

INCREASE OF OUR EXPORTS

How Our Trade Has Grown in Past Five Years.

NATIONS WHO BUY OUR GOODS

United Kingdom and Its Dependencies by Far the Best Customer, and Germany and France Come Next.

Washington, Jan. 16.—Frank H. Hitchcock, chief of the foreign markets division of the agricultural department, has prepared an interesting collation of figures showing for the first time the respective amounts of our agricultural exports which go to the several countries of Europe and of the other continents. The period covered is 1894 to 1898. The statement shows that the agricultural products exported from the United States in the five years had an average annual value of \$663,538,201. Of these enormous exports, about 60 per cent found a market in the United Kingdom and its various dependencies. The sum paid by the British people for the American farm products purchased during the period mentioned reached as high as \$403,953,954 a year. Great Britain alone took more than one-half of our agricultural exports, the consignments credited to that country forming about 55 per cent of the total shipments and having an annual value of \$362,407,701.

Germany, which ranks next to the United Kingdom as a market for the products of American agriculture, received about 16 per cent of the exports for 1894-98, the average yearly value amounting to \$36,320,254.

France, with purchases that averaged \$48,988,791 a year, or about 6.6 per cent of the total, was the third country in importance. These three countries—the United Kingdom, Germany and France—received together nearly 75 per cent of the total agricultural exports.

After the three countries just mentioned, The Netherlands, Belgium, Canada, Italy and Spain afforded the most important markets. The Netherlands bought 4.3 per cent of the total; Belgium, 3.6 per cent; Canada, 3.5 per cent; Italy, 2.2 per cent; and Spain, 1.5 per cent. The average value of the exports to these countries.

CROSSED FREE STATE BORDER.

Reports of Proceedings in the Modder River Country.

Modder River, Thursday.—General Babington, with two regiments of Lancers, the Victorian mounted rifles and a battery of horse artillery, left here on the evening of January 7 (Sunday) and crossed the Free State border on Tuesday.

Simultaneously other movements were made. A column under Colonel Pitcher went from Belmont to the south of General Babington's route, while a portion of the garrisons of Klofontein and Honey Nest kloof, under Major Byrne, advanced towards Jacobsdal. General Babington penetrated 12 miles and his scouts 20. They saw no signs of armed Boers. The farmhouses were found empty, the occupants having fled with the advance and gone further into the interior. The British bivouacked at Ramdon. They burned three farmhouses, the property of Lubbe, one of the Boer leaders. Yesterday they swept around southward, returning here today. Nothing was accomplished except a reconnaissance.

Colonel Pitcher came into touch with General Babington and then returned to Belmont.

Major Byrne reconnoitered the hills about four miles from Jacobsdal and saw 700 Boers.

Boers Near the Sea.

Durban, Natal, Jan. 16.—There is a Boer commando in the Zambane country, Zululand, within a day's march of the sea, with wagons. It is believed to be waiting for supplies and ammunition secretly landed near St. Lucia's bay.

The Boers have looted all the stores and mines in Swaziland territory, and the ruined natives are completing the destruction.

Beyond the Tugela.

London, Jan. 16.—A special dispatch from Cape Town, dated Friday, January 12 (evening), announces that General Warren has crossed the Tugela river.

Great Battle Imminent.

Boer Headquarters at Colenso, Thursday.—Everything points to a great battle within the next few days, Lady-smith for the last two nights has been firing rockets. The object is not known here.

Fighting in Cebu.

Manila, Jan. 16.—Advices from Cebu report a sharp fight January 8 between a battalion of the Nineteenth infantry and a body of insurgents occupying a strong position in the Soudon mountains. The enemy was routed, the Americans capturing a smooth-bore cannon, some rifles, and destroying the fortifications. Four Americans were wounded.

VOTES HIGH IN MONTANA.

Witness Wanted \$20,000 to Vote for Clark and Was offered \$15,000.

