

COPPER OUTPUT FOR 1913 SHOWS MARKED DECREASE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Statistics and estimates received by the United States Geological Survey from all plants known to produce blister copper from domestic ores and from all Lake mines indicate that the copper output of the United States in 1913 will show a considerable decrease from the record production of 1912.

Decreases in production were shown by Michigan, Montana, and Alaska, and notable increases by Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico.

Smelter Production

The figures showing smelter production from domestic ores, which have been collected by H. S. Butler, of the Geological Survey, represent the actual production of most of the companies for eleven months and an estimate of the December output. The November figures for a few companies were not available and these companies furnished estimates for the last two months of the year. According to the statistics and estimates received, the output of blister and Lake copper was 1,223,799,000 pounds in 1913, against 1,243,268,720 pounds in 1912.

At an average price of about 15.3 cents a pound the 1913 output has a value of about \$187,200,000, against \$205,139,328 for the 1912 output.

Refined Copper

Preliminary statistics showing the output of refined copper are not collected by the Geological Survey. Figures published by the Copper Producers association show an output of 1,483,480,408 pounds for the first eleven months of 1913 and indicate that the production of marketable copper by the regular refining plants from all sources, domestic and foreign, will amount to 1,618,000,000 pounds for 1913 if the December output is equal to the monthly average for the first eleven months. This compares with 1,563,194,478 pounds in 1912.

Imports

According to the Bureau of Statistics imports of pigs, bars and ingots for the first ten months amounted to 246,785,319 pounds, and the copper content of ore, matte and regulus imported amounted to 88,306,732 pounds. If the imports for November and December were equal to the average monthly imports for the first ten months the amount of copper entering the United States for the year was about 402,000,000 pounds, against 410,240,295 pounds for 1912. Considerable of the copper imported as blister had been previously exported as ore or concentrates.

Exports

Estimates based on figures published by the Bureau of Statistics and also by the Copper Producers association indicate that the exports of copper for 1913 will show a marked increase over those for 1912 and may equal 885,000,000 pounds.

Stocks

Stocks of refined copper held in the United States January 1, 1914, are considerably less than on January 1, 1913. Foreign stocks also show a considerable decrease.

Domestic Consumption

Statistics published by the Copper Producers' association show the domestic deliveries for the first eleven months of the year as 745,323,190 pounds, indicating no marked change in consumption from 1912, for which the Producers' association reported domestic deliveries of 819,665,948 pounds.

Prices

The average quoted price of electrolytic copper for the year showed a decrease over that for 1912. The average for 1913 was about 15.3 cents a pound, compared with 16.48 cents a pound for 1912.

NEW TAX LAW OPEN TO ABUSES

PORTLAND, Ore., Jan. 5.—Following a report to him that the tax law passed by the last legislature is open to gross abuses, Mayor Albee today announced that he would call a special session of the city commission to consider the advisability of requesting Governor West to convene an extraordinary session of legislature to make corrections in the law. One feature of the law to which Mayor Albee takes exception is that those purchasing delinquent tax titles may charge interest at the rate of fifteen per cent a year after one month, whereas before six months were given the owner of the property.

WOTHERSPOON FOR WOOD'S JOB



MAJ. GEN. W. W. WOTHERSPOON.

Major General William W. Wotherspoon, assistant to the chief of staff, probably will relieve Major General Leonard Wood at the expiration of the latter's term as Chief of Staff in April. This was the practically unanimous opinion among prominent army officers following Secretary of War Garrison's positive refusal to state whom he has in mind for General Wood's place.

GOLD OUTPUT OF OREGON DOUBLED DURING PAST YEAR

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—The mines of Oregon made a somewhat unexpected large increase in gold yield for 1913, compared with 1912. The mine report of 1912 showed a production of \$779,941, (a material increase over 1911) but the preliminary estimate for 1913 made by Chas. G. Yale, of the United States Geological Survey, shows that the gold output nearly doubled in 1913, amounting to \$1,393,322, or \$623,281 more than in 1912. The mine output of silver in 1912 was 57,981 fine ounces, while the estimate for 1913 shows a yield of 213,949 ounces, an increase of 161,868 ounces.

The copper output in 1912 according to mine turns was 260,429 pounds; the estimate for 1913 is 144,796 pounds, or 145,623 pounds less than in 1912. The mine report of 1912 showed a yield of 59,317 pounds of lead, but for 1913 the estimate is 96,743 pounds, an increase for the year of 56,426 pounds.

