

SAN JUAN COUNTY INDEX.

VOLUME XIII

AZTEC, NEW MEXICO, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1902.

NUMBER 2

STATISTICS ON THE SITUATION

From a publication issued some time ago in the interest of San Juan county, the following facts and figures have mainly been compiled:

Cereals of all kinds are grown here, wheat yielding 20 to 40 bushels per acre; oats, 30 to 90 bushels; barley 30 to 60 bushels; rye, 15 to 30 bushels; corn 25 to 60 bushels. A ready sale is found at good prices. Current prices for 1902 are as follows: Wheat, per cwt., \$1.60; oats, \$2.00; corn, \$1.65.

Vegetables of every variety flourish, from the hardiest varieties such as Irish potatoes, turnips, and beets, to the more tender melons, tomatoes, egg-plants, etc.

But the greatest opportunity of the agriculturist undoubtedly lies in the growing of alfalfa hay.

Alfalfa or lucerne (Medicago sativa), is a perennial species of clover of most tenacious character, capable of withstanding drought and cold, by reason of the deep penetrations of its roots, and making so rapid a growth under irrigation that three cuttings a year are usually made, averaging four to six tons of hay to the acre. Thousands of beef cattle and mutton sheep are fattened on it yearly, besides the dairy and work stock of the farmers who use it almost entirely without additional grain. The total yield is so large that sales of 500 to 1,500 tons to a single buyer are not uncommon, and the demand is growing so rapidly as to encourage the planting of a much larger acreage. The average price this winter has been about \$5 per ton.

Poultry-raising and dairying give satisfactory returns to many farmers. The demand is always active for poultry, eggs, butter, and cheese; eggs bring 20 to 30 cents per dozen; chickens \$4 to \$6 per dozen; butter, from 25 to 30 cents per pound; and cheese, 18 to 20 cents per pound.

The cannaigre, or sour-dock (Rumex hymenosepalus), growing in profusion on our table-lands in a wild state, has been discovered to contain rare properties as a tanning agent, and is attracting the attention of tanners the world over as a substitute for the falling supply of oak bark. Inquiries have been received from the English and Austrian markets as to the price and supply, and no doubt the cultivation of the plant will be extensively engaged in.

The bee culture has passed the experimental stage. Several apiaries of 100 hives and upward are a good source of income, and every housewife has a few colonies for home use. The orchards, alfalfa fields, and especially the clover, or wild bee-weed, furnish inexhaustible pasture for the bees. Honey sells at 12 1/2 cents per pound in the comb, and 10 cents extracted, and in recent years the colonies averaged from 40 to 60 pounds each.

There are about one million five hundred thousand acres of pasture lands in San Juan county, exclusive of the Navajo reservation. This is free range, and is occupied by stock-growers, who graze their cattle and sheep on the Government lands and fatten their beef cattle and mutton sheep on the vast alfalfa farms of the neighboring valleys. Hence they are moved in the winter and spring to the markets of the mining towns of Colorado to the north and Albuquerque and Gallup to the south.

The raising of a good class of draft and road horses has also proven a profitable occupation.

The deposits of coal extend from Durango, Colorado, in a southwesterly direction to the San Juan river and to the Bernalillo county line, in a strip about fifteen miles wide, showing especially prominent west of the La Plata river and in the Fruitland district.

Much of this coal has been tested a successfully for cooking purposes, and being easy of access and approach can be mined at minimum cost. The coal runs in veins from six to twenty feet.

Lime is found in large quantities throughout the country. Especially fine deposits are located near Fruitland and are worked extensively for home use.

A good red and white sandstone for building purposes is found in the La Plata valley in unlimited quantities. Tile-clay is everywhere, and fire-clay beds have been discovered, but are not yet worked.

Fuel abounds in the cedar and pinon of the ridges between the rivers, while coal is had at the mines (now worked only for local purposes) for \$1 to \$1.50 per ton.

The Relations of Chemistry to Agriculture.

Very little chemistry as a science was known before the latter part of the 18th century. As an art it was known to the alchemists, having been practiced by them before the Christian era. Then the chief goal of the chemist, or alchemist as he was then called, was to convert base metals into the noble (precious) metals.

In the 16th century Chemists, led by Paracelsus, began to study chemistry solely in its relations to medicine, and their effect on the human system. They continued for several centuries, and even today the physician seems to be pretty generally ignorant that a chemist is a man who knows all about drugs, and the worst chemist and druggist are synonyms in some parts of the world.

It was not until the beginning of the 19th century that Sir Humphrey Davy began the first serious and continuous study of chemistry in its relation to agriculture. In one of his lectures delivered before the Royal Institution (London) he says that Agriculture must look to the Natural sciences, chemistry especially, for the explanation of its problems, and the improvement of its practice; that no one can reason upon agriculture, nor advance a step in it without recurring to this science.

At the time these statements seemed very radical, for then, doubtless more than at the present day, there were no many who regarded practice and experience were the sole qualifications essential to success, and condemned all attempts to improve agriculture by the application of natural laws and chemical methods.