Washington, Jan. 15.—Dr. Ector, a dentist of Missoula, Mont., was the first witness before the Clark investigating committee today. He had participated in the campaign in Ravalli county in the interest of E. P. Woods, Democratic candidate for the legislature, and who was a friend of Clark's. Ector said he had acted at the instance of Bickford, one of Clark's managers. Witness said Bickford had promised to pay him for his services, but no specific sum had been mentioned. A number of letters were read intending to show that Bickford had been an agent of Clark in the senatorial race.

Cross-examination of the witness was postponed until the defense could look up the letters received from Ector. Representative Sullivan, member of Montana legislature from Granite county, certified to having been approached by Bickford in Helena previous to the meeting of the legislature and asked to vote for Clark.

"I said," the witness testified, "that I might do so if there was enough in it. He said how much. I said twenty thousand. He then asked me if half that amount would not be enough. I replied no, and we parted." Sullivan said he met Bickford, who suggested fifteen thousand. Witness told Bickford he would not vote for Clark under any circumstances, and had seen no more of him.

THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION.

Report Will Probably Be Ready Before February 1.

New York, Jan. 15.—A special to the Times from Washington says: About the last of January the Philippine commission will submit their full report to the president. President Schurman was at the White House Thursday to announce that progress was being made, and that before February the work of the commission will be completed. The report made in September was a general one, in which all the commissioners joined. In the full report each commissioner will deal with a separate subject. That of President Schurman is on government for the Philippines. He has considered the matter fully and has discussed his report with the president. It is assumed that such practical points as he may offer will be brought to the attention of the appropriate committees of the senate and the house.

As to the question of again sending a commission to the Philippines, it has been suggested in congress by both senators and representatives that a joint commission of members might be named for that purpose. It would be very popular and also very expensive, but it is insisted that it would be a better way of preparing congress for legislative action than the plan of making up a commission outside of congress and expecting members of both houses to read their report after it had been made in order that it may become informed. It is said that a special committee of members well-known would be more interesting and impressive.

France Will Be Monarchy Again.

Chicago, Jan. 15.—Count de la Chasney, who was married in Colorado Springs two days ago, and who passed through Chicago last night on his way to Paris, believes eventually France will have again a monarchical form of government.

"Nothing will be done in a political way to reorganize the present government," he said, "until after the Paris exposition. That is practically a matter of agreement among the high statesmen. But France is near a change. The Fashoda incident and the Dreyfus affair added much to the general discontent among the masses. At the proper time the man to lead the royalist party will be found. It is not unlikely that Prince Louis Napoleon, now a colonel in the Russian army, will be the one chosen."

Plague Cases at Honolulu.

Washington, Jan. 15.—The state department has been informed by Mr. Heywood, United States agent at Honolulu, under date of January 1, that eight deaths have occurred from the bubonic plague at Honolulu since the last telegraphic report, December 26 last, which announced three deaths from the cause of the plague. Dr. Heywood also states that the entire city of Honolulu is quarantined.

Venezuela Finances Improve.

Caracas, Venezuela, Jan. 15.—The financial crisis is ended. The difficulty between the government and the bank has been amicably settled, and public confidence is restored.

India Will Buy Silver.

London, Jan. 15.—Renewed buying of silver by the Indian government, the Statist says, cannot be much longer delayed in consequence of rupee coinage requirements, and this will lead doubtless to a marked improvement in the price of silver.

Portland Carriers Will Register Mail.

Washington, Jan. 13.—The plan of having mail registered by carriers when collected will be put in practical operation January 15 in 60 cities. Among the cities chosen are St. Louis, Denver and Portland, Or. The service will be inaugurated elsewhere when considered beneficial, upon the applications of the local officials.

BOOM TIMES COMING.

Vancouver Soon to Have a New Railway to Portland.

Vancouver, Wash., Jan. 17.—It has been reported in Vancouver that the mortgage held by the Portland Loan & Trust Company against the Portland, Vancouver & Yakima Railway Company has been released by a well-known transcontinental line, and that the latter road will push the construction work from the present terminus of the road to North Yakima, and from Vancouver to Portland.

