

The Brownsville Herald.

OFFICIAL COUNTY AND CITY JOURNAL

Jesse O. Wheeler, Proprietor.

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FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1908.

Announcement

THE HERALD is authorized to announce the candidacy of
JOHN N. GARNER

for re-election as representative of the 15th Congressional District for the ensuing term, subject to the action of the democratic nominating convention.

PROMPT MAIL DELIVERY QUESTION.

In conjunction with the article published in THE HERALD several days ago, in regard to the change in schedule on the main line it would not be amiss to ask why is it that the mail, arriving on the branch line on the evening, from Sam Fordyce and all points between that place and Brownsville, is not distributed the same evening it is received?

This is indeed an important question for the citizens of Brownsville to look into. It would surprise any outsider of the amount of important communications which are constantly being received by the business men of this town from the towns along this road and consequently we think it would be just and fair to ask the postal clerks to distribute this mail the same evening it arrives instead of holding it over until the mail from the main line is in, which is not distributed until the next morning.

With all due consideration to the postal clerks here, we firmly believe that an injustice is being done to the best business interest of Brownsville by not having this mail distributed as soon as received at the office. As it is now, any important document, which requires immediate attention, is delayed a full twenty-four hours on account of not being received the same evening. In nearly every other town throughout the country the postal clerks are required to distribute the mail when the trains arrive, provided it is not later than eight o'clock. Why this post office can not handle the mail, which arrives here at 5:45 p. m., is a question which the citizens of the town should inquire into.

GOOD SIDE WALKS.

San Antonio Has Set the Pace—Let us follow in Building Sidewalks.

San Antonio has embarked on a campaign to get good streets and sidewalks. A recent decision by the Fourth Court of Civil Appeals has compelled the city to pay five thousand dollars damages to a man who injured himself by stepping into a hole on a sidewalk. Mayor Callaghan has issued instructions to the Street Commission to begin repairing all down town streets and plazas. He announces his purpose of putting all of the pavements in first class condition. The Business Men's Club, and the Woman's Club will join the Mayor in this work of civic improvement, and a campaign for good streets and sidewalks will be inaugurated.

San Antonio has two difficulties to contend with in the making of streets and sidewalks, the first is the size of the city, it covers

INSECTS

By F. H. CHITTEN

NATURE OF Aphis.
The melon aphis, one of the most commonly known, the "mealy bug" injures plants by piercing them with its beak and sucking out their vitality. It occurs from early in the season to late in autumn on melons and other cucurbits of a large and on many other crops. It increases, notably in summers following springs that are cool and rainy, it frequently develops in enormous numbers and does very serious damage, collecting in masses on the under surface of the leaves of plants and causing them to curl, shrivel, and lose color, and interfering with the ultimate development of the fruit. Often it kills plants outright, and destroys whole fields or greatly reduces the yield of fruit.

The melon aphis, like others of its kind, excretes "honey dew," but this is not so copious as in the case of many species of aphides, for example, certain forms which affect trees. When, however, the aphis under discussion becomes unusually abundant, the honey dew covers the leaves of the affected plants with a thin, sticky coating on which the white cast skins of the aphides adhere, and this attracts attention to injury, as does also the wilting and dying down of the plants. Some persons notice this honey dew, and are unaware of the presence of the insects. They speak of the injury as "honey dew," and have even applied this name to the insect itself.

Quite too frequently, by the time the presence of the melon aphis in injurious numbers, is noticed, irreparable damage has been accomplished and the insects have for the most part migrated to other pastures.

DESCRIPTION.

The melon aphis is a minute, soft-bodied creature, of variable color, usually of some shade of green or greenish black; in its young and wingless stages, louse-like in appearance; and of sluggish habit throughout its existence.

A brief description of the stages figured will suffice for the present purpose.

The winged female which shows a form with pale abdomen. The body is more slender than in the wingless form the length being from 1.2 to 1.8 mm, while the wings expand from 4.5 to 6 mm. The male has not as yet been recognized.

This is by far the most important and abundant aphis affecting melons and other cucurbits, and is not likely to be confused with any other species occurring habitually on the same class of plants. It is, indeed, a very important pest, and, taken season after season, the worst aphis occurring in this country.