To no one else in agriculture more indebted than to Justus Von Liebig, a noted German chemist, who in the desire to advance agriculture, left the paths of pure science and began the practice of agriculture in conjunction with laboratory experiments in agricultural chemistry; thus furnishing object lessons to the farmer of economic advantages to be obtained by the application of chemical principles.

The success of his labors resulted in establishing agricultural chemistry as a distinct branch of science; and today its importance is shown in the large force of chemists employed in the United States government agricultural experiment stations; there being 148 agricultural chemists out of a total of 200 working force of 800 men, while only forty-three of these are agriculturists. It has been truthfully said that he was the "Lux Agrorum Cultorum."

Let us see what are the relations of chemistry to agriculture that caused Sir H. Davy, just ten years ago, to say that a knowledge of it was so essential to the advancement of farming, and caused this new science to grow so rapidly in popularity and importance.

Chemistry is a study of the elements (simplest forms of matter) there are probably seventy-five or eighty of them, but the agricultural chemist is not particularly concerned with more than about fourteen or fifteen; this being the number of which plants and animals are composed. Plants get these elements of food from the air and soil, and animals turn them from plants. In the decomposition and decay of plants and animals they return to the air and the soil, from whence the plants obtained them; thus they are continually making a cycle in nature.

Unfortunately, however, the plants and animals in returning these elements to the soil do not distribute them as they found them, but many of them are found collected in beds and deposits, as is seen in the large phosphate, potash and nitrate deposits found in different parts of the world. The chemist must determine what elements are deficient, or soon to become so, in order that the farmer may supply them from these natural deposits.

Carbon, hydrogen and oxygen the three elements which largely predominate in the plants and animals, are obtained by plants from carbonic acid and water, which are decomposed in their leaves by sunlight and chlorophyll; leaf green; partially retained doubtless by the same agency to form the sugar, starch and wood fiber of the plant. The air is the source of the carbonic acid, and while it contains only three or four parts in 10,000 experiments show this to be more than sufficient, and analyses made recently of jars of air sealed centuries ago, prove that the carbonic acid in the air is not decreasing. It occurs in the air as a gas, hence does not readily collect in deposits like some of the other plant food elements, but it is diffused throughout the atmosphere, which renders it equally available to plants in any soil.

The hydrogen and oxygen, being obtained from water, are only deficient in case of drought, and the only remedy the chemist can offer is the use of soil, fertilizer, and plants best suited to resist it.

The other elements concerned in the growth of plants are nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, sodium, sulfur, silicon, chlorine, iron, magnesium, aluminum, and a few others found in traces in certain kinds of plants. All of these, except the first four, are found in sufficient abundance in most soils to last for many years to come.

Air and decomposing organic matter is the source of nitrogen, since, as the chemist has proven, only leguminous plants can take nitrogen from the air, plants other than these will not flourish on soils free from, or deficient in, organic matter, unless nitrogen in some form is added to them. So great is the demand for nitrogen in this class of soils, that the nitrate deposits in Chile produced 3,500,000 tons of Chile salt peter in 1900. This was used almost entirely as a fertilizer, the United States alone using 60,000,000 worth, besides large amounts from other sources, such as barn-yard manure, slaughter house refuse, etc.

The soil is the source of the phosphorus and potassium, but so many soils are found deficient in them, and the demand for them is so great, that over \$14,000,000 worth of phosphate 2,000,000 tons of potash were mined from deposits of these substances during 1900. Many soils are deficient in calcium also; but deposits of it are found so generally distributed as to make it in many cases of little value.

There are many problems of this kind for the chemist to solve for the farmer, but space will not permit us to mention more of them. —K. F. HAY, College of Agriculture, Michigan State U. S. A.

LEGAL NOTICES.

Legal Notice. Tahiroff of New Mexico, No. 216, County of San Juan, W. F. Kirkpatrick vs. R. H. McFadden, In the District Court of the First Judicial District of New Mexico for the County of San Juan.

The said defendant, R. H. McFadden, is hereby notified that a complaint has been filed against him in the District Court for the County of San Juan, Territory of New Mexico, in attachment as will more fully appear by reference to the complaint filed in said court. And that unless you enter your appearance in said cause on or before the twenty-fourth (24th) day of February 1902, judgment will be rendered against you in said cause by default, plaintiff's attorney being, Lawrence Pendleton, Aztec, New Mexico.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of said Court at Santa Fe, New Mexico, this 14th day of January, A. D. 1902.

A. M. BERGERE, Clerk.

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION. Department of the Interior, Land Office at Santa Fe, New Mexico, February 14, 1902. Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to claim land under the act of March 3, 1879, in the District of Santa Fe, New Mexico, to-wit:

For the NE 1/4 Sec. 14, T. 30 N., R. 13 W. He names the following: James W. McFadden, John M. Corbridge, John V. Van, N. M., Leroy Stewart, of Aztec, New Mexico.

MANUEL R. OTERO, Register.

Desert Land, Final Proof - Notice for Publication. United States Land Office, Santa Fe, N. M., January 20, 1902. Notice is hereby given that LILLIAN LEWIS, of Santa Fe county, N. M., has filed notice of intention to make final proof on her claim under the act of March 3, 1879, in the District of Santa Fe, New Mexico, to-wit:

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PROFESSIONAL.