It has also been asserted, by people who are in a position to know, that the Portland, Vancouver & Yakima Railroad Company has "jumped" the old bridge pier in the Columbia river opposite the lower end of Vancouver. Nobody has claimed ownership to the pier for the past ten years, and a quantity of material which was on the bank when construction work ceased was sold for taxes.

The old bridge pier in the Columbia river was built in boom times by the Union Pacific Railroad Company. During the years of 1889-90 that line established a grade from Puget sound to Vancouver via Kelso and Ridgefield. It was the intention to bridge the Columbia river at Vancouver, and to enter Portland from the north. The draw pier was built at a cost of \$250,000. When construction work ceased there was about \$50,000 worth of bridge material on the bank.

Construction work along the entire line ceased suddenly, and there was a large number of labor claims unsatisfied. For some time a watchman was kept on the bridge pier. It was his duty to hang a bright light on each end of the draw rest every night. He worked several months, but was unable to collect his salary. No one seemed to know who owed him money or who hired him. He attached some of the material, which was sold to satisfy the claim. Since that time no one has claimed ownership of the structure.

If the report that the Portland, Vancouver & Yakima Railway Company has taken possession of the pier, and that the mortgage, which has been hanging over the road for so long, has been released proved true, the dream of the residents of Vancouver and Clark county will be realized. A bridge across the Columbia river, with rapid transit between this place and Portland and direct communication with all portions of the country by means of a transcontinental line, will put Vancouver far ahead of the position it occupied in the boom days between 1888 and 1892.

REPLY TO PETTIGREW.

Wolcott's Scathing Arraignment of South Dakota Senator.

Washington, Jan. 17.—A spirited debate on the Philippine question occupied the attention of the senate for nearly three hours today. Berry, of Arkansas, first addressed the senate in support of the resolution recently introduced by Bacon, of Georgia, regarding the disposition of the Philippines. He was followed by Pettigrew, of South Dakota, in support of his resolution of inquiry. Pettigrew was very bitter in his attack upon the administration.

Wolcott, of Colorado, replied to Pettigrew, scathingly arraigning the South Dakota senator for the attitude he had assumed on the Philippine question. He declared his belief that if Aguinaldo himself occupied the seat in the senate occupied by Pettigrew, representing the people of South Dakota, who had sent their sons as soldiers to the Philippines, he would be too patriotic, too devoted to the interests of the country to assume the attitude assumed by the present South Dakota senator.

Today's session of the house was devoted to consideration of District of Columbia business. Representative June W. Gayle, of Kentucky, was sworn in, and Cannon reported the urgent deficiency bill, with a notice that he would ask that it be taken up tomorrow.

Rebels on the Run.

Manila, Jan. 17.—Part of General John C. Bates' troops are operating about Lake Taal. The insurgents continue to retreat south.

Colonel Hayes, with the Fourth cavalry, is supposed to have reached Lipa, where many Spanish prisoners are held.

Colonel Anderson, with the Thirty-eighth infantry, took Talisay, on the north shore of the lake, with but little opposition. Major Cheatham, with a battalion of the Thirty-seventh, on his way to San Pablo, dispersed 400 insurgents, whom the cavalry are pursuing toward Alaminos.

A troop of the Third cavalry lost two men killed and three wounded in an engagement with the insurgents near San Fernando de la Union, January 12.

Kruger's Proclamations.

London, Jan. 17.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail, dated January 15, from Lorenzo Marques, says:

"President Kruger has issued a proclamation ordering all burghers to the front. The Volks Stem, the Transvaal official organ, suggests that the moment the British cross the border, the gold industry should be irretrievably destroyed.

"President Kruger issued a circular to Boer commandants and burghers, urging them to show more energy in the Transvaal cause. He quotes psalm xxii:7, as God-given instructions to the burghers,

PROTECT SETTLERS.

Lieu Land Claim Not Really Effective Against Occupants—Burden of Proof on Railroad, Instead of Settler.

Settlers in the states of Washington and Oregon, and, in fact, in all the states through which the Northern Pacific railroad passes, are very much interested in the rulings now being made by the interior department on the act of congress of June 4, 1897, which allows the Northern Pacific Railroad Company and others to select lands in lieu of lands embraced in the various forest reserves and held by them under patent or under unprotected claims or squatters' rights.

