

RECOMMENDS IRRIGATION.

Secretary of Agriculture Makes a Report on Products of United States--Farmers Lead.

The annual report of Secretary of Agriculture Wilson has been submitted to the President. Secretary Wilson reviews at length the production and exports of agricultural products. The increase of exports of farm products for the half century ended 1901 was from \$147,000,000 to \$952,000,000--550 per cent. The exports of farm products for the closing decade of the last century were over \$700,000,000 and for 1903 over \$878,000,000, an amount second only to that of 1901.

Although the consumption of cotton in this country is greater than of any other country in the world, yet, in addition to supplying the home market, the South exported last year over three and a half billion pounds of cotton, worth \$317,000,000.

Of grain and grain products the export exceeded in value \$221,000,000, and in the supply of animals, meats and meat products the value of exportations was \$211,000,000.

Discussing the balance of trade, the Secretary shows the favorable balance to the credit of this country is due entirely to the farmers. The balance of trade in favor of farm products during the last 14 years, no year excepted, aggregated \$4,806,000,000. In products other than that of the farm during the same period the balance of trade was adverse to this country to the extent of \$865,000,000. Our farmers not only cancelled this immense obligation, but placed \$3,940,000,000 to the credit of the nation when the books of international exchange were balanced. He concluded that "it is the farmers who have paid the foreign bondholders."

VALUE OF ALL FARM PRODUCTS.

Reviewing the magnitude of the agricultural production, after giving the figures of the most important crop, Mr. Wilson states that the value of all farm products not fed to livestock for 1903 considerably exceeded their value in the census year, when it was given as \$3,742,000,000.

According to the department's inventory of farm animals, for January 1, 1903, the value of horses was over \$1,000,000,000 and of mules nearly \$200,000,000. The value of cattle of all kinds considerably exceeded \$1,200,000,000; of sheep \$168,000,000, and of hogs \$365,000,000.

In the introduction of new seeds and plants from abroad much attention has been given to grains. Wickets from the Northwest, new oats, new millets and other crops have been pushed. The new durum or macaroni wheats have been highly successful. The value of these wheats in the drier portions of the great plains has been fully established. Macaroni wheats had not been grown where the rainfall is sufficient for the varieties of Spring and Winter wheats. Not less than 20 mills known to the department are now handling this wheat. Experiment has shown that a fine quality of bread is made from macaroni wheat.

Nearly one-third of the area of the United States has insufficient rainfall, and in spite of the extension of irrigation, enormous areas must remain in their present arid or semi-arid condition, and the Bureau of Plant Industry is occupying itself with the future of these regions. It is believed that by intelligent management the grazing capacity of these lands can be increased. The department is endeavoring to secure plants that will grow in very dry soils and at the same time yield crops profitably marketable.

Secretary Wilson reports a great improvement of the beet-sugar in-

dustry. In 1896 19,203 tons of sugar were made, and careful estimates show the present crop at about 200,000 tons. He concludes that the industry is now well established.

COST OF FOREST FIRES IN OREGON.
An investigation of the great forest fires of September, 1902, in Washington and Oregon discloses a total loss aggregating nearly \$13,000,000. Most of the destruction was due to carelessness, and might easily have been avoided.

Examinations and reports dealing with technical problems in the management of forest reserves have been made for reserves in Utah, California, Oregon and New Mexico. Representatives of the bureau have, during the past summer, examined over 120,000,000 acres proposed as forestry reserves in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific Coast states.

Several experiment substations have been opened and are being conducted with interesting results in Alaska. The Secretary urges the necessity for additional buildings at the Central Station, and the addition of several experts in livestock. He suggests the desirability of partaking in the practical experiments in livestock, and suggests an experiment with Galloway-bred cattle similar to that authorized by Congress in the case of reindeer.

The office of experiment stations has also continued its investigations with a view to furnishing information regarding the requirements and possibilities of irrigation. The Secretary points out the desirability of undertaking a special study of power in relation to running pumps, and points out how the information thus collected may be made useful in other lines of farm work. He regards this line of work as so important that he has recommended a special appropriation to enable the department to extend its operations to agricultural engineering, especially on the application of power to farm machinery.

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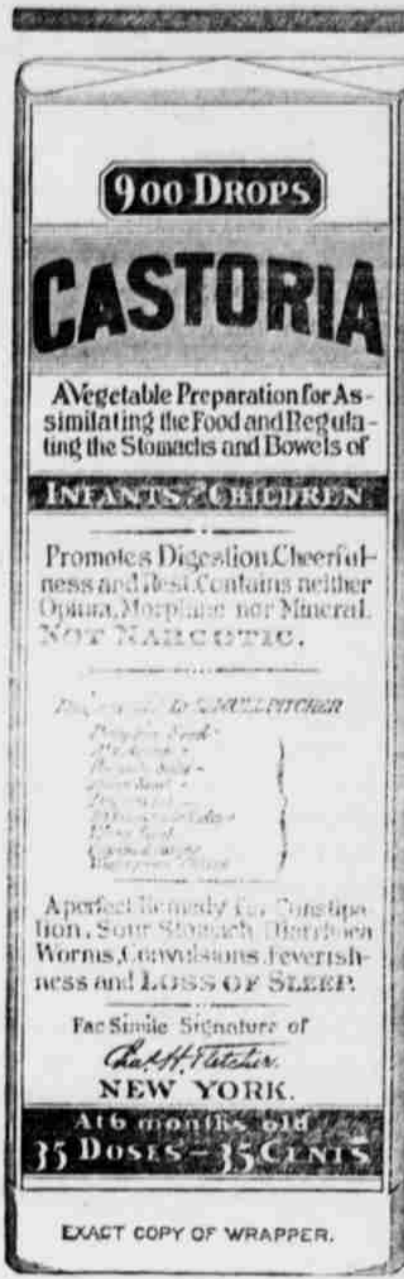
Try for Health

222 South Peoria St.,
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Eight months ago I was so ill that I was compelled to lie or sit down nearly all the time. My stomach was so weak and upset that I could keep nothing on it and I vomited frequently. I could not urinate without great pain and I coughed so much that my throat and lungs were raw and sore. The doctors pronounced it Bright's disease and others said it was consumption. It mattered little to me what they called it and I had no desire to live. A sister visited me from St. Louis and asked me if I had ever tried Wine of Cardui. I told her I had not and she bought a bottle. I believe that it saved my life. I believe many women could save much suffering if they but knew of its value.

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