

# AGRICULTURAL

CASAD, EDITOR  
S. M. SATURDAY AUGUST 4, 1877

have recently received a letter from a Nebraska, making enquiries about the situation of New Mexico that we shall insert in this column.

is it excessively hot weather? The mercury has gone up the scale to 105 degrees in the shade here, but has ranged from 96 to 102 several weeks past; but in consequence of the dryness of the atmosphere actual and almost imperceptible in the coolest to the warmest, year the heat is not oppressive. It is unknown here, and men toil day and suffer little inconvenience.

is it cool? reasonably so. Is it dry? Yes, but not more so than the mountainous regions of the West.

is it going a short distance regular? Yes, the regular hours travel will take you from the Rio Grande mountains where the temperature is all that could be desired.

is there any place in New Mexico where a man could put in a cattle ranch, where he and his cattle would be safe?

Answer: Both life and property are more insecure here than in the older settled portions of the country or even in more newly settled portions where the population is not of that mixed character in New Mexico. Our proximity to the border is a drawback, and we suffer the ills that all frontiers are subject to; still a man could make selections and locate himself where he would be reasonably free from molestation. For instance, he could locate himself in the immediate vicinity of any of the dozen towns between the narrows at Fort Seiden and the falls at El Paso, a distance of seventy miles, where lands can be had at, or a small advance on, government price. Two hundred acres of seeded in alfalfa would enable the owner to keep in good condition from two to four hundred head of cattle that would always be under the eye of the owner or his agent and safe from molestation.

The cost of preparing and seeding lands to alfalfa would be but little more than the cost of seeding to wheat; the difference being only in the cost of seed. If desirable to fence, this can be done at a cost of seventy-five cents to one dollar per rod of Adobe Wall which, in this dry climate, will last longer than a fence of wooden material in a more changeable or humid climate, and until a hedge of board arc or oak orange could be grown to take its place.

To stock a cattle ranch it would be indispensable to go to some of the Old States where a good quality of stock can be obtained at their best value; make a careful selection of the best heifers one or two quinquennial young bulls to furnish the herd.

It is a good time to buy up the best of the stock as near the market as possible. I have on hand a quantity of WINES and BRANDY which I offer for sale in cars or cases. My GRAPES of the whether native or imported valley of the Rio Grande. Two all that is necessary for the season.

Regular communication bring 108 A. F. & A. M. supervision N. M. on the 10th month. Sojourner, they are fraternally united, and

J. H. ROBERTSON obtained the most HEADQUARTERS of the most By HERNANDEZ from that New Billiard Table Liqueur and Cigars

could be in New Sonora try in any way

and heifers can be readily disposed of at good prices for years to come. Calves dropped on the road could be brought through with but little trouble by making provision to haul half a dozen at a time for a few days. A calf a week old will travel eight to ten miles a day.

This would be a good and safe business. Good stock would be much less liable to be stolen than native stock, as they would attract notice wherever seen, stock kept on good pasture will not only reach maturity at an earlier age, but will make better animals than when allowed to run at large; and, beside, it gives the ranchman an opportunity by close observation and judicious crosses to improve his stock.

### FACTS WORTH REMEMBERING.

Shun a public debt as you would a pestilence. It will encumber your estate, drink up your sweat, and leave an inheritance of toil to your children.

Parents who neglect to train up their children to habits of industry betray a sacred trust not only to their own offspring but to the community in which they live. This neglect will bring its own punishment, and will cause their old age to be clouded with sorrow and remorse.

The public debts of the United States, and of the different cities, counties and railroad corporations absorb an annual interest of five hundred millions of dollars. It is a grievous burden, and one that no other people in the world could or would endure.

We publish below a letter from Judge J. G. Knapp, a former resident of Mesilla now a resident of Florida. Judge Knapp has travelled extensively in New Mexico, Western Texas and Arizona. He was in the employ of the Texas and Pacific Company surveying and locating the 32d parallel Railroad, and accompanied the expedition as Botanist and Geologist; his report of the expedition is voluminous and interesting. Judge K. was formerly Secretary of the State Agricultural Society of Wisconsin. He is always alive to the interest of Agriculture and kindred pursuits. Now this heroic old man with three score and ten years upon his head is opening up an orange plantation in Florida knowing that he can scarcely hope to live to derive pecuniary profit from his labors.

LIMONA FARM, TAMPA, FLORIDA, July 10th, 1877.

