

# CROPS.

## The Situation in Oregon

Everything Favorable for a Fine General Crop.

Sam Kerr, of St. Paul, says that the hop prospect this year is better than he ever saw it at this time of the year. The crop is very forward and thrifty and if nothing prevents one of the finest crops of hops will be picked that was ever picked in the Willamette valley. The yards that are being cultivated, that were not worked last year, are not making as good a showing as yards that were cultivated last year. The acreage of fall wheat, in the vicinity of St. Paul, is smaller than for years, but a large amount of spring grain is sown and is looking very promising. The fall sown grain is in good condition and he looks for a fine crop.

H. C. Williams, E. E. and H. A. Wells, of Marion county, have contracted 600 pounds of hops to be harvested by them this year, to S. Ramsey & Co., of Seattle. The price to be paid is 8 cents per pound.

The following review of the hop market in the east is clipped from a New York circular.

Dealers still report an exceedingly dull trade so far as new business is concerned. They have been making fair deliveries on early contracts, and these hops, along with old stock that brewers had on hand, have removed the necessity of important fresh purchases. There has been much discussion as to the amount of stock brewers are using in comparison with last year, and it is pretty generally conceded that requirements this winter and spring have been less than usual because of a lighter consumption of liquors. However that may be, the call for supplies has kept constantly below what has seemed to be light offerings and values have been shrinking ever since the turn of the year. At the present writing quotations are still more or less nominal. Occasional sales of strictly choice Oregon hops are making to brewers on usual terms at 11 1/2 cents and of finest States at 10 cents, but to effect sales on the open market less money would have to be accepted, while for common and medium qualities almost any reasonable bid would be considered.

Exports are small, and inquiries from abroad few. State 1896 choice hops are 9c 1/2 lb; good to prime, 7c 3/4; common to fair, 4c 3/4; Pacific coast 1896, choice, 11c 1/2; good to prime, 8c 3/4; common to fair, 6c 3/4; State and Pacific coast, 1895, 3c 3/4; old 2c 3/4 cents.

During the past week the temperature has averaged 3 degrees higher than during the preceding week, the mean being 56 degree. Light frost occurred Saturday morning in many localities. The amount of sunshine was about normal.

Conditions have been very favorable to the growth of vegetation. The frosts Saturday morning were not heavy enough to do any damage. All crops have been planted except corn, late potatoes, and buckwheat. Oats sown in February measure from six to ten inches in height. Barley is heading out. Fall and winter sown wheat and oats have excellent growth and stand. Unusually fine grain prospects. Corn is above ground. Early potatoes have vines six inches high. Clover and timothy are very heavy. The cutting of alfalfa will soon begin. Gooseberries and currants are large enough to use. Strawberries are ripening. The Dalles is 200 miles north of Roseburg, but had the first ripe strawberries this year, on the 3d inst. Some report dropping of cherries and Italian prunes, principally from Columbia, Multnomah, Washington, and Yamhill counties. If one-tenth of the fruit matures, the trees will be laden. Hops are making good growth. The pasturage has greatly improved.

The general opinion is, that an excellent harvest of grain, fruit, hops, vegetables, and all agricultural produce will be had.

The Virtue mine has just brought in a \$30,000 brick of gold.

WILLIAM J. BRYAN.

[Silver Knight and National Watchman.]

The cause of humanity against the money type looks brighter than in any previous struggle. The fact that the money extortionist, the usurer and the money dealer have succeeded in destroying all successive civilization, has created the gloomiest forebodings as to the possible struggles between the money powers under the Rothchild combination and the masses of mankind. In free America we thought we were armed against the money manipulator, and that we could use the ballot to thwart his purposes to rob and enslave the people; but the wily enemy for more than twenty years prevented the presentation of the issue between honest money of sufficient volume to maintain stability of prices, and manipulated money, shrunk to such diminished proportions as would enable the money powers to pool and corner it. The result was that the people contended with each other over unimportant issues, while the conspirators robbed them of their property, and sent them down toward slavery.

In 1896 a stand was made in the Democratic party, with the co-operation of Populists and Silver Republicans, the like of which was never before seen among men. The Chicago convention, if the principles therein enunciated are finally successful, will be far more important to the human race than the convention of 1776, which promulgated the Declaration of Independence. When the Chicago Declaration was put forth a young man from the west, full of ability, eloquence, zeal, enthusiasm, will, determination, and unyielding honesty, was, by one accord, selected as the standard bearer of the grand movement to liberate the human race. The canvass which Mr. Bryan made in point of ability, eloquence, endurance and high statesmanship, stands unrivalled in the history of this country.

We write this article to call attention to the fact that Bryan's courage, incorruptibility, steadfastness of purpose and devotion to the great cause of which he was made the leader, are still firm and unabated. In the last few weeks, by his burning words, glowing with patriotism and wise statesmanship, he has brushed aside the chattering of little men about side issues, and has raised aloft the banner which he carried through the campaign, as the banner of victory of 1896 and 1900. His speech at the Jefferson dinner in Washington sounded the liberty bell of the next campaign. His recent letter, published elsewhere in this issue, which reviews the gross egotism, selfish greed and brutal purporting from Grover Cleveland, now universally acknowledged as the calamity of the nineteenth century, contrasts in words of living light the difference between the sordid place-hunter and the patriot statesman.

How idle it is for the Cleverlands, the Hills, the Palmers, the Batemans, the Van Dervoorts, the Bynums, or any of that sordid tribe, to prattle about other parties and other issues, when the forces already in operation have made the issue between plutocracy and democracy, and when the people of the United States have already selected the leader whom they will follow to triumph and victory in the campaign of 1900.

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