DR. T. J. WEST, PHYSICIAN, SURGEON, OBSTETRICIAN. Aztec, New Mexico.

DR. E. G. CONDIT, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON. Calls answered any hour, day or night. U. S. Postoffice Examining Surgeon. Aztec, New Mexico.

DR. J. L. EHLEN, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON. Aztec, New Mexico. Calls answered promptly day or night. Office in Cottage Home Hotel.

DR. A. ROSENTHAL, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON. Farmington, New Mexico.

DR. O. C. MCKWEN, PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON. Farmington, New Mexico. Office in Allen Building.

J. A. DUFF, SURGEON-DENTIST. Farmington, New Mexico. Aztec first Tuesday in each month. Appointments made by mail.

E. S. WHITEHEAD, ATTORNEY AT LAW. NOTARY PUBLIC. Farmington, New Mexico.

GRANVILLE PENDLETON, ATTORNEY AT LAW. NOTARY PUBLIC. Will practice in all Courts of the Territory. Aztec, New Mexico.

R. D. WAGGONER, SURVEYOR. Aztec, New Mexico. Mapping and Ditch Platting Promptly Attended To.

Estrey Notice. Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has taken up the following described estrey animal at his ranch near Flora Vista, New Mexico, to-wit:

One black and white steer, branded on left side with the letter 'D' on the right side, and under the left side.

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THE ONLY HARDWARE STORE IN NORTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO. PRINTS AND OILS. GEORGE RATHJEN. Hardware, Tinware, Agricultural Implements. Buggies and Glass. Mail Orders Solicited. AZTEC, NEW MEXICO.

Carter's Livery, Feed and Sale Stable. CHARLES CARTER, Proprietor. Good Rigs and Saddle Horses Always on Hand. Teams and Stock Given the Best of Attention. General Livery Business Transacted. AZTEC, NEW MEXICO.

W. H. WILLIAMS. Dry Goods, Groceries. Boots and Shoes. Hats and Caps. Hardware, Glassware. Queensware, Etc. AZTEC, NEW MEXICO.

R. T. F. SIMPSON, Indian Trader. Located on the direct route from Durango, Farmington and Aztec to Gallup and all points on the Santa Fe Pacific railway. Navajo Blankets, Indian Curios, Silverware, Etc. AZTEC, NEW MEXICO.

HARDWARE AND FURNITURE. The Only Hardware and Furniture Store in San Juan county. Feeds Hay and Grain Constantly on Hand. Why I Can and Do Undersell Durango: No clerk hire—My insurance rates are lower—No rents to pay—No expensive lighting—call and be convinced. Frank N. Frakes, Proprietor. AZTEC, NEW MEXICO.

Pianos. Organs. Sheet Music. The largest stock of Gold and Silver Watches, Clocks, Jewelry and Silver Ware at Eastern Catalogue prices, in Southern Colorado. HAHN. EXPERT WATCHMAKER AND JEWELER. DURGANCE. DROPS US A LINE. SEND US YOUR WORK. REFERENCE: FIRST NATL. BANK.

THE CHEAP CASH STORE. A FULL LINE OF GENERAL MERCHANDISE. Fresh Groceries, Boots and Shoes. (Cash, Cloth, Dry, Etc.) Best in Market. Navajo Blankets in Stock. New Goods Constantly Received. A Share of Your Patronage Solicited. C. G. BREWER, AZTEC, NEW MEXICO.

Colorado Short Line - Government Fast Mail Route. Only one change, Colorado Points, Washington, New York, Boston, and all Eastern points. New Pullman Palace Sleepers and Free Heating Chair Cars. Personally conducted Excursions. Ordinary Sleepers of latest design, Colorado Points to Boston and all intermediate points. Special attention to Ladies and Children. The Hot Springs of Arkansas, reached only by the Missouri Pacific Railway. H. B. KOOSER, G. W. F. & P. A., Mo. Pac. Ry., Delivered Colon. R. E. HOFFMAN, Traveling Passenger Agent.

HARDWARE. Whether it be Mitchell wagons, Canton plows, Buckeye drills, Havana press drills, boxes of all kinds; barbed wire, horse shoes, blacksmith's supplies, hardware, lumber, brick clay, oils, greases, paints, coal, coke, charcoal, tar, rope, belting or mining supplies. YOU'LL FIND IT HERE.

STUBBS & JAKWAY Durango.

New Fast Train Double Daily Service.

MISSOURI PACIFIC RAILWAY. Best Route East West. Dining Cars on All Trains. Cafe Service.

AZTEC BARBER SHOP. M. M. CONDRON, Prop. Clean Towels—Sharp Tools—First-Class Work. NEXT DOOR TO GREEN'S HARNES SHOP. Meat Market. A. M. HUBBARD, Prop. Fresh and Salt Meats kept constantly on hand. A trial solicited. Highest work prices paid for hams.

Receipts Returned.

The following letters, closing up the correspondence with reference to collections for the McKinley Memorial fund in this county, are self-explanatory:

Office of the Treasurer, Santa Fe, Feb. 14, 1902.—L.