In lieu of the lands so relinquished the railroad company and others was authorized to select from any vacant lands open to settlement.

The department of the interior has held "vacant lands to settlement" to mean, if necessary, all unsurveyed lands. Therefore, settlers or squatters on unsurveyed lands have been very uneasy for some time, and many of them felt that there is little prospect of holding their claims.

The land department of the railroad company, however, asserts that it is not its purpose to take the lands of any bona fide settler.

At the same time the department of the interior encourages the settlers to continue their settlement, and within three months after the acceptance of the official survey of their lands to assert their claims thereto.

The ruling of the department is that the party first initiating the right of settlement has the prior claim.

Congressman Jones, of Washington, who has just introduced a relief bill on behalf of settlers, is of the opinion that most settlers would not think of fighting the railroad company, and, therefore, the law as it was enacted does grave injustice to settlers, as a rule. In an interview Mr. Jones said:

"It has been repeatedly asserted that lands upon which there are settlers have been filed on by the railroad company under the present law. To prevent this is one of the objects of the law. I know that settlers have their remedy. That is to fight the claim of the company and establish their prior rights. This is expensive. The settlers are not wealthy. The prospect of delay is discouraging, and many prefer to abandon their settlements rather than bear the expense and delay of a contest.

"The railroad cannot complain at these provisions. If its claim to a tract of land is just it will prevail. Delay and expense cannot hurt it as they do the settler. All it has to do is to inspect the land. If it finds a settler and does not think he is there bona fide it can contest his claim as any other contestant, but it should bear the burden of such contest. These bills are introduced without any hostility to the railroad, but out of a desire to do justice to the settler. I believe the government should be quite lenient with men who are striving to reclaim the public domain, especially now, when the choice land is taken up. If we had more owners of small tracts of land we would be better off."

Senator Foster and Representative Cushman have each given much attention to the claims of settlers and their rights, and in all cases there is an unqualified sentiment favorable to the pioneer and home-building squatter and settler.

Government Hospital at Vancouver.

President Beebe, of the Portland chamber of commerce, at its last meeting, called attention to the bill locating a permanent general hospital at Vancouver, Wash., which has been introduced in congress by Representatives Jones, of Washington. George Taylor, jr., said that the hospital was of great importance to Portland. "Vancouver's healthful location is well known," said Mr. Taylor. "Before long, many soldiers will be returning from the Philippines, and Vancouver is the place for them." The trustees voted to request the Oregon congressional delegation to co-operate with the Washington delegation in behalf of the Vancouver hospital. Statistics showing that Vancouver is a healthier place than the Presidio will be sent to Washington to help the bill along.

Northwest Notes.

Steelhead salmon are reported very numerous in Coos bay.

The Dalles has authorized a contract for an electric fire alarm system for 10 years.

Fish Commissioner Little has arranged to plant a carload of Eastern lobsters in Puget sound waters as an experiment.

A horse, loaded with United States mail, was recently killed near the falls below Brewster valley by missing its footing and rolling over a precipice on the rocks, 150 feet below. The mail was recovered.

The Christian denomination of Albany intends to build a new church and has raised \$2,000 toward it. The pastor announces that the size of the building is to be determined by the amount of money raised, as the congregation intends to build only such a structure as may be dedicated free from debt.

DEMAND IS QUIET.

Prices, However, Continue Steady in Nearly All Lines of Trade.

Bradstreet's says: Quietness as to demand but marked steadiness as to prices is still the leading feature in trade lines, a condition it might be remarked not uncommon at this stage of the year, which is a sort of middle ground between stock-taking and inventory time and the actual opening of the spring season.

Aggressive strength in prices is confined to a few staples, such as pork products, which are firmly held on a rather tardy recognition of the fact that supplies, both of live hogs and dead meats, are far from burdensome. Tallow, cotton-seed oil and similar products are sympathetically strong. Raw and refined sugars have both advanced this week, not apparently because of the war between the refiners being settled, but really because supplies of raw are limited.