MY DEAR CASAD:—This day is to me the saddest event of my life, and drove me from what I had come to conclude, was the most delightful climate of the Union. Left alone in the world, I concluded I was a fit subject of the newest, western region of the United States, and I came here. Never have I been more mistaken. Instead of pests on wings, pests in the water, pests on land, I have found them less abundant than in my highly favored Mesilla. Instead of tempests and devastating tornadoes, instead of suffocating malarial heat, instead of fevers malarial, pains and aches, I have found no high winds to kick up the dust, without cold to kill the orange tree, the summer heat is tempered by almost daily showers, every breath is a draught from the cup of health, fevers malarial or otherwise are almost unknown, coughs are cured, consumption alleviated, rheumatism driven away. Every night brings cool refreshing sleep, every day gives the light of sunshine. I have never enjoyed such health in my long life as here.

We are growing many things now. The orange is the best in the market of the world, abundant rain, fills the fruit with sap, long and constant summer heat changes it to saccharine, and it is sweet as oranges are no where else. The shaddock of the size of small pumpkins bend the boughs, and weighing more than a pound each give their pleasant acid pulp to gratify the palate. The grape fruit another enormous crop, named because it grows in clusters, covers the boughs of the trees with fruit, the size of Mediterranean oranges, and the fruit is eaten from October to June. Three a day while pleasing the taste, will cure any case

of fever in three days, if properly taken by the mouth, with or without sugar and spoon, the lemon and lime give their acid fruit constantly, as well as the citron of the conserve market. The Banana flaunts its broad leaves, and drops its luscious fruits in the hand without culture almost without care beyond a protecting fence from the horse and cow. The guava fills the place of the peach, lasting for months in summer; and the peach itself only forgets when to bloom, and so falls to always give a crop. The apple and pear are in about the same condition so was the apple in Mesilla when in 1861 I received the first stock of trees by mail at that place. I have this year had a tree make seven feet of growth, and it is still going up. It is an evergreen here, and may forget that apples grow by seasons. It is another of my experiments. We can grow the date, olive, tamarino, walnut, and all the grapes of the countries about the Mediterranean. There is no rust on the wild vines, and all the American varieties grow and bear luxuriantly.

One half our products are not even named, and when one looks around he cannot name them, and one is at a loss to tell which to recommend. Our sweet potatoes are the best in the world, and are always in use. Sugar cane gives on good land 1,600 pounds to the acre, cassava will yield 90,000 to 80,000 pounds of roots, richer in starch than any plant except wheat grains, and raised easier than the northerner raises his Irish potato. Long cotton and cuba tobacco reward those who will give the labor, cows find pastures superior to New Mexican. Government gives a homestead to those who apply and pay the office fee. State lands can be purchased at \$40 for 40 acres, and \$72 for 80, and \$108 for 160 acres. Improvements had for less than cost of making. I predict that within ten years, these same homesteads cannot be purchased for \$50 an acre. I love my new Florida home as I love no place on earth. I am charmed with its climate, its pine woods, its evergreen oaks, its beautiful lakes, its soft bright water, its well, its gentle breezes its rich sandy soil, its young orange trees, 1,000 in number, all its pleasing prospects, and above all, its freedom from all sickness. I do not say it is a paradise but it would seem to be Eden, where man may plant as the Lord planted in old times every tree and planted pleasant to the sight and good for food; and after tending eat their fruit.

J. G. KNAPP.

### TAXATION IN TEXAS.

After a struggle that lasted for several years, the granger element of the democratic party of Texas obtained the ascendancy. Its first act was to secure the adoption of a new constitution that contained among other things a mandatory provision requiring the legislature to pass a law taxing the growing crop. Now that the full iniquity of the law appears the Texas democratic papers have this to say about the law, and about Col. Lang the Grand Master of the Grangers who is the father of it:

"The Lockhart News Echo, in commenting on Grand Master Lang's recent address at that place, says:

Col. Lang defended Col. Darden from the attacks of those who denounced him on account of his instructions upon the law authorizing the levy of a tax upon produce, and said that the law was a just one; that it was the only true principle of equal taxation, and that the farmers should not complain. He contended that all the tax collected for the support of the government had to be paid by the farmers, and it made but little difference whether this tax was laid upon the products or the land—it all amounted to the same thing.