While the hydraulic mines of Oregon are large producers and there are about 100 of them among the 160 producing placer mines, the increase of gold output for 1913 comes mainly from the deep mines, of which there are 50 or 60 producing in the state.

The most productive deep mine in the state is the Columbia, at Sumpter, Baker county. Other large deep mines are those of the Highland Development company at Baker, the Commercial Mining company at Rye Valley, Baker county, and the West Coast Mines company at Champion, Lane county. The average values of the ore treated in Oregon have been increasing materially in the last few years. A very large percentage of the gold produced from deep mines in Oregon comes from Baker county, though Josephine county leads in output of placer gold. Very little of the Oregon ore is shipped to the smelters, most of it being worked in local mills at or near the mines.

There are about 30 active quartz mills in the state, with a daily capacity of about 1100 tons. It will be a matter of great encouragement to the miners of Oregon to know that so large an increase of gold yield is apparent for the year 1913, even if the increase does come from a few of the older mines and not from new ones, and it may attract attention to the gold mining industry of the state in which capital is needed for development and operation of mines and mills.

PRESIDENT SPENDS DAY ON GOLF LINKS

PASS CHRISTIAN, Miss., Jan. 5.—President Wilson spent Sunday quietly. Fine weather prevailed today and he went to the golf links early. The president planned to take things easy tomorrow and then resume his routine duties. John Lind was scheduled to reach Vera Cruz today, following his conference near here with President Wilson. Hereafter, it was announced, Lind will communicate only with the state department. President Wilson also announced that he had decided not to visit New Orleans.

HOG RAISING AND CORN GROWING IN YOUNG ORCHARD

Corn and hog raising while growing a young 150-acre pear orchard in Rogue River valley.

My first experience in raising corn here was in 1911. My corn suckered badly and it was late maturing, but the corn was fine, and in 1911 and 1912, after suckering my corn I really had more corn lying on the ground than standing in the rows. The yield of 1912 was excellent, but when going over the farm I occasionally saw a stalk fully two weeks in advance of the other corn in ripening, and no suckers. So I began to select this early corn, where I found a stalk without suckers and good ears, and it was from this seed corn that I got 108 bushels to the acre September 15, 1913. This corn was slipshocked, but not thoroughly seasoned, and was due to some shrinkage. Now I neither thinned nor suckered this present crop of corn. Of course, the corn suckered, but not sufficient, I did not think, to decrease the corn yield. Now I have again selected my seed corn for 1914, blending four essentials in one, namely: I selected my seed corn from strong, stocky stalks without suckers; early maturing and two good ears growing on each stalk. Now I will know the origin of every hill of corn I grow in 1914.

In preparing this corn for seed I small assort it into three grades. The third grade will be discarded for seed, but from the first grade I shall select ears for their uniformity in size and length; number of grain or kernel rows to the ear; number of grains to the row; a small cob; with long, well-filled grains down to the cob; with uniform weight of each ear of corn.

Now, brother farmers, your attention for one moment.

When we go to the corn bin and select the finest ears for seed, do we know whether the parent stalk was six and one-half feet or nine feet high, or do we know whether the stalk produced one or two ears? Probably a large family of suckers and probably very late in maturing also. Now, be careful in selecting your seed from the stalks which are growing. You can overcome or avoid all these, and by careful annual breeding produce just what we want. We occasionally read of progressive districts employing a farm specialist to teach general farming and stock raising, just as this valley employs a fruit specialist. We want to study and come in closer touch with vegetable and animal life and our soil possibilities. In growing corn, all authorities agree that deep winter plowing gives the best results. Now I plant in three-foot rows, and a stalk 2 1/2 feet gives us 4840 stalks per acre, and corn that will produce two ears to the stalk will make 9680 ears, and 100 ears to the bushel gives us 96 bushels per acre. Now, to get these results, even with the most improved seed corn, it will not only require deep winter plowing, but the land should be treated with a springtooth harrow as early as possible in the spring and continue every ten days until planting. Plant with a planter. Cultivate three times if possible by plowing deep with a cultivator until the corn gets knee or eighteen inches high, and then cultivate shallow with one-half of a springtooth harrow with a block to follow to press the dirt to hold the moisture. This should be done once a week or every ten days until August 1 or 10. This cultivation is to conserve the moisture.

