EVENING NEWS.

Friday, July 14, 1876.

Silk Culture in California.

Eds. Record-Union: In your issue of June 28th, I noticed among your agricultural reports an article on "Silk Culture," through which you express the hope that some one engaged in that business might answer the inquiries put to you on silkworm breeding in a more definite manner.

I will, then, take the liberty of writing you this communication, answering as briefly as I can the aforesaid inquiries and giving you besides some details of my experiments in this branch of industry. Before going any further, however, let me say at the present day silk culture is in a very depressed condition. Why it is so, and how to remedy the evil, I have no time and no space to state in this letter, though I may do it at some future time if you would like to hear any more on the subject.

To the first inquiry of your correspondent, I will answer that there are no important silkworm breeders at present in this State, the business, little as it is, being conducted on a very small scale. As to being successful, I will add that so far silk culturists have met with very variable success all round, more particularly so in their attempts at raising those fine yellow races known under the name of the French annuals.

"Have silkworms bred in California never been infected by maladies as yet?" asks your correspondent. Yes, they have. In 1869-70 most all the breedings on a large scale failed, and wrong causes were set forth by silk culturists of that time for an explanation to their repeated failures. It was but last year that I ascertained beyond a doubt that pebrine, the epidemy which has been ravaging so fiercely all over the silk districts of Europe, Africa and Asia, with the exception of Japan, existed in California, and was, and had been, the very cause of our failures so far, which statement I made public through communication to the San Francisco *Rural Press*.

Pebrine is a strange malady, for a stranger to the business could not see anything wrong with the infected worms, all appearing to be in good health, with no sick worms or dead bodies around. But, on closer examination, the same person would notice that the worms were very irregular in size, some having changed skin, or molted, this being evidenced by their larger head, while the main body of the worms were small, with small heads and a shining skin, and keeping back so much that if they would even reach the fourth molting they were unable to spin a cocoon. Luckily this pebrine breaks out at the second age, before the worms are too much advanced in their short existence. Hardly a twentieth of pebrinéd worms are able to spin a cocoon.

The other and more dreaded epidemic, which, for the last six years, seems to take the place of pebrine in the cocooneries of Europe, is flackerie or blight, a still worse malady, since it breaks out in the last age of the worm, a few days before spinning time, just when the breeder is almost done with feeding. This last epidemy I have never detected here with me, and doubt very much that it does exist in California; one at one time is enough, I should think.

Your correspondent wants to know, furthermore, whether in this State we use California semen, or seed as it is commonly called, or whether we prefer to it Chinese and Japanese seed. Chinese seed is altogether out of the question, and used nowhere, either here or in Europe. Chinese silk-growers, in fact, generally employ for raising silk bivoltine and polyvoltine races, which yield, it is true, several crops a year, but of a very inferior silk, such as it would not be profitable for us to raise, at any rate. As to Chinese annuals, they do not stand against the epidemy.

In regard to the Japanese, their green and white annuals are certainly very hardy and vigorous races, but again the cocoon is too small and the silk of an inferior quality. And if the infected districts raise Japanese annuals, the reason is that they cannot raise anything else. Seed dealers have gone all over the world in search of silkworm eggs that could stand the epidemy; they have sent out agents to Tartary, Turkistan, Persia, Morocco, California, South America, etc., but none of these countries have yet been able to furnish them a vigorous and healthy race of silkworms as Japan did and does yet; so much so that Japan has all the seed trade to herself, a regular monopoly. Italy and France, their main customers, importing from that country yearly about 1,400,000 ounces or cartoons of silkworm seed, for which they have to pay from $2 to $3 a cartoon, retailing the latter at $5 a piece. Last year I got ten cartoons direct from Japan, and this season I raised a full cartoon of green annuals and half a cartoon of white annuals, and now I am busy in manufacturing seed from them.

In regard to the cost of my seed, I invariably sell it at $6 an ounce; but I guarantee two things: First, that it is what I represent it to be; secondly, that I do select for seeding the very finest cocoons, preserving the seed through summer and winter according to the best method known. But, as I do not wish to deceive any one, I will add here, that I do not guarantee my seed to be free of disease—I mean pebrine.

Now that I have, I think, answered fully all the inquiries put by your correspondent, I will entertain you briefly about my own experiments. For years already I have spent a great deal of my time in the study of this silk industry, and have a very fine mulberry orchard, with seven varieties of trees altogether, though my favorites for feeding silkworms with are the grafted rose-leaved and Morus japonica varieties. I own, too, an experimental cocoonery large enough to raise in it 60,000 silkworms, and furnished with five tiers of cocooning shelves and 240 cocooning ladders—the nicest contrivances ever invented in that business, and which save a great deal of labor.

I employ for cleaning and thinning out the worms perforated paper obtained from Europe.

