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OUR FARM VALUES REACH BILLIONS

Secretary Wilson's Report Gives Interesting Facts About Agriculture

Nothing short of omniscience can grasp the value of the farm products of this year, is the statement of the Secretary of Agriculture in his annual report for 1910. At no time in the world's history has a country produced farm products within one year with a value reaching \$8,926,000,000, which is the value of the agricultural products of this country for 1910. The value of farm products from 1899 to the present year has been progressive without interruption. If the value of the products of 1899 is placed at 100, the value of this year is 189 or almost double the value for the census year eleven years ago. "During this period of unexampled agricultural production, a period of twelve years, during which the farmers of this country have steadily advanced in prosperity and wealth and in economic independence, in intelligence, and a knowledge of agriculture, the total value of farm products is \$73,000,000,000."

The corn crop of 3,121,381,000 bushels exceeds that of the record year 1906, and is greater than the average crop of the preceding five years by 14 per cent. While the value of this corn crop is below that of 1909 and also of 1908, its amount belongs to stories of magic. It can hardly be reckoned as less than \$1,500,000,000, a sum sufficient to cancel the interest-bearing debt of the United States, buy all of the gold and silver mined in all the countries of the earth in 1909, and still leave to the farmers a little pocket money.

The value of the hay crop is about \$720,000,000, an amount which has been exceeded but once, and that in 1907; it is 13 per cent above the average of the preceding five years.

Fortunately the wheat crop is divided into two sowings, autumn and spring, so that the two crops are subject to different climatic accidents, as was the case this year. The production of spring and winter wheat is 691,707,000 bushels, or substantially the average of the preceding five years, whereas the value is about \$625,000,000, or 7.6 per cent above the five-year average.

Easily the fifth crop in point of value is oats, the value of which this year is \$230,000,000, or 12 per cent above the average of the five preceding years. In quantity the oats crop this year is magnificent. For the second time in the history of this country the crop exceeds 1,000,000,000 bushels the precise estimate standing at 1,096,306,000 bushels or 22 per cent greater than the average of the five preceding years.

The farm value of the cereal crops declined \$230,000,000 in 1910 from 1909 and the value of all crops declined \$119,000,000. A gain was made, however, in the value of animal products amounting to \$424,000,000. It has been a year of high prices for eggs, and for milk and butter, and for meat and animals, for poultry and for these reasons the total value of all farm products increased in 1910 \$301,000,000 above the estimate for 1909.

ROMAN ARENAS.

They Were Not Mere Rings as Those of the Modern Circus.

The arenas of ancient Rome were not, as some people suppose, mere rings or ovals, such as may be seen in the modern circus. They were broken up and varied in character according to the nature of the fighting to be done or to the caprices of those in authority.

On one occasion an arena might resemble the Numidian desert, on another the garden of Hesperides, thick set with groves of trees and rising mounds, while again it pictured the great rocks and caves of Thrace.

With these surroundings the combatants advanced, retreated, encircled their adversaries or kept wild beasts at bay as occasion offered or as their courage or fear suggested. Men combated not only with the more common brutes, but with such monsters as elephants, rhinoceroses, hippopotamuses and crocodiles.

On other occasions flocks of game, such as deer and war ostriches, were abandoned to the multitude, and in some cases the arenas could be turned into lakes, filled with monsters of the deep, and upon the surface of which naval engagements took place.—London Saturday Review.

A Horse's Foot.

The foot of a horse is one of the most ingenious and unexampled pieces of mechanism in the whole range of animal structure.

A Jefferson Monument.

At Columbia, Mo., on the university campus, is the only monument to Thomas Jefferson on the Louisiana purchase. It is very simple and was designed by Jefferson himself for his grave at Monticello. The inscription is from papers found among Jefferson's belongings after his death.

ACKERMAN HEAD OF MONMOUTH

Educator to Receive \$3600 a Year as President of New Normal

Salem, Or., Jan. 17.—J. H. Ackerman, who has just completed a service of 12 years as state superintendent of public instruction in this state has been elected president of the state normal school, which is to be reestablished at Monmouth as the result of the adoption of an initiative measure with that end in view November 8. The salary of the president is fixed by the board at \$3600 a year.

The friends of the state normal school are today congratulating themselves upon the election of Mr. Ackerman as president. Though not a candidate for the position, he had been frequently mentioned in connection with it and his election is quite generally approved. As the institution is likely to be the only one in Oregon for several years it is expected that within a year or two it will be one of the largest of its kind in the northwest. Mr. Ackerman will assume active charge at Monmouth February 1. The recent meeting of the state board of normal school regents was the first since the abolition of the normal schools by the legislature of 1909.

The members of the board are Miss Cornelia Marvin of Salem, J. G. Meier of The Dalles, W. C. Bryant of Moro, Stephen Jewell of Grants Pass, W. E. Spence of Oregon City, E. Hofer of Salem, Governor West, Secretary of State Benson and Superintendent of Schools Alderman.

THE PRESIDENT'S NIECE.

Mrs. Louise Taft Snowden.
Married to a Millionaire.



Mrs. Louise Taft Snowden is the daughter of Henry W. Taft, brother of the president. Her husband, George H. Snowden, to whom she was married recently in New York, is a wealthy resident of Washington state.

ROAR OF BIG GUNS.

The Effect Upon the Nerves and the Sense of Hearing.

One of the penalties attendant on firing off big guns is deafness. So sure is this penalty to be exacted that, it is asserted, no man can go through a long series of gunnery practice without having his hearing affected. A stranger on deck who hears a big gun speak for the first time will not soon forget the stunning report.

One gun is enough to startle a stranger, but the shattering effect of the whole armament when in action together can hardly be conceived. The strain upon nerves and senses when the rending concussion takes place is terrible.

There is not a great difference between the effect of the big guns and that of the smaller pieces, strange as it may seem. If the visitor places himself beside one of the smaller guns and then listens to the roar of the big one, the sound will not appear much louder than that of the gun by his side. The extra distance to the muzzle of the big piece discounts the sound. The only apparent difference between the two will be that the smaller piece has a sharper, higher pitched tone, and that the big guns speak with a more bellowing roar.

If one watches the firing of the gun the crash has not such a startling effect as when it comes unexpectedly. Loud as it is, nature has prepared the watcher to resist the shock which he knows is impending.—Exchange.

Told Him.

"What's that boy yelling at?" asked the farmer of his son. "Why," chuckled the boy, "he's just yelling at the top of his voice."

Sometimes Gets Embroidered.

Scandal is the one thing that never gets worn out at the edges by being passed around.—Chicago Record-Herald.

He is happiest who renders the greatest number happy.—Desmalus.

Gloomy Business



Is like the weather. There is always another day coming, when the sun will shine bright by contrast. To hasten the day, get your printing matter in shape. There is many a bright diamond hidden where thousands are searching for it. If the diamond could make its presence known, it would get its full meed of honor. How about your business? Are you making it known in the right way? Whether you are satisfied or not, consult us about your printing, for printing is the art of making you known and making your business move

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