What few lines of next season's woolen goods have been reported are at advances ranging from 25 to 35 per cent.

Iron and steel are extremely quiet, but signs of weakness are not numerous, the shading in pig iron being confined to a few grades and markets.

The demand for lumber is naturally light, but the length of supplies is notable, as evidenced by the fact that white pine stocks are 22 per cent smaller than a year ago.

Hides are dull at the East, but considerable buying is reported West, and quotations are fairly firm. Wheat including flour shipments for the week aggregate 4,248,926 bushels against 2,509,682 bushels last week.

The current week's failure returns reflect the annual clearing out of delinquent traders in a total for the week of 295, as compared with 229 last week, 304 in this week a year ago, 323 in 1898, 478 in 1897 and 412 in 1896.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Markets.

Onions, new, \$1.00@1.25 per sack.
Potatoes, new, \$16@20.
Beets, per sack, 75@85c.
Turnips, per sack, 60c.
Carrots, per sack, 50c.
Parsnips, per sack, 75@85c.
Cauliflower, 75c@\$1 per dozen.
Cabbage, native and California, 75@90c per 100 pounds.

Apples, \$1.25@1.50 per box.
Pears, \$1.00@1.25 per box.
Prunes, 60c per box.

Butter—Creamery, 32c per pound; dairy, 17@22c; ranch, 34c per pound.

Eggs—24c.
Cheese—Native, 16c.

Poultry—9@10c; dressed, 13@14c.

Hay—Puget Sound timothy, \$12.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$17.00@18.00.

Corn—Whole, \$23.00; cracked, \$23; feed meal, \$23.

Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$21; whole, \$22.

Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$3.25; blended straight, \$3.00; California, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$6.00; Graham, per barrel, \$3.80; whole wheat flour, \$3.00; rye flour, \$3.80@4.00.

Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$15.00; shorts, per ton, \$17.00.

Feed—Chopped feed, \$20.00 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$20; oil cake meal, per ton, \$30.00.

Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef steers, 7½@8c; cows, prime, 7c; pork, 7c; trimmed, 8½c; veal, 8½@10c.

Hams—Large, 13c; small, 13½c; breakfast bacon, 12½c; dry salt sides, 8c.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 50@51c; Valley, 51c; Bluestem, 53c per bushel.

Flour—Best grades, \$3.00; Graham, \$2.50; superfine, \$2.15 per barrel.

Oats—Choice white, 34@35c; choice gray, 34c per bushel.

Barley—Feed barley, \$15@16.00; brewing, \$18.00@18.50 per ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$17 per ton; middlings, \$22; shorts, \$18; chop, \$16 per ton.

Hay—Timothy, \$9.50@11; clover, \$7@8; Oregon wild hay, \$6@7 per ton.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 50@55c; seconds, 42½@45c; dairy, 30@37½c; store, 22½@27½c.

Eggs—18@19c per dozen.

Cheese—Oregon full cream, 12½c; Young America, 14c; new cheese 10c per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$2.50@4.00 per dozen; hens, \$4.50; springs, \$2.50@3.50; geese, \$7.00@8.50 for old; \$4.50@6.50; ducks, \$6.00@9.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 15@17c per pound.

Potatoes—55@85c per sack; sweets, 2@2½c per pound.

Vegetables—Beets, \$1; turnips, 90c; per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cabbage, 1½c per pound; parsnips, \$1; onions, \$1.00@1.10; carrots, \$1.

Hops—7@01c; 1898 crop, 5@6c.

Wool—Valley, 12@13c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 8@14c; mohair, 27@30c per pound.

Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 3½c; dressed mutton, 6½@7c per pound; lambs, 7½c per pound.

Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$5.00; light and feeders, \$4.50; dressed, \$5.50@6.00 per 100 pounds.

Beef—Gross, top steers, \$3.50@4.00; cows, \$3@3.50; dressed beef, 6½@7½c per pound.

Veal—Large, 6½@7½c; small, 8@8½c per pound.