

EDITORIALS.

PUTTING A PRICE ON GRASS-HOPPERS.

THE Omaha Bee is of the opinion that putting a price upon the grasshopper is not a satisfactory business, but more of a failure, and all through the lack of honesty among the grasshopper hunters. The Bee says—

"The attempt to extinguish the devouring 'hopper' by paying a bounty of so much per bushel, which was inaugurated in Minnesota last year, does not seem to meet with as much success as was anticipated. There is much dissatisfaction in Southern Minnesota in regard to the bounty policy. In Blue Earth County, where the bounty system was most thoroughly tried last year, it had a most pernicious and demoralizing effect upon the community, leading to a wholesale course of lying, cheating, and everything mean and low, by which the county could be swindled. On the other hand, the appropriation for seed grain gives general satisfaction, and if that for bounties had been added to it, much very necessary and worthy relief would have been given."

AMERICAN POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE American Pomological Society, organized in 1848, expects to hold its sixteenth session in Baltimore, Md., on invitation of the Maryland Horticultural Society, on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, September, 12, 13, and 14, 1877. All horticultural, pomological, agricultural, and kindred associations are invited to send as large delegations as they please, and all persons interested in fruit culture are invited to be present and take seats in the convention. A full attendance of delegates is expected from all parts of the country. The following is from the circular of the Society, and is of general interest—

"The Catalogue of Fruits includes fifty States and Territories, most of which have their columns filled with a great amount of information as to the fruit adapted for culture in the respective locations. Many of these are yet incomplete; and it is the object of the Society, from year to year, to fill the blanks, and bring its Catalogue nearer to perfection. To accomplish this object as fully as possible, the Chairman of the General Fruit Committee, P. Barry, Esq., Rochester, N. Y., will send out the usual circulars of inquiry; and it is desirable that these inquiries should be answered at an early day. The various State and Local Committees are urged to respond to the circulars as soon as practicable."

"The coming session will derive a special interest from its location in the midst of the great fruit-growing region of the Atlantic coast, and also from the fact that it is the first meeting held since the expiration of the first century of our national history. It is desired, in this connection, that the Vice-Presidents of the several States, Territories, and Provinces, should furnish or procure, as far as possible, short historical sketches of the rise and progress of fruit-culture in their respective districts, from their settlement up to the year 1876, to the end that the forthcoming report may give a complete view of the pomological history of the various parts of the country. State and local Horticultural Societies are respectfully requested to co-operate and aid in this work."

"Arrangements will be made with hotels, and as far as possible, with the various railroad lines terminating in Baltimore, for a reduction of fare. Wherever possible it will be best that such arrangements should be made by the various delegations with roads in their localities, as rates made by Baltimore roads will apply only to their lines."

"Members, delegates, and societies are requested to contribute collections of the fruits of their respective districts, and to communicate in regard to them whatever may aid in promoting the objects of the So-

ciety and the science of American Pomology. Each contributor is requested to prepare a complete list of his collection, and to present the same with its fruits, that a report of all the varieties entered may be submitted to the meeting as early as practicable. By vote of the Society, no money premiums will be offered; but a limited number of Wilder Medals will be awarded to meritorious objects."

"At the same time, from September 11 to 14 inclusive, the Maryland Horticultural Society will hold a Grand Exhibition of Fruits, Plants, Flowers, and other products of Horticulture, by which an increased interest will be given to the occasion."

"Packages of fruits, with the names of the contributors, may be addressed as follows: 'American Pomological Society, care of Wm. B. Sands, Baltimore.'"

"All persons desirous of becoming members can remit the fee to Thomas P. James, Esq., Treasurer, Cambridge, Mass. Life-membership, Twenty Dollars; Biennial, Four Dollars. Life-members will be supplied with back numbers of the Proceedings of the Society as far as possible."

It is expected that a paper on "The Classification of Apples" will be presented by Prof. J. W. Beal, of the Agricultural College, Lansing, Michigan, and one on "The Pathology of Cultivated Plants," by Prof. A. N. Prentiss, of Cornell University, also papers by other gentlemen on "The Species of the Apple," "The Bitter Rot of the Apple," and other important subjects connected with fruit-culture."

