

Written for this Paper.

## BREAD AND SUGAR.

The wheat harvest is a very important time and the product thereof a very important thing in all bread eating countries. Some persons are great bread eaters. Others much less so. But the average of consumption is fairly well known. In round numbers five bushels per capita is somewhere pretty near, though it runs over that in England, and in our own Utah the consumption may go twenty per cent beyond that and reach nearly six bushels. The product of a bushel of wheat in flour is allowed to be about forty-four pounds, which would give per head two hundred and sixty-four pounds for one year.

With the fairly accurate reports of the bureau of agriculture, the people can, if they wish, become very familiar. There is a close approximation as to crops, a very close estimate of population; then the consumption of this seventy millions being settled, to which can be added an estimate of wheat used for feed, etc., and the surplus for exportation is reached within quite reasonable figures. Added to this, shipping is so supervised that the amount exported is also very nearly known, and while there is considerable speculation at times in the wheat market, it can be seen that this is really contingent upon rumor partly, on changing conditions and even upon weekly, nay almost daily reports of causes which operate for an advance or fall, as those rumors may gain credence and make an excitement from time to time.

A war cloud, a strike, a few days rain or drought, or ability to buy from abundant work, are all factors on making or unmaking the prices. Very little, if any, attention is paid to cost. The individual farmer can no more make the price than can any special locality. There is so close a sympathy between crops at large; so good facilities for noting changes and diverting shipments that a country's production cannot always protect itself. A good deal of the American crop goes to England. Flour is exported to China and elsewhere; but after it all there is competition from Russia, India, Canada and South America, all of which affects the price of surplus wheat at least, whether sold in Ohio, Illinois or California.

Very few individual farmers know what their wheat costs them per bushel. Indeed this must vary very much with the magnitude of the farm, the nature of the soil, the distance from market, the need for irrigation, and many other considerations. It used to be said here that wheat should never be sold in Utah below a dollar a bushel. But thousands of bushels of late years have been sold at forty cents, and this could not be avoided if the market was in Colorado, Texas, California or England, for Z. C. M. I. has shipped local wheat to all these points. The Utah man with his ten to twenty acres has been in competition with the owner of thirty to forty thousand in wheat, which cost him not more than four dollars per acre to raise all told, whereas according to returns gathered by the Ohio department of agriculture from 4,000 experts and 30,000 farmers,

the cost per acre is claimed to be as follows for a wheat crop:

In the New England States.....	\$30 00
In the Middle States.....	18 00
In the Southern States.....	11 00
In the Western States.....	11 00
In the Mountain States.....	16 00
In the Pacific States.....	12 00

Now there is considerable discrepancy here, and the data is defective in that it does not tell the product of any of these localities; but it is clear enough that the Utah farmer who may get even twenty-five bushels per irrigated acre, and sell that at 40 cents, cannot be getting rich very fast, with a production or return of only \$10 per acre.

To be sure, an intelligent, thrifty farmer cannot be satisfied with this. He can only find profit in mixed farming, in securing himself from other sources outside the simple raising of wheat. In encouraging home manufacture, he helps to create a section of consuming population, who make their livelihood from other industries, and yet need bread and farm supplies; or he must continuously feed his surplus grain to animals which will carry a profit.

It has been shown in the NEWS from time to time, that there is a continuous importation into Utah of pork and its products. It has also been shown that judiciously fed pork can net the producer from grain and other auxiliaries such as lucern and milk double what it will as wheat; and some have experimented on this to their satisfaction, while others have failed. Probably there was more in the man and his methods, than the result; while as to the hogs themselves there is a difference everywhere acknowledged as to breed; some assert that good attention, regular feed and improved stock will increase one pound per day for the first year at least, if begun and finished in proper season. Vast numbers of horned stock and sheep are being exported from Utah continuously; but the remark is frequent that they were in poor condition and would have to be fed on the once called frontiers before they could be fit for market. This, to say the least of it, is a reflection on the breeding or raising. It does not evidence that thrift and forethought upon which wealth and prosperity are predicated. It is possible, evidently to leave to others what it should be our ambition to do for ourselves.

The sugar question comes to the surface most distinctly now as an agricultural product, and as a relief from the tameness and monotony of wheat. The cultivation of this essential is a developing one. Experiment is extending through beets, an industry originally confined to Louisiana and cane, where for long years it was a staple quite as important as cotton. In 1600 sugar was confined to the apothecary's shelves, but a century later it was familiarly sold in all the grocers' shops of Europe and America. Most of this was unrefined, but step by step this was not only accomplished, but from the beet came half a century ago or more in Europe, a sugar as sweet as that from old style cane, and in this country the maple supplements the cane supply from the south. The price and the consumption have also steadily kept pace upwards and downwards with each other. The Eng-

lish speaking races lead the world as to the use of sugar, sixty-five pounds per capita is looked upon by some people as excessive, although the people of this country approach within a pound or two of this tremendous ratio. It is the opinion of the writer that the Utah people exceed both; there are reasons for this which will be obvious to the looker-on; and this is really a domestic consumption, for but little is used here for liquore, etc.

Utah must use nearer seventy pounds per head, for some six million pounds were supplied from the one factory last year, and but few would admit this to be much over a third of the general consumption, so that there must be room for two more such factories before the supply would reach the demand or admit of exportation.

The sales of the present one at Lehi must bring in a cash revenue of three hundred thousand dollars per year, and with present experience two factories could be each one built and fitted for a little over half the present erection. The market is always sure, save in times of extra panic, and agriculture needs this diversity for a population who prefer a subsistence from the soil.

The situation is hopeful. Labor is becoming worthy of consideration. The land is seen to be the bank which holds in its treasure vaults of untold wealth. The intelligent deliver will find these not only gold, silver, lead, copper, iron, coal and kindred things, but there is wheat, barley, grass, beef, mutton, cheese, fruit, vegetables, sugar, silk, cotton, wool, hemp, flax, and all the accessories for comfort, beauty, increase, exchange and wealth. The willing hand, the intelligent soul, the inventive genius, can make a paradise on earth by transmitting its varied elements into things of use, adornment and blessing, if the great creative plan is sensed, and provided elements used in wisdom by its teeming population.

## DOWN AT MESA.

MESA CITY, Arizona,  
August 17th, 1895.

The present season here is one of general health and good abundance in field crops and fruit; grapes are selling at the winery at \$5 per ton, with acres of the zinfandel now going to waste; while the choicest figs underfoot, around our homes and upon the sidewalks are becoming a nuisance, and the peach, pear, plum, quince, pomegranate, with the coming orange, olives and other fruits are in plenty. We yet have little market to encourage the producer and so in money matters are still hard. I am told of 500 tons of stacked hay that sold within the last few days for less than that many dollars. This is a country of great abundance just now in everything but money, and in that it is improving a little. Our steam roller flouring mill is a success and is now furnishing a fine commercial brand. Our Stake house is waiting a little on the hurry of harvest and for cooler weather, but the occasion is in, and the brick are ready waiting a united effort just in the right time.

The Hudson Reservoir and Canal company are still on their ground expectant of great results to the valley and to themselves, in which we too