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WHEAT CROPS OF THE WORLD

Some Plowing Still Reported in Northwest—Damage in Other Sections.

Crop conditions continue very good all over the Pacific northwest. From every section the same reports come—crops growing faster than ever for this time of year. Some belated or early plowing is reported in a few sections on account of unusually mild climatic conditions.

United States.

In the southwest there are reports of green bugs from various sections. Reports indicate that the vermin are doing much damage to the growing crop. Other sections report the usual winter conditions.

Foreign conditions are thus given by Broomhall in the Liverpool Corn Trade News under date of January 17:

United Kingdom.

The frost which we mentioned a week ago increased in severity during the latter part of the week and was accompanied by a bitterly cold east wind, which on some days blew with considerable force. The thermometer registered 10 to 20 degrees of frost in the south of England, as well as the north, but after being particularly keen on Sunday, the frost began to give at night and at 8 o'clock yesterday morning the thaw was complete and the temperature spring like. The frost has left its mark on the young winter wheats, particularly the late sown, but it is very seldom that bad frosts occur in these islands.

Argentina.

The latest news we have from our own agent describes harvest work as proceeding satisfactorily, with good weather. Estimates of the wheat surplus are showing a tendency to increase. The new wheat has already commenced to arrive at the ports and shipments are expected to increase soon.

India.

We hear that clouds have appeared in one important district of the Punjab, but otherwise the situation shows no change. It is certain that the winter rains must come very soon now if there is to be any substantial increase in the wheat acreage, for it is not usual to expect any seedings of this crop after the middle of January, even in the late northern districts. We again hear by mail that the outlook in Bengal and the central provinces is fair, but these cut but a small figure compared with the big crops usually grown in the Punjab and United provinces.

Australia.

Chartering to load the new wheat crop proceeds slowly, but still the list of boats now numbers some 30 sailers and steamers.

Russia.

The weather lately has been very severe generally and as the snow cover has been deficient it is needless to say that the crop outlook is no better. Fresh arrivals at the ports are extraordinarily scarce and it really looks as if, before the spring, the export trade may come to a dead stop, unless there is some increase in supplies soon. St. Petersburg sends advices dated 22d inst., of a big snowstorm in the northwest and another in the Black Sea, which extended over the lower parts of the Crimea.

Roumania.

We hear from Bucharest of a drifting snowstorm followed by not very severe frost, while Sulina reports 12 degrees frost fahrenheit and the Danube full of drift ice. As far as present shipments go the closing of the Danube will not make much difference, for Sulina has a stock of about 5,000,000 bushels, which will provide material for business during several weeks, but off the spring and summer the outlook is very black, for good authorities maintain that the country is about cleaned up as far as wheat is concerned. And, although crop reports so far cannot be called really pessimistic, yet our Braila correspondent says the crop has had the worst start he remembers during an experience of 27 years, and it is well known that a good harvest is seldom or never obtained from a bad seeding. The truth of this was abundantly verified by results from the last spring crop of Russia.

Austria-Hungaria.

Extremely cold weather was experienced last week and the hard frost must have subjected the young wheat plants to a severe test, unles they were safe under a good cover of snow, and of this so far we have had no word.

France.

The frost last week was very severe, viz., 30 degrees fahrenheit, and, although numerous falls of snow occurred, yet they did not cover the fields as farmers would have liked. It cannot be said there are any definite or serious complaints about the crop, but still farmers are a little anxious about the safety of the last seedings. Latest country markets have ruled quiet, but the recent advance of 6d to 9d per quarter has been maintained.

Germany.

Severe frost, without snow, was also experienced last week in this grower, and this weather naturally was not regarded as favorable for the crops, but of course any damage will not be revealed till spring. It may be remembered that very similar weather was experienced last season, that is, a hard frost occurred suadenly when the crops had no snow cover, and we need hardly say that very serious crop damage was subsequently revealed. Supplies of native wheat are not much in evidence; indeed, we are informed that in the south they are coming to an end, and it is very certain that much Argentine wheat is wanted and has been already purchased.

BROOD OF PYTHONS.

Lively Young Family—First Instance of Hatching in Captivity.

From the London Tribune.

Most people know that vipers bring forth their young alive and that the common English grass snake deposits its eggs to be hatched by the heat of decaying matter. Some of the great constricting snakes, however, exercise a certain amount of care over their eggs, gathering them into a heap and coiling around them till the young make their way out or are helped into the world by the kindly offices of the keepers who break away the hardened shell.

A case of this kind occurred with the Indian python in the Tower Menagerie in the early part of the last century, and others are on record at the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, the Regents park gardens and at a later date in those at Lepisic. An incubation which has been unusually successful is just recorded from the Tierpark of Herr August Fockelmann at Gross-Borstel, near Hamburg.

In August last he bought a large recticulated python from a sailor trading to the east. Within a month she began to lay eggs, and when one was examined it was found to contain a partly developed embryo. As time went on others were opened, and in this way the proprietor obtained a series of specimens of young in different stages of development. The mother python paid the greatest attention to her eggs, leaving them only at night, when she went for a time into the bath.

The general results appear to be far better than have hitherto been obtained. At Regents park, though it was found that the eggs had been fertilized, no living young were produced. At Gross-Borstel 27 young pythons came out, and their owner described them as very lively little reptiles, with much the appearance of common grass snakes, measuring from 22 inches to 30 inches in length and biting readily at anything offered to them with sufficient force to make an impression on one's finger.

On November 25 they took food for the first time—white mice of a pretty good size. All appear to be in the best possible condition and should they reach maturity the fact of their having been hatched in confinement will no doubt enhance their value considerably, for this appears to be the first instance in which this particular species has so bred.

