

AGRICULTURE.

The season just drawing to a close is the dryest one ever experienced in Oregon and Washington, and followed the severest winter that has visited us for years. The crop outlook was from the first discouraging, and the people generally settled down into a belief that the grain crop would be light everywhere and in some places a complete failure. This idea has spread abroad, as was to be expected; and now that harvest reveals the fact that crops are large everywhere and in many places unusually so, we have collated the following reports from the various local papers, to show our friends abroad how we slandered our fertile soil and discounted the future to our own disadvantage. Faith in Oregon and Washington will receive new strength from the consideration of such a report as this for a season so extremely unfavorable. In preparing it we have divided the country into sections possessing about the same characteristics, so as to make it easier of comprehension. In comparing the different reports one needs to be familiar with the geography, varied climatic conditions and characteristics of soil.

WEST OF THE CASCADES.

WILLAMETTE VALLEY.

SALEM STATESMAN—Mr. D. D. Prettyman, writing from Lower's Station, Polk county, says: I find the grain in Benton and Polk counties much better than I apprehended. Some fields have threshed over 40 bushels to the acre. Oats are better here than I have found elsewhere. The farmers are happy.

YAMHILL REPORTER—Hon. J. C. Braley, of Yamhill county, has a field of late grain that has had no rain on it, that is waist high, well headed and is filling well and will make a good crop. This is another proof that cultivation beats irrigation.

HILLSBORO INDEPENDENT—Farmers near Hillsboro report fair crops, grain having filled beyond expectations. Some fields of wheat have been estimated to yield thirty-five bushels to the acre.

LAFAYETTE REGISTER—Those who were so surprised at our remarks over a month ago, when we stated that we had visited almost all sections of the county and gave it as our opinion that the crop prospect at that time indicated over, rather than under, an average yield, that the early grain would be good without any more rain, are now much more surprised at the large yield. Not only the early grain is making a good yield, but much also of late grain that has not had a drop of rain on it, will make a fair crop. Many intelligent persons who thought our idea preposterous, and contended that we would not have a fourth of a crop, now see that our prediction has been verified in every respect. Our opinion was based upon the appearance of the crops, while those who were so dispondent based their opinions mainly on the ground that wheat would not mature without rain occasionally. It has now been learned, that where the ground is put in good order, Oregon will produce a fair crop without any rain.

ALBANY DEMOCRAT—As the harvest advances the prospects grow brighter and brighter for a good wheat crop, and reports from different parts of the country would indicate that the farmers have little to complain of in that respect. What

the price will be it is impossible to state now. It is bound to start out at least better than last year, but it is such an uncertain matter that prediction is useless, and we shall not attempt to turn prophet. A sample of wheat from the farm of A. Pearce on the opposite side of the river from this city has been left at this office. It is of the Chili club variety, and is the finest sample we have seen this season. It is thought it will make 45 to 50 bushels per acre.

EUGENE CITY GUARD—We understand that the grain in this county is filling in good shape. It is confidently asserted by many of our farmers that we will have a fair crop, while less than ten days ago many of them did not think we would have half a crop. What country in the world could stand a drouth of seventy-five days and still raise good crops. Oregon beats the world!

UMPQUA AND ROGUE RIVER VALLEYS.

ROSEBURG INDEPENDENT—The cutting is nearly over and threshing has begun in this county. After a careful consultation with farmers from all the different sections we are able to state that the result of the harvest will be above the average. The oat crop is light in some places and much over the average in others. The barley crop is heavier than usual everywhere, and the wheat crop gives a better yield than last year. Even the late sown grain, which was expected to amount to but little, is turning out better than was expected. Many farmers cut considerable of their grain for hay, with the expectation that the crop would be short, but the timothy proved to be nearly up to the average, and will give them a small surplus.

JACKSONVILLE TIMES—Beall Bros., of Manzanita, threshed the wheat from 29¼ acres last week and got 1,500 bushels of fine grain, or over 50 bushels per acre. Who can beat it?

