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East Oregonian

MONDAY, JUNE 30, 1902.

THE COMING WHEAT CROP.

There are evidences of a big wheat crop in the Inland Empire this year. Reports from all directions are most flattering. There is not a "calamity howl" from any farmer's throat. The weather continues favorable and the outlook grows better as harvest days approach.

While the prospects are so bright for this part of the wheat growing area of the country, reports are not so flattering from areas east of the Rockies.

According to the June report of the department of agriculture the crop of spring and winter wheat will not be so large this year as it was last year. Last year's total acreage of wheat is given at 49,895,514, with an estimated harvest of 744,000,000 bushels.

For this year it is estimated the acreage will be 45,738,000 and the yield about 665,000,000 bushels, or about 80,000,000 bushels less than last year. This crop will be short in Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota and the Dakotas. The crop in foreign countries will not be so good as last year. The prospects for stiffer prices for the cereal are, therefore, excellent.

However, nothing definite as to prices can as yet be determined. Reports from Argentina, India and other foreign wheat growing areas are not in and at no time are they altogether reliable, affording a poor basis on which to gauge the market, but enough seems to be clear that prices will rule a shade higher than last year, which insures good returns to the happy and prosperous Inland Empire farmers, whose cloud has seldom anything but a silver lining.

ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.

Census bulletin No. 180, recently issued, gives statistics of the manufacture of alcoholic liquors in 1900, which was the first time the industry was made the subject of a special inquiry by the census office. The report is not absolutely correct. It is stated the determination to publish detailed statistics of the industry was reached too late in the organization of the Census Office work to permit the preparation of special schedules for the collection of information, and the general schedule for manufacturers had to be used in obtaining data. As a consequence there is a lack of uniformity and completeness in the returns.

The Census Office divides the inquiry into three branches, those of malt, vinous and distilled liquors.

The reports from all branches of the industry show that 1,198,602,104 gallons of malt liquors, 103,330,423 gallons of distillates and 23,425,567 gallons of wine were manufactured during the census year ending May 31, 1900. This is a total for all classes of 1,325,358,094 gallons, which does not include quantities reported from small establishments with a product less than \$500 each; wine returned from farms and as a subsidiary product of distilleries; and spirits returned from wineries principally as a by-product.

In the manufacture of malt liquors New York leads, the value of her product of that kind in the census year being \$56,137,854. Pennsylvania was second and Illinois third. In the production of distilled liquors Illinois leads the union with an out-

put for the year of 32,508,435 gallons. Kentucky ranked second and Indiana third. In the manufacture of vinous liquors California held first place with a product valued at \$3,937,871. New York was second and Ohio third. The manufacture of malt and distilled liquors is fairly well distributed throughout the country, but the production of wine is largely centered in the three states named. The combined capital engaged in the industry in California, New York and Ohio amounts to \$8,437,783 out of a total capital of \$9,838,015 for the union as a whole.

The totals for all branches of the industry show 2835 establishments with a capital of \$457,674,087, and an output for the census year valued at \$340,615,466. It is noted that the total valuation includes \$96,789,443 as the valuation of distilled liquors, and that amount includes an indeterminate amount of internal revenue tax, which cannot be accurately computed because of lack of uniformity in reporting it. The report says: "If such tax were included in every instance the value of the distillates reported would approximate \$140,000,000, and the total value of all liquors would be increased from \$340,615,466 to about \$384,000,000. Returns from breweries uniformly included internal revenue tax in values of products."

THE OREGON PIONEERS.

The Oregon pioneers held their annual meeting last week and hundreds of men and women came together to talk of the old days when the Willamette valley was first filling up with those who had crossed the plains in ox-teams. There were pioneers present who settled in the valley as far back as 1838 and the dates of arrival ranged from that year to 1859. Although these people went back in reminiscence more than half a century, the majority of them were reasonably strong and sturdy, and showed in their vigor what an equitable climate will do toward preserving strength of body and serenity of mind through 50 years of country development.

In one sense all those who crossed the plains to the northwest are Oregon pioneers, for it was the Oregon country they sought, and, while many passed to the moist but milder regions beyond the Cascades, others remained to try their fortunes in what has become the great Inland Empire. The people of the two sections always felt drawn together by close ties, for trade relations were soon established that were not broken off for years and during a generation the gateway to the interior was by the Columbia.

While the first settlers met with not a few hardships, as a class they were never subjected to the privations encountered by those who first made their homes in New England, western New York and Pennsylvania and later in what is now the middle west. Their troubles with the Indians were insignificant compared with the long drawn out struggles against the mighty tribes that once held sway in the east.

The early Oregonians went without luxuries, but in getting plain creature comforts they never encountered the difficulties met by those who first tried to wrest a living from the rocky soil of chill New England or by those who eked out a somewhat precarious existence while fighting the savages beyond the Alleghanies.

The Willamette valley pioneers found that their lives had fallen in comparatively pleasant places. Favored with a mild climate and rich soil, agriculture was easy and a living was obtained with probably less effort than in any other section of the country. Thus the Willamette valley folk began to drift along comfortably, quietly and aimlessly, getting more or less contentment from life without wearying drudgery, as they settled into a comfortable rut that satisfied them, even if they did not make the valley the rich productive, progressive garden spot it ought to be.—Spokesman-Review.

J. J. HILL'S EPIGRAM.

James J. Hill has made an epigram containing more good meat than epigrams very often do. He was speaking at a meeting of the Illinois Manufacturers' association held in Chicago on the 3rd, and in advocating desert irrigation, he said: "Land without population is a wilderness, and population without land is a mob." It was a keen thrust into the very heart of the social question, much keener and deeper than he suspected. For he thought only of the prairie and the desert, while what he said is quite as true of centers of population, which are even now inhabited, and in some degree dominated by great mobs. Mr. Hill gave as a reason for this: "Population without land is a mob." The population of our cities is without land, to the extent of 75 and 80 and even 90 per cent, or more. Yet these same cities have within their limits more idle land than any other kind. Here land without population, though congested populations swarm around it, is indeed a wilderness. "Land without population is a wilderness; population without land is a mob."—Louis Post's Public.

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