DISTRIBUTION.

The origin of the melon aphis is doubtful, but is probably tropical, since this insect shows a decided preference for plants of a tropical nature, such as the cucurbits, cotton, and orange. Southward the aphis occurs in the West Indies, in

thirty-six square miles in extent, by reason of having such large lawns about the houses. This is an area equal to that of the city of Boston with eight times the population. The second difficulty is the Homestead Law of Texas, which makes it impossible to enforce a lien against homesteads for city improvement. Nevertheless despite these difficulties San Antonio intends to be the best paved city in the Southwest, and has set out to accomplish this by appealing to the patriotism and civic pride rather than the Big Stick of the Law.

What San Antonio can do with her immense area of sidewalks Brownsville could surely accomplish the same. Why not pull together now and DEMAND BETTER SIDEWALKS. By this means we will save the city a possible law-suit and would also be better able to apply for free mail delivery, which we can never obtain while the sidewalks remain in their present condition.

MELONS

...ing Experiments

...razil, and doubt-
...re in South America.
...generally distributed
...United States, but does
...in the southwest than
...where. In Texas, Kansas, and
...braska it is particularly trouble-
...some to melons, and in the last
...two States to cucumbers, which
...are there extensively grown for
...pickling. But it may at any time
...create more or less trouble in north-
...ern regions, particularly in Vir-
...ginia, Maryland, Delaware, and
...New Jersey, where cucurbits are
...much cultivated. Occasionally it
...is injurious as far north as Min-
...nesota and west to California. It
...has been collected also in Adelaide,
...South Australia.

INSTANCES OF INJURY

The melon aphis first attracted notice thru its injuries to cotton in 1854, and from that time on it has done more or less damage year by year, and, in view of its rapacity, rapid multiplication, and omnivorous habits, will no doubt continue injurious in spite of all that can be done to repress it. As a melon and cucumber pest it was noticed in Florida and southern Illinois in 1880, and in the next three years caused considerable losses in those States and in Georgia. Soon afterwards it became recognized as a strawberry pest. In later years many other food plants were added to its known dietary. The years 1902, 1903, and 1898 were unusually bad "aphis years."

In 1893 information was received from a pickle company of Omaha, Nebr., of severe injury in that State. This company was growing between 30,000 and 50,000 bushels of cucumbers a year, and several hundred neighboring farmers grow this vegetable for the company. Two-thirds of the crop grown in 1892 was destroyed by the aphis, and in 1893 half of the crop was lost. These injuries made it difficult to induce outside planters to grow for the company.

In 1898 this species was extremely troublesome. In order that a good idea of its destructiveness may be had, some reports are cited. In January, injury was reported on cucumbers in Florida and in May to strawberries in Delaware, where the insects were described as "taking everything clean." By June this insect had been very injurious to watermelon in southern Texas, when it destroyed many acres of early vines. In July Texas correspondents reported the destruction of 1,000 acres of cantaloupes in one locality, and the outbreak assumed such proportions as to cause much newspaper comment. One company reported that the ravages of this pest had cost them \$20,000, and that agriculturists of that section had sustained irretrievable loss. In November a Pennsylvania correspondent reported losses to cucumbers grown under glass, and in December this aphis resumed its ravages to cucumbers in Florida.

TO BE CONTINUED.

CATTLE STATISTICS.

Cattle Industry in Texas Averages \$59,138,381.

San Antonio, Texas, March 27, 1908.—In the report of the Comptroller of Public Accounts, received from the printer this morning, there is contained statistical information concerning the cattle industry which is of particular interest at present. During the fiscal year ending Aug. 31st, 1907, there were rendered on the assessment rolls of the various counties of the State 6,504,056 cattle, their value being \$59,138,381, average value \$9.09, in contrast to 6,015,859 as the number of cattle, \$54,363 their value and \$9.14 their average value for 1906. An increase over last year's report is shown in number 488,197, and in value of \$4,140,018. This hardly indicates that the cattle industry is on the wane in Texas.

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