Early ripening is of great importance, and by carefully selecting seed we can harvest our crops three weeks earlier than we usually do. All of our meal comes from the northwest, when we could furnish the corn to our local mills and keep this money at home. The earliest ripening of the yellow dent corn, if planted May 1, would ordinarily be in the dent stage August 15, and at that stage pluck the ears and throw on the ground to dry fifteen days. The substance in the cob will be sufficient to mature the corn fairly well. Throw in your barn and husk during rainy days of winter.

To shuck corn for hogs is time thrown away. Now, of course, the silo is the best for the stock ranch man, but here in the valley where we raise fruit and don't use the stalk it is best to cut them with a mower, immediately after plucking the corn and while the corn is on the ground curing, for the August and September sun will, I think, dry the stalk so as to be cut up by a stalk cutter and be plowed under to enrich the soil. I grow the yellow dent corn.

Well, as it is the general custom

to give a hog two years to get marketable size, I find to raise such hogs are unprofitable, and as other countries are turning out good hogs at 9 and 12 months old, why can't we? Now, we can select our choice of any good breed (I use the Poland China), but they must be bred at the proper time, as well as have the proper care to become profitable—for a winter pig is usually a small pig all the winter, but if the sows are bred March 15 we get July pigs, and if given proper care will be ready for market the following summer, and the sows again bred October 1 will bring pigs February 1, and February pigs, if properly cared for, will be ready for market November or December. A mixture pasture of grains along with vetch, also alfalfa is necessary; carrots and pumpkins can be grown successfully on the same land. Plow deep and prepare the land well. Plant carrots in February, and follow with pumpkins about May 20. Plant about 10x10 feet and cultivate until pumpkin vines begin to spread. Three-foot rows will permit cultivation with a cultivator. The Denver half-long carrot will yield from 300 to 500 bushels per acre, and the stock or mangel carrot is a heavier yielder, but hogs and horses seem to relish the Denver half-long variety the best. Pumpkins will be ready for use in September and can be used four or five months if gathered carefully and well housed. Carrots should be dug in sufficient quantity to last until March, and the remainder left in the ground until March. Dig and feed through the spring and early summer. A patch of carrots left over winter for the pigs to root in will be a good-paying investment. The weight of the pigs will not pack the land very much. The writer is carrying a nice bunch through winter in this manner. Of course the rancher who has all sticky soil cannot pasture his land from December until March. I find that a cooking vat to cook carrots, pumpkins and alfalfa is really necessary through the winter season. All hogs should be graded as to size and fed separately. Hogs should be medicated for worms and dipped three or four times a year in a solution of water and crude oil for lice.

Hogs can't be raised on \$1 corn alone at a profit. Rockefeller utilizes all the by-products from his oil fields and makes axle grease, etc. The great packers save the blood and hair from the hogs, horns and blood of the cattle, and it finds a market. In this climate most every variety of plants will grow, and if the land is plowed deep in the winter, most of the soil can be put in excellent shape in the spring with a springtooth harrow. After the first harrowing four good horses will draw two six-foot springtooth harrows, and one man can treat fifteen to twenty acres a day until planting time, and by proper cultivation and conserving moisture on these lines we need not fear a failure in any crops. I dry farm altogether.

When thousands of acres of the best land of the valley was planted to fruit trees and no crops grown on the land it was equivalent to withdrawing a large portion of the people's money from circulation, and during the years of 1909-10-11-12 hundreds of cars of produce for the consumption of man and beast were shipped into the valley, when we should have raised this stuff and kept the money at home.

Now, it requires from six to eight years to get an orchard to bear in paying quantities; none but the rich can handle the proposition and let the land lay idle; but we can grow a great variety of crops between our trees and grow and mature hogs by feeding these by-products to these hogs, which will find a ready market, thereby keeping us on the right side of the ledger, and at the same time our young pear orchard is increasing our land values from \$50 to \$75 per acre annually.

While most all crops that grow in other climates flourish in this valley but the fine climate, the rare quality flavor of her fruits have attained world records, and when the gross value of these crops goes up to \$1000 and more per acre, and by scientific handling of the orchards we need never expect a failure. This is why I am growing about 150 acres of pear orchard, and as I carry 200 to 300 head of hogs and raise corn and a number of other crops in this young orchard to grow and finish these hogs for market.

The Mail Tribune and other friends have asked for this letter, and it is through their earnest solicitations I have written it.

Yours truly, T. J. PARTON.

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