If in silkworm raising I started slowly and quietly, I may add that I tried to be thoroughly prepared, taking no chances against me. But, no matter how nice a cocoonery is kept—no matter how healthy is the food—no matter how favorable is the climate—when the epidemy breaks out among the worms as the dreaded pebrine does, with nothing to stop its ravages, the rearing is a failure. I believe that I was the first to discover that pebrine was the cause of our failures in California, either on a large or small scale, and as well in 1869-70 as in latter years. Such is the fact, and that was the reason that made me say in letters to the Street Press last year that we had to give up entirely the silkworm seed business, and turn our attention to the surer but less profitable business of raising cocoons for the silk only.

This year I intended to raise 50,000 worms, but succeeded in raising hardly the half of it. However, I will keep on raising worms from one to two ounces of seed every year, till I come to a satisfactory result, and which would warrant me in building a large cocoonery and raising silkworms on a larger scale.

I intended to say a few words about the particular merits of each silkworm race and mulberry variety, and likewise the future of the business in this State; but this letter is long so long already, I will here close it up, in the hope that in writing it I have not too much trespassed on your time and the patience of your readers.

Yours very truly,
FELIX GILLET.

Newsda City, July 2, 1876.

—*Sacramento Record-Union.*

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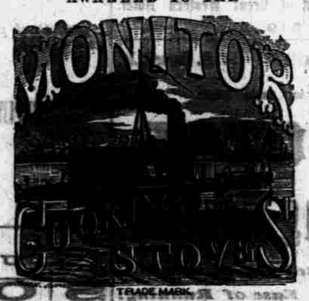

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Salt Lake City, June 15, 1876. d157

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Going South.

Name of Station.	No. 1 Passenger.	No. 3 Freight.	No. 5 Freight.	Fare.
	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	
Trains leave Salt Lake	7 00	8 10	2 30	.....
Little Cottonwood	7 44	8 55	3 15	50
Junction	7 48	7 20	3 50	75
Arrive at Sandy	7 58	7 40	4 00	1 00
Leave Sandy	and			.....
Draper	8 18			1 25
Lehi	9 00			1 75
American Fork	9 20			1 90
Pleasant Grove	9 32			2 00
Provo	10 15			2 50
Springville	10 35			2 75
Spanish Fork	10 51			3 00
Payson	11 22			3 25
Santaquin	11 43			4 00
Arrive at Terminus	12 00			4 00

Going North.

Name of Station.	No. 2 Passenger.	No. 4 Freight.	No. 6 Freight.	Fare.
	P. M.	A. M.	P. M.	
Trains leave Terminus	12 20			.....
Santaquin	12 57			25
Payson	1 17			50
Spanish Fork	1 45			1 00
Springville	2 05			1 25
Provo	2 25			1 50
Pleasant Grove	3 08			2 00
American Fork	3 20			2 10
Lehi	3 32			2 25
Draper	4 22			2 75
Arrive at Sandy	4 37			.....
Leave Sandy	4 47	9 20	5 00	3 00
Junction	4 51	9 40	5 10	3 25
Little Cottonw'd	5 11	10 25	5 40	3 50
Arrive at Salt Lake	5 40	11 00	6 15	4 00

Nos. 1 and 2 will be run daily.
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NORTHWARD.

Trains leave	No. 1 Passenger.	No. 3 Freight.
Ogden	5:45 A.M.	9 00 A.M.
Corinne	7:50 "	12:00 M.
Logan	10:15 "	5:30 P.M.
ARRIVE AT Franklin	11:30 "	ARRIVE 7:00 P.M.

SOUTHWARD.

Trains leave	No. 2 Passenger.	No. 4 Freight.
Franklin	12:45 P.M.	6:00 A.M.
Logan	2:00 "	9:00 "
Corinne	4:20 "	1:35 P.M.
ARRIVE AT Ogden	6:15 "	ARRIVE 4:45 P.M.

N.B.—Nos. 1 and 2 will run daily. Nos. 3 and 4 will run between Ogden and Franklin as follows: No. 3 will run northward every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. No. 4 will run southward every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
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On and after June 20th, 1876.

Name of Station.	No. 1. Pass'r.	No. 3. Pass'r.	Fares.
Trains leave Salt Lake.	7 00 AM	3 40 PM	
*Wood's Cross.	7 25 "	4 08 "	.60
Centreville	7 33 "	4 16 "	.75
Farmington.	7 50 "	4 33 "	1.00
Kaysville.	8 12 "	4 53 "	1.35
Arrive at Ogden.	9 00 "	5 40 "	2.00

Name of Station.	No. 2. Pass'r.	No. 4. Pass'r.	Fares.
Trains leave Ogden	9 40 AM	6 20 PM	
Kaysville.	10 31 "	7 10 "	1.00
Farmington	10 53 "	7 31 "	1.35
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