After having instigated the passage of this iniquitous law, so less could be expected than that he should justify it. A tax on the production of the farmer cannot be justified "on the principle of equal taxation," as asserted by Lang.—The land is taxed on which the produce is raised, the corn which is fed to the hogs, and the bacon and hams that are fattened by it. It is not the surplus, but the consumable and perishable productions that are taxed. Lang, at fridings, wanted the produce raised in the hands of the factor, but shifts his ground at Lockhart, when made the laughing stock of the country for his idiosyncy. His influence, such as it is, is all for evil. He defeated a mandatory provision of the constitution, requiring the Legislature to set apart three millions of acres of land for a new Capitol, because it conflicted with his scheming projects for certain railroads. By this action, before another Legislature meets, all the valuable lands will be taken up, and if a new Capitol is built, it will come out of the pockets of the people. The present dilapidated buildings are a shame and disgrace to a State of this magnitude, and ere long new buildings will be constructed. But so long as he could serve huge corporations in the Legislature, what cared he for the grand interests of the commonwealth?"

### THE MASON'S LAST ADIEU.

The following lines were written at a time when the writer believed he was on his death bed.

Farewell my brethren, all: Adieu;  
My time has come to part from you.  
I've served my day, I've run my race,  
My toils are o'er, I yield my place.  
My sturdy frame stood many a blast  
But now worn out, it sinks, at last.  
No more will care corrode my breast  
Nor sorrow break my silent rest,  
My gauge will measure time no more,  
My gavel's sound you'll fail to hear.  
My level leads to that great bourne  
From whence no traveller returns.  
My ashier rough a perfect block,  
My trestle board a sealed book.  
My plumb you'll at a corner find,  
And taut along the wall, my line.  
My square will soon corrode with rust,  
My trowel turn again to dust;  
These tools have served well their day  
In shaping up this faulty clay.  
I leave this life without regret,  
Another lies before me yet.  
Into the silent land I go,  
The great unknown I soon shall know.  
Now bear this clay, with silent grief,  
To where I take my final sleep;  
Return't to her who gave me birth  
And let it rest with mother earth.

T. C.

### THE INVASION OF MEXICO.

The people of the Eastern States have been a good deal exercised by the instructions given to Gen. Ord to pursue the Mexican marauders into their own territory and to punish them there. There is a high degree of sensitiveness on the subject, and the instructions of the State Department have been sharply criticised and censured. The apprehension is, that the enforcement of the order will result in a war between the two governments, the result of which would be the annexation of the Northern provinces, and this is what the East deprecates. If the position taken by Diaz is maintained, a war between the two countries would certainly follow, but such has not been the case thus far. Three weeks have elapsed since a detachment of the 24th Infantry crossed the Rio Grande in pursuit of a band of horse thieves, killed several of them and recaptured the horses. The orders of Diaz to his commanding officer, Gen. Trevino, were to repel force by force, but, whether from prudence or fear, the orders were not executed.

In the previous history of similar events we find precedents for the course pursued by Gen. Ord, without resistance on the part of the Mexican authorities. The Governor of Texas did the same thing in 1874 on his own responsibility, and in 1876 the House of Representatives passed a resolution authorizing Gen. Grant to do precisely what President Hayes has done. There is, therefore, according to precedent, no reason in resisting what has been done on that border for the past twenty years. But the impression prevails that Diaz will yet purposely create the difficulty. It is supposed that he desires a breach in order to fix his inaccuracy and un-recognized power and authority as President. If a war breaks out between the two countries, he will concentrate about him all the disaffected classes, and in the aroused spirit of nationality the dissensions of the Nation will be healed. If this occurs, the result of the war can be easily seen, the acquisition of the Northern provinces becomes a certainty. Diaz and his government exercise very little authority in those States, and a sentiment not unfavorable to annexation already exists there. There is a good deal of world-wide among the better class, the country is rich in mineral resources, but undeveloped, the industries languish for want of a government, and the security to person and property, which now they are, in a large measure, without. It is even said that Diaz is willing to cede these provinces to the United States in consideration of his recognition and a small addition to his depleted treasury, after paying what is due our citizens for damages.

Thus, in any way we regard the matter, it seems as if this portion of Mexico must pass under the jurisdiction of our Government. There may be many reasons for and against such a proceeding, but when the result becomes inevitable reasons either way amount to nothing. There seems to be a strong feeling in the North and East against it, based upon sectional antagonism, and a fear of the still greater preponderance of strength in favor of the West and South, but jealousy of this sort can not be considered in matters demanded by public necessity, if the war occurs, or justified by considerations of public policy, if acquired by the results of negotiation and diplomacy. Recent events indicate an early settlement of the matter one way or the other.—St. Louis Journal.