

New Zealand's Industrial Progress.

Hugh Craig, formerly President of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, and himself a native of New Zealand, recently delivered an address in Metropolitan Hall, San Francisco, on "Industrial and Social Legislation in New Zealand."

Beginning with an interesting account of that country, which he described as picturesque and extremely fertile, with a passing reference to the splendid Maori race, by which the country was originally peopled, Craig went on to speak of the fine population of whites, chiefly Scotch, Irish and English, which settled the islands in 1841 and of how the ownership of lands insensibly drifted into the hands of a few.

"The man who owns the land owns the man who tills the land, as the man who owns the machinery owns the machinist," proclaimed the speaker, a statement which won a round of applause. The history of older civilizations was repeated. Rich absentee owners proceeded to draw princely revenues from estates they left behind, growing sheep on the primitive plan, while willing, industrious men, who were land hungry, were unable to acquire homes. Being a progressive, intelligent lot, they considered the situation, the canny Scotchman at the base, with the Irishman keeping things stirred up, and English level-headedness to preserve the balance of wisdom. Labor captured the Legislature and passed a law taxing land heavily, at which there was an indignant protest. Then came an income tax, which raised another protest, and when the agents of the absentee owners refused to pay the tax other laws were passed requiring the owners to fix their own assessments and authorizing the Government to buy estates at an advance of 10 per cent. on this appraisal. In this way the Government recovered possession of many valuable lands, built its own railroads, cut up large holdings and furnished homes on long time to industrious heads of families. Today a tract of 8000 acres which formerly employed twenty-five sheep herders and produced \$125,000 annually, supports 2500 people in comfort and pays \$500,000, growing boys and girls instead of sheep.

Craig said in conclusion that while New Zealand reforms had not always moved smoothly or with perfect success, it was, nevertheless, the most progressive country in the world, and its remarkable prosperity, development and growth in population demonstrated the wisdom of its legislation.

Scott Anderson presided over the meeting and Rev. J. E. Scott and G. B. Benham spoke briefly.

Here is a hint for our Imperial ranchers: At the Arizona Experimental Station dates from Algeria are promising well. The cacti that bears an edible fruit, as large as a banana, takes kindly to that region, though transferred from the Argentine and the Mediterranean. The "kie" apple from South Africa promises to make a green hedge plant and the Khiva winter melon has done excellently in the experimental grounds.

The Date Palm.

The Secretary of Agriculture in his annual report, speaking of the Date Palm, says:

"An importation which will probably in time prove of great value to the southwestern part of the country is that of date palms obtained in Africa. A number of years ago a limited importation of these palms was made from Egypt, and, while most of them were lost through adversity of climate, the shipments helped to show the possibilities of date growing in Arizona and Southern California. Through agents of the department a small shipment of date palms was secured from Algeria in 1899, and a large shipment from the same country, mostly from the borders of the Sahara Desert, in 1900, and fully 90 per cent of these are growing vigorously. This year a collection of the choicest varieties in Egypt has been obtained and sent to the Southwest, this importation being in continuation of the plan to obtain from every part of the world where the date palm is grown a complete collection of the choice varieties.

"The date palm is of special value in the hot Southwestern country, since it thrives and fruits best where the summers are long and hot, as in Arizona and California. The establishment of the industry in this section, therefore, would make it possible to utilize much of the land there which, though irrigable, is too alkaline for ordinary crops. It is hoped, now that a large number of plants of the choicest varieties have been imported, that in time this country may produce enough dates to supply the home demand and, perhaps, even some for export."

New Variety of Navel Oranges.

J. E. Cutter of Riverside, an experienced horticulturist, has developed a new variety of the navel orange. It is not only earlier than the original navel orange in point of maturity, but is a finer fruit and more prolific bearer. The orange in question is the result of a cross between a navel orange tree raised from seed and the original tree. A seed in a navel orange is a freak production, but occasionally happens. Mr. Cutter planted one of these seeds and then budded slips taken from the young tree on to a natural navel orange tree. The new variety is thorny, a disadvantage as compared to the natural navel orange tree, which has no thorns, but it is a thrifty grower, and, as has been stated, matures much earlier than its forebear. Mr. Cutter states that he has no buds for sale, as he wants to give the new variety a thorough testing before placing it on the market.—Herald.

So much is said about the drinking water in this country, and some who have never drank from the mountain springs or the many excellent wells when visiting here, go back and report that we have no good drinking water. An incident occurred where a Kansas man went back after visiting California, and among the many questions asked him was: "How did you like the water?" "Well, I declare, I forgot to taste it."

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