

The California hay crop is a failure, and as a consequence that article has to be shipped from Utah and Oregon. The prices are exorbitant and make the owning and feeding of animals very expensive business. Hay sells from \$20 to \$25 a ton, and good horses are killed and fed to hogs or given away by the hundreds. Sometimes a very fine animal is sold for a dollar or a span for twice that amount. These conditions obtain more particularly in Southern California although there is much suffering and consequent loss throughout the state. The wheat crop is very light and will not aggregate sufficient to pay the rental on the farms. The yield of fruit is also far below that of former seasons, while the quantity is inferior. The potato crop will be the heaviest in the state this year though the price of tubers will be unusually high.

All these things cause much discontent and suffering among the people of a state that is famed for its wealth and varied resources. The rainfall has been almost nil in some sections, and wells and springs and streams that once gave forth immense quantities of the life-giving fluid are now either void of all moisture or yielding so little as to be very nearly valueless; and yet not valueless for every drop of water is regarded as precious. The places that have suffered least are those where irrigation has supplied or partially supplied the needed moisture.

Elder Davis reports having had a pleasant and profitable experience during his missionary labors. He left home for California September 7, 1896, and traveled most of the time in Southern California, though his duties were not all confined to that section. He reports that the Elders on the Pacific coast are doing a good work, and says the prospects for the future are very promising. There are, however, several cases of illness among the missionaries at present, though none of them are in a serious condition. Elder Hedburg, at one time a resident of the Nineteenth ward, this city, but who recently lived in California, died there recently. His demise was much regretted by the California Saints.

#### TERMS SPAIN WILL ACCEPT.

Madrid, July 28, 2 p.m.—With the understanding that no indemnity will be demanded and that Spanish sovereignty in the Philippines will be respected, the newspapers here consider the terms of peace attributed to President McKinley as being acceptable. The papers, however, protest against the continuance of hostilities by the United States after Spain had sued for peace.

The minister for war, Gen. Correa, is arranging for the reception of the Spanish troops which surrendered at Santiago de Cuba, and is preparing sanitary stations in order to prevent the introduction of diseases.

Washington, July 28.—It can be stated on the authority of the state department and the foreign embassies here that there were no overtures in behalf of Spain for peace or a cessation of hostilities until the French ambassador, last Tuesday afternoon, presented his note to the President. This statement is made with full knowledge of European denials, and must be accepted as that of the government of the United States. Therefore all the talk about bad faith shown by our government in pressing the Porto Rican campaign during the last few days is absolutely without foundation, and our government has done nothing that can subject it to criticism on this score. In addition to the representatives of the United States those qualified to speak for Spain in this country

make an exactly similar statement and the alleged charges of bad faith against the United States attributed to Premier Sagasta are discredited as inventions designed to prejudice the successful progress of the present peace movement. It could not be contemplated for a moment, that any mere personal exchange of views between persons in Europe could be construed as an overture for peace, and although there may have been some of this "back down gossip," as it is denominated at the state department, it can be again affirmed that the United States government has not been a party to it. Moreover, so far as Ambassador Cambon is concerned, it can be stated positively that he made no overture, direct or indirect, official or unofficial, relating to peace or to any phase of peace, prior to 3 o'clock last Tuesday afternoon.

Even supposing there had been peace overtures, which there had not been, military authorities regard Premier Sagasta's alleged statement that peace overtures operate to stay the course of military operations as little short of amazing and as directly contrary not only to the military laws of the United States but to the whole recognized principles of international law. In general the international law writer agrees that military operations stop only when a truce or an armistice is actually concluded, and that this truce or armistice must be in writing. Until then the mere preliminary overture toward a suspension of hostilities is not regarded as any warrant for stopping the war. This is expressed in the United States instructions for the government of armies in the field as follows:

Article 147—Belligerents sometimes include an armistice while their plenipotentiaries are met to discuss the conditions of a treaty of peace, but plenipotentiaries may meet without preliminary armistice; in the latter case the war is carried on without any abatement.

