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CONCERNING THE CULTURE OF MILLET

MR. McCLATCHIE, in the August number of the Rural Californian, has the following to say about the culture of millet, which we hope our numerous farmer friends may find interesting and instructive:

In the University of Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station's bulletin for July, we find the following concerning the growing of millets. It reads: Millets prefer a rich, mellow, loamy soil, thriving in neither clay or adobe soil, nor in a light sandy soil. While it is better to prepare the soil well, millet may be sown on quite rough land. Where the soil is not too compact or the surface covered with too rank a growth of weeds, it is best to just simply "disk" it in. This method is especially applicable to stubble land after the grain is off.

Millet is a warm weather plant, thriving in heat and sensitive to cold. In southern Arizona it may be sown any time from the first of May to the end of September. While it may be sown early in the summer, it is not usually advisable to do so, as the month of June is apt to be very trying on it, irrigating water commonly being short as well as the air dry. The most favorable time is during July and August, the exact date advisable depending on the weather, the water supply and the local conditions. The time that the forage is desired may also be a factor in deciding upon the time to sow. The varieties vary considerably as to the length of time required for growth, but the average time is about two months. As it is quite sensitive to frost it must be sown early enough to reach the stage desired before there is danger of freezing. Thirty to forty pounds of seed of the Foxtail or Broomcorn millets is the usual amount sown per acre, and 15 to 30 pounds per acre of the Barnyard varieties. Rich, well prepared land requires less seed than poor or rough land. Sowing too little seed is likely to result in coarse-stalked hay. Most varieties of millet enjoy plenty of water, hence there is little danger of irrigating the crop too heavily during July, August and September.

Millet should be cut before the seed begins to ripen, especially if it is needed for horses. But it should not be cut too green, as the hay is liable to have somewhat a laxative effect upon stock. Less harm results, however, from cutting it too green than too ripe. The best time to cut it is considered to be when the majority of the heads have distinctly appeared. It should not be permitted to become entirely dry in the swath, but should be raked when partially dry, and allowed to cure in cocks.

Instead of cutting the millet it may be pastured within a month or so after being sown. Varieties that make a second growth from the roots such as Common and Hungarian millets are the best suited for pasturing. Poor alfalfa pastures may be much improved during the hot weather of summer by "disking" in millet seed where the supply of irrigating water makes it possible.

THE Interior Department has received a resolution adopted by the legislature of Hawaii, asking congress to impose a duty upon all coffee imported from other countries, "and in this way protect this industry in Hawaii and other parts of the United States." The resolution will, of course, be sent to congress in due time, but it is doubtful, however—in view of the official reports against the use of Hawaiian coffee in the army and navy rations, because of its lack of strength—whether the industry of coffee growing "in Hawaii and other parts of the United States" will be considered of sufficient importance to justify putting a duty on coffee.

WHAT will the United States Industrial Commission say about trusts, in its report to congress upon which its members are now supposed to be working? The steel strike and its complications, which gain renewed strength with each day, have served to bring this question to bear heavily upon the minds of the American people. The Industrial Commission gave exhaustive hearings on the trusts, and their relation to labor and business, and the report should be of more value than such things usually are. If it it should be unanimous it undoubtedly would be. But if there is to be two reports, signed respectively by the majority and minority members of the commission, then they would have the same value and carry the same weight of the usual partisan reports put out by a congressional committee. Representative Livingston of Georgia, a member of the commission, said the other day: "There is one subject the Industrial Commission proposes to handle without gloves, and that is the trust question, and how it affects both capital and labor." This is a good way to handle it, but wouldn't it be better still if the members of the commission would leave their tender little hands back with wifie and borrow the paws of some of the Amalgamated workers and take hold of the trusts with a grasp that would make their very foundation tremble?

WITHOUT questioning the justice of the public censure of Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans, by Acting Secretary of the Navy, Hackett, for having written in his book disrespectfully of certain official actions of Hon. W. E. Chandler, when he was Secretary of the Navy, many are disposed to think that the censure would have been more seriously regarded by the public at large had it been preceded by some sort of official action, showing that the Navy Department disapproved of the disrespectful manner in which Maclay, one of its employees, wrote of Rear Admiral Schley.

SOME members of the Knights of Labor and of the American Anti-Trust League, in Washington, have started a movement to aid the steel strikers by legal proceedings against the steel trust under state anti-trust laws. They have engaged a lawyer and are acting largely under the advice of ex-Attorney General Monett, of Ohio, who claims that the members of the trust in that state can be imprisoned under the state law. The same men are trying to get Attorney General Knox to proceed against the steel trust under the Federal anti-trust law.

THE strike at San Francisco is making itself felt in the rural districts. Fruit raisers are suffering heavy loss.

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