So far as Utah is concerned, if the Society were to take hold of the codling moth, it might be a good thing; that being the worst apple enemy in this region.

OUR STAPLE CROP.

THE San Francisco Chronicle discusses the question of "Our Future Staple Crop" in reference to California, and states that it has had a wide range of staple crops, beginning with gold, which kept the palm for ten years, but impoverished the mountain counties without compensation to the valleys and sea-coast towns. Then wheat became the recognized staple of the State, maintaining that distinction for four or five years, when wool divided the honor with it, both since remaining the two principal industries, yet neither proving altogether satisfactory or reliable, the net returns one year with another being inadequate to the amount of capital and labor required. Many consecutive crops of wheat impoverished the best land and ruin the thin and poor soils, besides the bad seasons are as numerous as the good, with an occasional year of general and almost total failure. There are the north wind blast, drouth, rust and smut to lessen the crop. Wool-raising also starves out the native grasses and consequently impoverishes the soil. The average of California land is far from being as rich as the average in the western States, and it needs careful cultivation. "Yet," says the Chronicle, "we have treated it as if it were inexhaustible, and find from sad experience that thousands and tens of thousands of acres which twenty years ago were esteemed good for forty bushels of barley or thirty of wheat are not now worth planting—not good for eight to ten bushels in the average year." This is an observation that Utah farmers should well consider.

Our California contemporary concludes that it is advisable for that State to look out for a staple crop of another kind, and that such a crop can be found in the grape, for the following reasons—the grape has a reputation in California above every other production, the best varieties improve in that climate, they can be grown anywhere and on soils too poor for wheat, the State has more acres adapted to wine grapes than to wheat and barley, with further experience and skill California may within twenty years take high rank as a wine country, there is no reason why that State should not some day make as good wines as France. Then California would have "a staple more kingly than

cotton, more liberal in its returns than gold and wheat and wool combined, and a savior rather than a desolator of the soil."

Most countries, States, Territories, regions, and districts have their staple crops, and while reading concerning California's staple crops, we began to wonder what was Utah's staple crop. This Territory raises good wheat, corn, oats, barley, rye, peas, beans, turnips, potatoes, clover, lucern, apricots, peaches, plums, cherries, apples (codling moth permitting), pears, currants, gooseberries, raspberries, blackberries, salt, silver, beef, pork, mutton, wool, butter, cheese, eggs, and various other things. But we scarcely know which to term the staple crop—hardly wheat, hardly peaches, and these are two of the best. On further consideration we must come to the conclusion that the staple crop of Utah consists of none of the things mentioned above, but of another and a very different kind of production. It seems to us that Utah's staple crop is children. This is a crop of universal production throughout the Territory, no matter the altitude, the latitude or the longitude, nor whether in the mountains or in the valleys, on the gravelly benches, the alluvial bottom lands, or the sage and sandy deserts—all places in the Territory are much alike fruitful in regard to this one crop, no matter how unfruitful as to others. Neither are there any bad seasons. All seasons seem to be propitious for this crop. No north wind blast, or mildew, or rust, or smut, or drouth to lessen the product. Utah stands in the front rank in regard to this crop. We do not know of any other Territory or State in the Union so prolific in this production, nor anywhere is it so generally and so extensively cultivated. Nearly every man and woman in the Territory raises this crop, and to a liberal degree. It is a crop more kingly than cotton, more liberal in returns than gold and wheat and wool, and is a savior and a reclamer rather than a desolator of the soil.

A TRAVELING SCHOOL.

