

UTAH'S CROP SEASON OF 1901.

Plenty of precipitation occurred during the fall of 1900, and this, in connection with the mild temperatures which prevailed, gave fall-sown grain an excellent start. The winter was generally mild, and the crop reached the growing season of 1901 in very good condition.

February—The heavy precipitation during February was very beneficial to the ranges. The warm weather of the first half caused grass and lucern to take on new growth and the fruit buds to swell. Considerable plowing and sowing were done in the southern half of the State.

March—The cold and stormy weather that characterized March was not favorable to farm work. A little plowing was done and some spring grain sown. The cold weather also held back the fruit buds. The depth of snow in the mountains at the close of March was generally about normal. Most of the snow fell late in the season, but it was fairly well melted and well packed.

April—The cool weather of March continued through the first part of April, but following this the weather was warmer than usual. The planting of wheat, oats and sugar beets was nearly completed. Fall grain continued in good condition. The ranges made a gradual improvement. Orchards were in full bloom at the close of the month. Freezing temperature occurred over the State on the mornings of the 16th and 17th, and over the northern and middle sections on the morning of the 21st. Apicot buds were killed in a few localities in the southern portion of the State, but no serious damage resulted to the fruit crop.

May—Good showers were general from the 2nd to the 4th, and light, scattered showers occurred during the latter half of the month. The month opened cool, but the second and third weeks were unusually warm. There being an abundance of moisture in the ground, the conditions were ideal for plant growth. Cool waves overpread the State from the 21st to 23rd and on the 30th and 31st. The low temperatures were generally accompanied by light frost but little or no damage resulted therefrom. The prevailing high winds dried out the soil rapidly and were an unfavorable condition. High easterly wind on the 24th and 25th blew considerable fruit from the trees in the north-central counties. Spring

wheat, oats and sugar beets came up nicely during the first week. Corn and potatoes were planted during the second week.

June—Dry farm wheat was in need of rain at the beginning of June, and some of it had been quite badly injured by drought before the general showers of the 12th and 13th; the showers greatly improved the condition of the crop for the time being but, as a result of the high, drying winds that were so prevalent, it was soon in need of rain again, and by the close of the month had been badly damaged. The first half of the month was unusually cool. Heavy frost occurred over the northern and middle sections on the morning of the 5th, and light frost in the high valleys of the northern portions of the State on the morning of June 13, 14, 15, 26 and 27. The frost slightly damaged lucern, potatoes, tomatoes, beans and other tender plants. Notwithstanding the unfavorable conditions irrigation crops generally made fair advancement. The growth of lucern was considerably retarded by the cool weather and the high winds, the first crop which was nearly all cut and stored in good condition by the 30th, made only a fair yield. A fair crop of strawberries was harvested; cherries made a good yield.

July—On the whole the precipitation that fell during July was of little service to crops and the ranges. Light to heavy frost occurred in parts of Boxelder, Rich, Morgan, Weber, Summit and Wasatch counties on the morning of the 5th, doing some damage to potatoes, beans and other tender plants. The drying winds of the first half of the month made the use of much more than the usual amount of irrigation water necessary in order to keep growing crops in good condition. As a result of the unusual condition, the supply of water became rather low in many localities but, with a few exceptions, was sufficient for all requirements. The drought of June caused dry farm wheat to make a very light yield. The excessive heat of July caused irrigated grain to ripen too rapidly and resulted in a yield somewhat below the average. The harvest of barley, rye and dry farm wheat began during the first ten days; the harvest of irrigated wheat was in progress during the last ten days. The second crop of lucern which was generally light, was cut and stored during the latter part of the month. Sugar beets, potatoes and corn did very well. Early potatoes made a good yield. Apricots, peaches and early apples ripened during the month.

August—The frequent showers which occurred during the month were very beneficial to late crops and the ranges. Sugar beets and corn did well. The third crop of lucern made good growth.

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Considerable cut hay was damaged by the showers which fell just after the middle of the month. The harvesting of small grain was practically completed by the 20th. Threshing was in active progress throughout the month. Apricots, peaches, apples, pears and plums were marketed. The yield from the large fruits was about average in the southern half of the State, but in the northern half the yield was considerably below average, the apple crop showing the greatest shortage. Light frost occurred in a few high localities about the middle and rear the close of the month, but did no damage.

September—With the exception of the rain which fell over the north-central part of the State on September 23 and 24, the precipitation of the month was too light to be of any service. The ground became so dry as to interfere with plowing, and in some localities fields had to be irrigated before the soil could be turned. Light to heavy frost occurred in the higher valleys on several dates between the 1st and 24th; on the morning of the 25th killing frost occurred in these valleys and heavy frost was quite general over the rest of the State. Late crops were well advanced, and little or no damage was done by the frosts. High winds on two or three days did considerable damage by blowing late fruits from the trees. Corn, which was fully up to the average, matured rapidly during the first days of the month and was cut for fodder during the middle of the month. The third crop of lucern made a good yield and was cut and stored in good condition. Late potatoes grew too much to tops and, on the whole, made only a fair yield. Sugar beet digging began

about the 15th. With the exception of the north-central part of the State, ranges were beginning to show the effects of the drought.

October—In many places the ground continued too dry for plowing until the general rains of the last week of October. These rains placed the soil in good condition for working, caused fall sown grain to germinate and improved the range. Many localities had no killing frost during the month. The digging of late potatoes was practically completed. Sugar beet digging was still in active progress at the close of the month.

November—The continued dry weather was not favorable for fall grain. Feed and water were very scarce on the ranges, and stock thereon, especially sheep, was in very poor condition. The digging of sugar beets was completed about the 15th, and an excellent yield secured.

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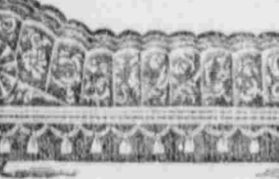
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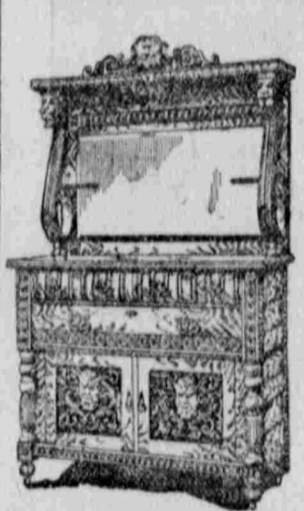
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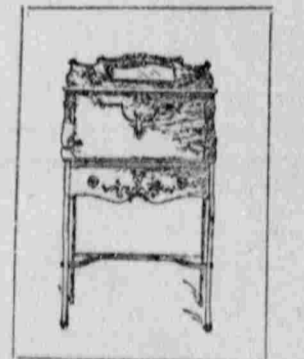
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