habits of a weed will enable one to successfully hold it in check at a minimum of expense, whereas, without such knowledge, effort at extermination, being blindly directed, will be all but useless.

It goes without saying, that weeds are more prolific and harder than cultivated plants. It is chiefly their persistency that renders them noxious.

The production of a large number of seeds, the adaptation for sure and wide dispersion of same, the preservation of the vitality of the seed under adverse circumstances, the ability of the plant to withstand unfavorable conditions as food for animals their freedom from fatal fungus diseases and insect enemies, are the principal characters that enable our worst weeds to obtain such predominance. Fortunately few individuals possess all these characteristics. As it is not practically possible to prevent all weeds from maturing seeds, nor to kill all seeds that mature, the planter must direct his efforts along both lines of extermination. A general understanding of the life habits of weeds, supplemented by close observation, will enable him to direct his efforts in a most effectual manner.

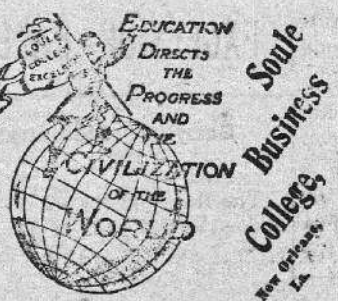
That Tired Feeling.

If you are languid, depressed, incapable for work, it indicates that your liver is out of order. Herbine will assist nature to throw off headaches, rheumatism and ailments akin to nervousness and restore the energy and vitality of sound and perfect health. J. J. Hubbard Temple, Texas, writes, "I have used Herbine for the past two years. It has done me more good than all the doctors. It is the best medicine ever made for chills and fever." 50c.

Sold by A. J. Godard.

Siloam Springs.

The Kansas City Southern will have in effect every Thursday and Friday during June, July and August a round trip rate of \$12.50 to Siloam Springs, Ark., final limit thirty days after date of sale. T. B. Hutchins, Agent.



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