THE first class of young lady students on a "study tour" to Europe, on Dr. Ebell's plan, left New York per the steamer *Frisia* of the Hamburg line, March 29. The New York Herald says, "The *Frisia* took out not only an unusually heavy burden of female loveliness, but the greatest number of babies ever seen on a European steamer." The lady students numbered fifteen, and were from various States, east and west, including Nevada and California. Another instalment is to leave New York on the *Hamburg*, April 12. The paper named above gives the following as the plan of travel of the bevy on the *Frisia*—

"The pupils proceed directly to Berlin, where they study until June 30, when the summer vacation begins. On Saturday, June 30, they leave for Dresden, seeing its sights in carriages for three days, and on Tuesday, July 3, they travel through Saxony, Switzerland and Prague. After visiting the cathedrals and palaces of Prague they journey along the banks of the Danube to Vienna. After spending three days amid the gayeties of the German Paris they go through the romantic Sommermering Pass to Adelsburg, where they inspect the great cave, illuminated for the occasion with 18,000 burners, besides several magnesian lights, producing an effect indescribably grand. Then along the shores of the Adriatic to Venice, whose antiquities are revisited in open gondolas for four days, one day in Verona, two in Milan and thence to Lake Como. The ladies take boat for Lugano, on the Lake of that name; then go from Lugano or Varese by carriages to the shores of Lake Maggiore, and thence by steamboat the length of the lake to Baveno; from Baveno by carriages through the Simplon Pass, spending the night on the summit of the pass, the Hospice Simplon; from Simplon along the winding mountain road, over bridges, through galleries and tunnels and under waterfalls, down into the Rhone Valley, by the Rhone to Brigne, for lunch to Martigny; from Martigny in

small mule carts up the zigzag mountain path overlooking the Rhone Valley, to the valley of Chamounix, by Mont Blanc, and two days are spent in excursions in the valley, where Miss Wixon will have an appropriate opportunity of singing the 'Vale of Chamounix. Illustrated lectures on the geology of Switzerland and the structure and action of glaciers will be given to the class during these travels. Then through the mountain gorges, with relays of over fifty horses, to Lake Geneva; two days in Geneva, the length of Lake Geneva by steamboat to Montreux and to the Castle of Chillon, to Berne, Luzerne, and by the cog-wheel railroad, overlooking the most wonderfully grand landscapes of mountain chains, valleys, lakes and villages, to the summit of the Regi Kuhl; a season of rest in Luzerne, and so on to Baden-Baden, Heidelberg, Frankfurt; along the Rhine to Cologne, then to Brussels, Paris (to which eight days will be devoted), London, Melrose, Edinburgh and to Glasgow, whence some of the pupils, who only make the partial tour, embark for New York on the 1st of September, while the others return to Berlin to their regular studies in the academy."

SALE OF DESERT LANDS.

THERE may have been some little excitement over the recently enacted law of Congress for the sale of desert lands in parcels of one section, or a mile square, to each applicant. The various provisions of the law, however, should be taken into due consideration, one of which is the payment of twenty-five cents per acre, one-fifth of the entire purchase money, at the time of application, and another is that the applicant must actually conduct water upon the land for the purposes of irrigation within three years after the time of application.

This last provision may prove a rather formidable one, if it shall be held to mean that water sufficient to irrigate the whole section must be brought upon the land in that time, for there are few tracts of land in this territory of that kind, most of them having been taken up some time ago, that is, land where water can be readily obtained in sufficient supply for irrigating growing crops. There is a good deal of desert land where flowing water cannot be obtained for irrigation, except by artesian wells, and they are but unsatisfactory experiments yet in this Territory.

There is another thing which might be taken into consideration—desert lands, whether readily irrigable or not, were subject to squatting, pre-emption, or homesteading, according to law, before the passage of the law of last session spoken of above, and such lands, in common with others, can still be squatted on, pre-empted in quarter section tracts, or homesteaded in quarter sections, or less amounts. So that those desert lands on which water cannot, or cannot remuneratively, be conducted for irrigation, but which may be desirable, can still be homesteaded or pre-empted according to law as before.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

—Now it is contended that it is not the color of the glass so much as the contents.

—It is stated that Equimaux Joe has a situation at the Smithsonian Institute, Washington.