JACKSONVILLE SENTINEL—Notwithstanding the cry about drouth and short crops in this valley the yield is far better than was expected and, after all, nearly an average. Those who have threshed are well satisfied and many are now regretting that they cut their fields for hay. This result shows that our soil is capable of standing the most severe drouth, as it is now nearly three months since any rain has fallen and yet fields, orchards and vineyards have flourished and promise plenty for the coming year. In the eastern states three weeks drouth is disastrous and if it continue much longer the result is dear bread and ruin to the farmers. What this country might produce under proper and intelligent cultivation is one of those problems that will only be solved in the future.

John Watson realizes 30 bushels of wheat to the acre for spring sown grain which was plowed in and consequently stood the drouth well. A field of Mr. Kimes has yielded about the same and we hear of many others as high as 40 bushels to the acre.

NORTH OF THE COLUMBIA.

Though this is not as much of a wheat region as the Willamette valley, still there is a large amount of grain raised. The only definite report we have is the following:

VANCOUVER INDEPENDENT—Henry Christ threshed his grain on Monday. Spring wheat went 20 bushels to the acre, and oats 30, both grown on high land. This was far ahead of the estimated yield. Threshing is progressing on

Mill Plain. Jas. Bybee's grain turns out better than was anticipated. On the whole it looks a though the yield will not be very far below that of last year, but the quality is not so good in wheat.

EAST OF THE CASCADES.

EASTERN OREGON.

PRINEVILLE NEWS—It has been the general impression that the grain crop of Crook county would fall far short of the average yield this season, but this is a mistake. True, the crop is short in many places, but where a crop has not been raised for several years on account of grasshoppers, the grain is heavy, and will yield an abundant harvest. All the grain on low land is rather better than common, while on the up land it is short. So it is evident that the yield will be about up to the standard.

THE DALLES TIMES-MOUNTAINEER—Last week Hons. W. Lair Hill and Robert Mays returned from a trip into the country, and brought back very favorable reports of the crop outlook. These two gentlemen journeyed throughout the county and thoroughly canvassed the crop prospects, and were extremely well satisfied with the yield of the present harvest. They were greatly encouraged as regards the future of this county, and pronounce it an agricultural section. The kernel of the wheat is well filled, and the yield per acre will be above an average. This has been an unusually dry summer, and in almost every instance the uplands will be more productive than the bottom. Immigrants, before proceeding further, should examine the lands still vacant in Wasco county, and they will find as desirable bottom locations for settlement as anywhere.

WESTON LEADER—The following yields tend to keep up Umatilla's reputation as a wheat growing county: H. McArthur had on his farm just south of Weston 25 acres that averaged 45 bushels to the acre, and 51 acres that averaged 37½ bushels; Mr. J. W. Stamper, who lives northwest of Weston, had 65 acres that produced an average of 34 bushels to the acre, and his son, Henry Stamper, had 60 acres that made 35 bushels to the acre, while their neighbor, Mr. A. Kinneer, had 80 acres that gave an average of 44 bushels to the acre: 74 acres of wheat belonging to Dave Taylor, yielded 3500 bushels; Moses Woodward's wheat went as high as 51 bushels to the acre; Sam Gerking had 48 acres that made 1875 bushels of wheat; Jake Nelson threshed 5650 bushels of wheat from 125 acres; 15 acres belonging to J. Gerking made 710 bushels; the wheat on Mr. Reeder's farm yielded 30 and 40 bushels to the acre; 40 acres on the farm of Boston Durr gave 34½ bushels of wheat to the acre; 1980 bushels of wheat was the product of forty acres belonging to R. Ginn, who lives a mile or two west of Weston; J. S. Harris averaged a little over forty bushels to the acre from a forty acre field. J. A. Downing had 40 acres of oats that yielded 1842 bushels, and 12 acres of spring wheat that averaged 26 bushels to the acre.

From Greasewood we have the following: J. M. Gallaher had two hundred and fifty acres of wheat that yielded nine thousand bushels, 30 acres of spring barley that averaged 28 bushels to the acre, and 20 acres of volunteer barley that averaged 37 bushels; A. Waters had 35 acres of wheat that averaged over 35 bushels to the acre; A. Mc-