

THE DESERET FARMER
(THAT BIG FARM PAPER.)

Combined With "Rocky Mountain Farming."

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Official Organ of the
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Utah Horticultural Society.
Utah State Dairymen's Association.
Utah State Bee Keepers' Association.
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Utah Arid Farming Association.

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Salt Lake City, Utah.

Saturday, November 14, 1908.

ATTENDING MEETING OF FARMERS' INSTITUTE WORKERS.

The Editor of this paper left for Washington, D. C., during the week to be in attendance at the meeting of Farmers' Institute Workers from all parts of the United States, to be held there during the week beginning Monday next. The Experiment Stations from all the states will be represented there, and Utah will be represented by Dr. E. D. Ball, the Station Director. While away these men will visit the Agricultural Colleges and Experiment Stations at Nebraska, Iowa, Colorado, Illinois, Ohio and several others as well. They expect to pick up many ideas that will be helpful to Utah farmers. While the Editor is away the paper will be taken care of by its staff and Mr. Peterson will look after the editorial pages.

Kindly mention the "Deseret Farmer" when writing to or doing business with our advertisers.

THE WHEAT BELT.

Improvement in Harvesting.

August Wolf.

Twenty-two hundred and fifty combined harvesting machines, operated by steam, gasoline, horses and mules, and 60,000 men were required to garner the wheat crop, estimated at 60,000,000 bushels, in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, during the season just closed. The value of the crop is placed at from \$45,000,000 to \$50,000,000. The machines cut about 50 per cent of the total yield and on this it is estimated there was a saving of five cents a bushel and two bushels of waste grain the acre, adding nearly \$2,000,000 to the revenue of the producers. The men were paid \$6,000,000 in wages, the average cost of saving the crop being 10 cents a bushel, exclusive of bags and haulage to warehouses.

The harvesters established a new record this year in saving the crop in the three states, as never before were the wheat belts stripped of their stands of grain in such time. The farmers had the most efficient help in years and at no time were they obliged to suspend or even curtail operations because of shortage. The average earning of each man was \$100 for the season, and the average amount of grain harvested by him was 1000 bushels, while the average threshing crew of four men headed, stacked and threshed 2000 bushels a day. The average yield was a little more than 20 bushels the acre, while individual fields report as high as 42 bushels.

Ranchers in 12 counties in eastern Washington, including the Big Bend and the Palouse belts, harvested nearly 34,000,000 bushels. The crop was about normal in the Big Bend country, and in the Palouse country the average yield was nearly 35 bushels the acre, and most of it is hard and clean and of good milling grade, and while the crop is smaller than in 1907, the bumper season in the history of the Northwest, the farmers have a greater net profit this season, as prices are better and it cost less to garner the crop. The bags in which the grain was marketed were also cheaper. The average price of wheat has not been under 75 cents and has been up to 83, and there are many who believe it will reach the dollar

mark before the end of the year.

A farm of 700 acres may be taken as a unit upon which to base calculations. Under the ordinary methods on a ranch of this size the labor of 16 men was required throughout the harvest season. The yield was 14,000 bushels. From this field the farmer received, at present prices, about \$11,000. After paying his bills he will have a bank account left, and will lose no time in preparing to seed the land for a crop in 1909.

The labor problem has been a serious one with farmers all over the grain belt in recent years. The harvesters, coming from practically all parts of the continent, were shiftless, hard to manage, ready to quit work at the drop of a hat, and eager at all times to crowd wages up to the breaking point. On the other hand, employers worked their help long hours, and the old adage of "you do not need blankets, get a lantern," while worn out, was founded in fact.

The working hours were shorter, the conditions much better, the class of men more steadfast and conscientious and the feeling between them and the farmers were much more friendly. This condition was not brought about by the free employment bureau, as was established last year, or by any other unusual conditions except that these men have been less called for in the ordinary labor circles, and the harvest fields offered opportunities for high wages and a month or two of outdoor life.

An element entering into the labor problem this season was the change in the method of harvesting grain generally over the Northwest. In fact, wheat harvesting has been subjected to the most marked evolution of any of the modes of work on the farm. Following the self-rake reaper came the header and the self-binder. The large fields were handled readily with the header, but the loss of grain was considerable. During the financial flurry in 1893, a farmer of the name of George Delaney, operating in the Walla Walla country, bought a combined harvester in an effort to save expense and secure all the grain from his land. It was successful and did service until 1907, when it was relegated to the scrap pile.

From that time the system of harvesting changed rapidly, and today there are 2250 combined harvesters in operation in Washington, Oregon

and Idaho, and there are some in Montana and British Columbia. With a combined machine four men will cut 700 acres during a season. In the old way, with header and thresher, the combined labor of 16 men would be required to do the same task. With the aid of combined harvesters, the crop of the Inland Empire could have been harvested by 15,000 men.

The prosperity of the farmers in the Northwest is plainly evidenced at the banks. Notes and accounts are being taken up, mortgages paid off and many are either buying or building homes in towns or making extensive improvements on their farms. Two months or more of good weather may be expected before the snow furies begin, during that time many of the farm houses will be replaced by more pretentious structures and modern barns will be erected and more machinery installed on farms in various parts of the newly opened districts.

Another thing which bears out the claim of prosperity among the farmers is the surplus of funds in the banks and the shortage of demand for money. Bankers say that when the crop is finally disposed of nearly all of the farmers, including many of the newcomers, will be entirely free from debts. There is more surplus money than at any other time in 20 years.

The demand for wheat is such that the grain is loaded and shipped as rapidly as it is hauled from the farms to the railroad tracks and the warehousemen are able to draw sight drafts on the consignees immediately to pay the growers. In numerous instances the grain is being taken from the farmers' wagons and loaded into cars. There is no shortage of cars so far and none is looked for, as most of the wheat is going to Puget Sound coast points, the rest being sent direct to mills in the Inland Empire.

FOR SALE.—Arid land in Cedar Valley; 520 acres, adjoining Cedar Fort field; 1/4 mile from town and railroad station; \$5,000—part cash, balance time. Address, SAMUEL STARK, 730 S. West Temple St., S. L. City.

ADDED INJURY.

"Now tell me why I punished you."
"That's it," sobbed Johnny; "you nearly pound the life out of me, and now you don't even know why you did it."