—The New York Herald says, "Union saving is a noble occupation when pursued by properly qualified persons, but when it prevents the payment of just debts it savors somewhat of humbug. The inability of some of the workmen at the Brooklyn Navy Yard to get the pay due them is disgraceful to a nation which has plenty of money and hires men at large salaries to procure and disburse the same."

—The Omaha Herald says of gambling, "New York is trying to pass a law making it a penal offence to bet on men or horses. Laws which attempt to subdue one of the most ungovernable passions of human nature will prove to be dead laws. The appetite for gambling is as strong in men as the appetite for food, and is about as uncontrollable—gambling, we mean, in the broader sense. Horse races, yacht, and boat races will cease whenever men are not allowed to bet on them."

—It is said that the newest thing in foot covering in Paris is "La botte chimere," which is laced down the heel.

—The Sacramento Record-Union says, "The Government cannot afford to leave the government of a Territory in the hands of a Mormon."

—The San Francisco Chronicle talks about "Excitement in Mormondom." Where is all that excitement? Don't keep it all up in a corner. Who has seen any of it?

—The Stockton Independent says, "Negotiations are in progress looking to the purchase of the machinery of the Sacramento beet sugar factory and its removal to this county. The machinery is of the latest and most approved pattern, having been imported from Germany at a cost of \$160,000. It can be purchased for \$45,000, and we learn that the negotiations for its purchase have nearly been consummated. Whether it will be set up in Stockton or on the upper end of Roberts Island has not yet been determined."

—A New York Herald dispatch from London, March 31, says, "Mr. Carl Rosa bid £15,000 last week for the Liverpool Amphitheatre, which was offered at auction, but the sale was withdrawn at £20,000. It was Rosa's intention to have established English opera permanently in Liverpool as a basis whence to work London. The dream of Mr. Mapleson has ended. The Grand Opera House on the Embankment has been abandoned. Its disposition has become a subject of inquiry in Parliament. Lord Bruce has asked the question in Parliament what provision will be made for the subscribers."

—An exchange says, "C. W. Coudock, the well-known actor, has had a translation made of a French military drama, written for the great French comedian, Frederic Lemaire, and played by him for two seasons with great success. Mr. Coudock calls his English version 'The Sacred Trust'; or, the Orphans of the Battle Field. He assumes Lemaire's part of Corporal Antoine, a faithful old soldier, whose fortunes and misfortunes the piece represents in a very thrilling and melodramatic manner. The play was produced for the first time the other week at the Museum, in Philadelphia, and has been very well received."

—John Hay, of Astoria, Long Island, presented Mr. Henry, a stylishly dressed young man, with a bill for \$100, which Henry refused to pay, and Hay caught him by the collar and struck him in the face. Result—a charge of assault and battery. Hay told the Judge he was unfortunate and poor and his wife was dying of consumption. Said he of Henry, "I told him that my children were hungry, and I implored him to give me even \$1, but he coolly put his salary in his pocket and buttoned up his coat, and told me he couldn't help me. I thought of his living in a brown stone house, and I grew frantic and lost control of myself." Said the Judge, "Hay, you are found guilty on the evidence, and the court sentences you to pay a fine of one cent, which fine," added the Judge hastily, "the court cheerfully remits."

—The Omaha Bee states of an anti-"Mormon" woman lecturer that she "is at Marshalltown, and is about to commence suit against the Lecture and Library Association of that city. It seems that last season the association contracted with the lecture bureau for a certain number of lecturers, and that the bureau were anxious" she "should be one of the number, and they agreed that if she did not draw a larger house than any in the list save Tilton, and as large as he, they would charge nothing for the lecture, otherwise the stipulated price. She failed to draw, and the association refused to pay the bureau. She, being unable to collect her money from the bureau, now comes upon the association."

—The Washington Star of March 31 says, "During a conversation yesterday with several gentlemen the President, alluding to tenure of office matters, casually remarked that he was not sure of his own position, as he had been led to believe that his title would be disputed, or words to that effect. The conversation having been repeated, a rumor soon gained some circulation that a writ of quo warranto, or a notice of such writ, had been served upon him by counsel for Samuel J. Tilden, Chief Justice