Another section is as follows:

Article 142—An armistice is not a partial or a temporary peace. It is only the suspension of military operations to the extent agreed upon by the parties.

The military authorities as well as the specific regulations of the United States hold that there is no suspension of hostilities prior to the agreement to suspend military operations.

Even then the agreement is binding on military commanders only from the time they receive actual notice of it. In the meantime military commanders have the right to push forward and hold such territory as they occupy. The need for limiting this cessation of hostilities is obvious, for until a signed agreement is made there is no knowledge of the extent of the armistice.

In the present case an armistice might include or exclude the Philippines or Porto Rico, as the two parties might agree, but until they do agree there will be no obligation to abate military operations in any field of operations. After the signing of the armistice, preliminary to peace, a status quo is established, and all military operations come to a halt at the points designated, and at points not designated the military operations proceed. In the present case, if the truce is Gen. Shafter, Gen. Miles and Admiral Dewey would simply retain the positions they now occupy, and a moral obligation would be imposed not to strengthen these position or to make secure preparations for a more effective continuance of the war hereafter. The military authorities agree that the only qualification of this rule is that the reinforcements may be sent forward and that defensive, but not of-

fensive, operations may be continued. Under such a rule Spain could continue her preparation for defending the coast of Spain, even after a suspension of hostilities, and at the same time the United States could send forward reinforcements to Gen. Miles and Admiral Dewey, but all offensive operations would cease.

With these well defined rules of military procedure accepted by all nations, the assertion attributed to Premier Sagasta that the mere overture for a cessation of hostilities would in itself stop these hostilities, is regarded as unaccountable.

Moreover, it is looked upon as showing a disposition on the part of Spain not to deal with frankness and with the usual customs of international procedure, but rather to adopt methods which will excite foreign powers and create a misleading prejudice against the United States. This view is likely to seriously prejudice the efforts of the Spanish government for peace there, as it seems the only method which will be clearly understood by Spain is to push the war forward vigorously and without recourse to evasive diplomacy.

It has been suggested in some quarters that Spain has been disingenuous of making advances of last Tuesday, and that her real purpose was to develop the position of the United States regarding the Philippines, hoping in this way to secure the active support of some European powers that have so far held aloof from her. While this belief is not seriously entertained at the state department, the government, without regard to its soundness, will proceed in a plain, straightforward way to let Spain know what is expected of her if she desires peace. It is not likely that the European powers could profit materially by learning what the intentions of the United States are, but at any rate it is due to the world at large, and in the interest of fair dealing in international matters, that our statement should be made.

It should be confessed that little hope is entertained that Spain at once will accept the terms proposed.

#### WEEKLY CROP BULLETIN.

Salt Lake City, Utah,  
July 26, 1898.

During the past seven days the weather throughout the State was characterized by excessive sunshine, high day and night temperatures, scattered thunder showers, and light frost in a few localities. The warm dry weather has been very favorable for harvesting operations which are under full headway in nearly all sections of the State. Prolonged absence of rain has intensified the prevailing drought which is having a detrimental effect upon the growing and maturing crops. The streams are low and water for irrigation purposes is getting very scarce in nearly all sections.

Potatoes, corn and sugar beets are reported to be in a satisfactory condition and, where irrigated, look very promising.

Harvesting winter wheat, rye, oats and barley is going on in nearly all sections with varying results. Spring sown grain is changing color fast and will soon be ready for the reaper. Haying continues with yields above the average of previous years. The ranges are getting dry and rain is needed.

Minersville—Weather favorable; apricots ripening; grain ready for the reaper; water holding out well.

Garland—Hot, dry and windy week; winter wheat being harvested; spring wheat turning; irrigated crops doing fine.

Brigham City—Weather changeable during week; lice doing harm to onions and potatoes; threshing commenced.