

Shipping Lumber to the East.

Considerable encouragement is offered the lumber manufacturers of this section by the reduction in rates to Eastern points. The concessions are not all the mills think they are entitled to, but the modified rates place them more nearly on an equality with Coast shippers, and extend the market farther east and south than ever before.

As a result of these reductions, many mills in the white pine districts will be able to reap notable benefits and increase their output as opportunity is offered to build up trade in the treeless states of the plains.

The states west of the Mississippi, from the Dakotas to Louisiana, ought to become permanent customers of Western lumber, and their purchases will no doubt increase every year, provided a living transportation rate is given by the railroads. These states must look abroad for their building material, and, with the depletion of the forests at the head of the Mississippi, they will have to turn toward the farther West. Under ordinary circumstances they would come to the timber section of the great Northwest, and this they may now do under the new lumber rates which have been established by the transcontinental lines. The result should be greater activity among the mills of the section, and a prosperity among lumbermen such as they have never enjoyed heretofore.

Two Billion Corn Crop.

Secretary of the Treasury Shaw, accompanied by Darius Miller, James A. Patten and Corwin H. Spencer, all officials of the Burlington railroad, have just completed a trip over the corn growing area of the Middle West. In an interview in a Chicago paper, Mr. Corwin said: "With three weeks of good corn weather I believe we will have a 2,000,000,000 bushel corn crop. The greater part of the crop will be out of the way of frost by September 22 with the right kind of weather. The crop is green and the entire country looks fine, and one can not help being impressed by the prosperity all through the West. From what I saw it made me feel rather weak on corn. We went as far West as Oxford, Neb. At Hastings, Neb., we left our car and inquired about corn. We were told that a farmer had some good corn about five miles from that point. We drove out to it and made an examination. The farmer said it would run seventy-five bushels to the acre. Patten thought the estimate would be about sixty-five bushels, and most of us thought the man would be fortunate if he secured seventy-five bushels.

"Along the Burlington road in Iowa and in Eastern Nebraska the corn crop is not good. It is only fair and very weedy. At one point in Iowa they told us the corn was better back in the country away from the railroad. There is a large yield of alfalfa, two or three crops being harvested. In riding through Nebraska, one is struck with the belief that they have a bumper wheat crop, but they told me at the different points at which we stopped that the yield was disappointing. The wet weather has damaged the quality, and I think we have a poor crop all around."

Reports from California show that the wine industry is receiving a great boost this year. The grape crop of our neighboring state is 60 per cent larger than in 1922, and it is estimated that 1,300,000 gallons of wine will be made this year in the counties ranging from Ventura to San Diego. The percentage of sugar is said to be larger than usual, which means a heavy brandy production. The wine product of California is composed mostly of sweet wines, so-called port, angelica, sherry and muscatel. In addition about 30,000 gallons of dry wines will be manufactured. As high prices prevail for grapes the outlook is very satisfactory to the vineyardist. California wines are beginning to gain abroad the reputation to which they are entitled. It is still the case, however, that California wine is shipped abroad in bulk and reshipped to this country in bottles under high-sounding foreign titles. Some day California wine will go abroad under its own labels and be as favored as the best French brands.

After more than three years of preparation and effort, and the expenditure of more than six thousand dollars, the plan for the excavation of Ur of the Chaldees and other places in Babylonia by American explorers has been abandoned because the Turkish Government will not grant permission to American citizens to do this work.

The Krapps of Germany have sent experts to the United States to compete with the American Steel Trust on bridge building contracts.

Four pouches of important mail matter belonging to residents of Havana, Cuba, and Progreso, Mexico, have just been forwarded by Postmaster General Payne. This mail was seized during the Spanish-American War, five years ago, by an American patrol, off the coast of Mexico, bound to its destination. These pouches have since been in the possession of the judicial authorities of the United States. It was only recently that the mail was forwarded to the officials of the post office.

The United States sends abroad more merchandise than any other nation, and yet it has, exclusive of coastwise vessels, a deep-sea fleet of only 873,000 tons against 1,600,000 tons for Norway, 2,960,000 tons for Germany and 14,800,000 tons for Great Britain. The New York Board of Trade and Transportation has undertaken to find out why this is so, and why the deep-sea tonnage is not as great as in 1810, when the population of the United States was only seven millions.

The Yawkey Lumber Co., a prominent lumber concern of Hazelhurst, Wisconsin, has recently purchased about 16,000 acres of timber land on Wood river, in the northern part of Klamath county. This land was all bought from individual claimants who have been located on the claims from two to five years. The price paid is said to be from \$8 to \$10 an acre. Mr. Wm. Schlecht, one of the members of the company, is their representative here. He states that they have other holdings in other parts of the state also.

The two prize Rambouillet rams received recently by Hon. J. S. Herrin, says the Ashland Tidings, were sheared last week, and the 12 months' crop of wool on the two weighed 86 pounds—the fleece of one of them weighed 40 and the other 46 pounds. Mr. Herrin has been 30 years in the business of growing fine sheep and says this yield of wool has never been equaled in this country and he is highly elated with it. However, he will not be happy until he produces a 50 pound fleece.

The increase in total output and value of Oregon's dairy products for the year 1921 was 40 per cent over the amount of the production and value for the preceding year, and is shown by the following figures: Butter, 8,400,000 lbs., two-thirds of which was creamery and one-third dairy, valued at 22½ cents a pound for the former and 15 cents for the latter, or \$1,880,000. Cheese 2,000,000 pounds valued at 11 cents a pound, or \$220,000. Total \$1,900,000.

The Texas wheat crop is estimated between twenty and twenty-five million bushels. Of this amount Texas mills will consume about ten million bushels and the balance will be exported. Over one hundred and fifty cars are arriving at Galveston daily with export grain, and the indications are that this will be the banner year in grain exporting business.

A. T. Riggs, a business man of Dallas, Ore., has just cleared \$16,000 on a deal in Cascara Segrada, or chittam bark, as it is more commonly called. Some time ago Mr. Riggs purchased 65 to 70 tons at 3½ to 4 cents per pound, and a few days since he sold it at 17 cents per pound, leaving him a net profit of about \$16,000.

Oregon possesses 70,000 of the 300,000 Angoras in the United States, and produces over 200,000 pounds of mohair annually. If there were no profit in mohair, the increase of the herd would more than pay for themselves as a land clearer alone.

Parts of Lane county have been devoted to goat breeding for the last 30 years. During the last four years the industry has spread to all parts of the country. There are thousands of acres in Western Oregon adapted to goat raising.

The steamer Korés, just arrived at San Francisco from the Orient, had in her cargo of less than three thousand tons, thirteen hundred bales of raw silk valued at over one million dollars, and 18,908 chests of tea.

Fred Stump threshed from eight acres of ground, 200 bushels of vetch, for which he finds ready sale at \$1.50 per bushel, or \$37.50 per acre, and still some say there is no money in farming.—Independence Enterprise.

Our agriculture, which amounted to \$100,000,000 100 years ago, is now rapidly approaching \$3,000,000,000 a year, and the value of the farms of the country is almost \$15,000,000,000.

Russia takes nearly half the agricultural machinery which this country exports. Incidentally, too, she is taking away the agricultural trade of the United States in Manchuria.

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