SHOE SIZES.

The System of Numbering the Work of a Forgotten Frenchman.

From the New York Sun.

"It is the hardest thing in the world for me," said a busy man the other day, "to remember the sizes of my different articles of wearing apparel. Collars, shirts and gloves are easy enough because there isn't a matter of actual inches, but where they get the hat and shoe numbers is what beats me, and why I have an 11 stocking under an 8 shoe is another mystery."

The last puzzle is easily explained. Stockings have always been measured by the inch from heel to toe, but the numbering of shoes was fixed a long time ago by a Frenchman—and it's so long ago that only one New York dealer could be found who knew anything about it. Even he didn't know the inventor's name.

The Frenchman permanently fixed the numbers of shoes for all Europe and America. He arbitrarily decided that no human foot could possibly be smaller than three and seven eighths inches, so calling this point zero he allowed one third of an inch to a size and so built up his scale. Consequently a man cannot find out the number of his own shoe unless he is an expert at exact arithmetic. And even then he is likely to go wrong, because all shoe experts allow for the weight of the individual and the build of his foot before they try to determine what size shoe he ought to wear.

As far as women's shoes are concerned the problem is still more difficult because many of the manufacturers instead of keeping to the regular scale have marked down their numbers one or two sizes in order to capture easily flattered customers. For this reason most dealers ask out of town customers to send an old shoe with their orders.

The system of measuring hats is much simpler. Any man can tell what size he wears by simply adding the width and length of the inner rim and then dividing by two. Orders can also be sent to the shop-keeper by stating the circumference of the head.

Buck's Four-Mile Swim.

From the Providence Bulletin.

A handsome buck deer landed on Stonington Point Tuesday, having swam half a mile across Stonington harbor from Wamphassett Point, where a herd of deer has lately been seen. The buck first encountered the sea wall that stretches along the waterfront south of the old breakwater, but managed to find a breach near the extreme end of the point through which he scrambled to a vacant lot near the house of Mrs. Frank Joseph.

The deer caught sight of the crowd as he came ashore and to escape capture leaped with great agility a seven-foot picket fence separating the shore from the narrow highway that leads to the government reservation at the end of the point. This brought him to the five-foot wall in front of the old lighthouse, which obstacle he also surmounted with graceful ease, bounding to the shore on the east side of the point, where he again took to the water in the direction of Sandy Point.

Sandy Point is the extreme tip of the state of Rhode Island, working up northerly from Napatree and inclosing Little Narragansett bay. Joseph Fuller jumped into a skiff and started in pursuit of the buck, but the chase was hopeless. After landing at Sandy Point the animal plunged again into the water and this time swam until he reached Osbrook, or Pawcatuck Point, at the mouth of the Pawcatuck river. Here he disappeared after an aggregate swim of nearly or quite four miles.

Chinese Have No Use for Surgeons.

From the Chicago Journal.

It may occur to many people that they have never seen a Chinaman bereft of an arm, leg or other member of his body. The reason for this is that all orientals maintain a profound objection to surgical operations. Indeed, they much prefer to die rather than to be deprived of a member, because as it is undeniable that they come into the world with two arms, two legs, eight fingers, two thumbs, etc., they must of necessity go out of it with the same number. Otherwise, once on the other side, they might be sent to hunt for a missing member and spend the greater part of eternity in finding it.

Perhaps the nearest approach to internal surgery that a Chinese doctor will attempt is to stand on the patient's body and with bare feet move about on the part afflicted.

In dentistry the Chinese have reached the discovery that the nerve is a worm and the best method to treat an aching tooth is to loosen it by driving wedges in order that the worm may escape.

To Cough Properly.

From Health.

Few people know how to cough properly. It never occurs to the ordinary individual that there is a right way and a wrong way of doing it. Yet it is a matter of no small importance.

If every sigh means a drop of blood out of the heart, as people say, every cough means some greater or less proportion of time knocked off one's life.

Most people cough as loudly and forcibly as they can. But it is rather costly noise, for the single reason that it tears and inflames the lungs. The lungs consist of an extraordinarily delicate spongelike tissue, which sometimes gets inflamed and choked with phlegm. When we try to get rid of this substance we cough. But obviously, if we remove it violently, we must necessarily injure the delicate lung tissue. Therefore, train yourself to cough as gently as possible.

Menaces to Manhood

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Varicocele impairs vitality and destroys the elements of manhood. I daily demonstrate that Varicocele can be positively cured. Instead of the organs being maimed and mutilated, they are preserved and strengthened, pain ceases entirely and almost instantly, swelling soon subsides, healthy circulation is rapidly reestablished, and every part of the organism affected by the disease is thoroughly restored.

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Neglect or badly treated Stricture is progressive, soon involving in its destructive course the whole Genito-Urinary system. Cutting and tearing are harsh and savage reminders of old Fogyism. The strictly modern original methods employed by me in the treatment of Stricture are entirely free from the horrors of surgery and are absolutely safe and painless. All abnormal growth is dissolved, leaving the water channel entirely open and absolutely free from obstruction, every unnatural discharge is stopped and all irritation along the walls of the Urethra and in the region of the Prostrate Gland, Bladder and Kidneys is allayed.

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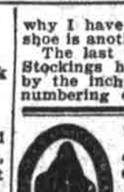

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I have treated hundreds of men who had long suffered a gradual decline of physical and mental energy as a result of ailments, and have been interested in noting the marked general improvement that follows a thorough cure of the chief disorder. My success in curing difficult cases of long standing has made me the foremost specialist treating men's diseases. This success is due to several things. It is due to the original, distinctive and thoroughly scientific methods of treatment I employ.

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