

# THE FARMS AND ORCHARDS OF UTAH.

## FARMING.

In reviewing the wheat and other farm cereal conditions of Utah for the Christmas "News" Sam Williamson of the "News" says: Wheat crop conditions in reviewing the course of the grain trade in Utah for the year 1901, I regret to have to record a very poor yield for wheat. The extreme heat in July and August cut down the crop yield, from what presented a promising appearance in May and June, to barely half a crop at harvest time. The very hot weather turned up and premature ripening a very large proportion of the crop, and it is doubtful whether the yield of wheat this year has exceeded two million bushels in our state. Not only so, but a large quantity of the wheat has been so pinched and thin in the berry that it has had to be used for feed purposes, leaving the quality barely sufficient for our ever growing population.

The profitable nature of the beet industry and the good prices available in the market have also to some extent lessened the acreage devoted to wheat culture in Utah. Many of the points in our state which used to be producers of considerable wheat, not only have given up raising the same but are heavy buyers themselves. The unprecedented activity in our mining camps has also led to an urgent demand for flour from these quarters. The crops in Sanpete and Sevier have been practically a failure for two years, and the curious feature has been observed that these places are importing their bread stuffs, a great deal of "carrying coals to Newcastle."

About one hundred thousand bushels were exported from Utah to Colorado and Texas at the time our crop was harvested, but it now appears that the millers made a serious mistake in allowing this wheat to go out of their hands, as we are now importing heavily from Washington and Oregon.

Prices.—During the latter half of the year 1901 the fluctuations in prices were not important, wheat ranging from 50 cents to 60 cents per bushel, but during the second half there has been a sharp advance and wheat is now selling at 75 cents to 80 cents per bushel in Salt Lake City, and not much appearance of the consumers obtaining any relief from this range of values until another crop has been raised.

Crop Prospects.—The autumn sown wheat has been put into the ground under favorable conditions and there has been sufficient moisture to give it a good start while the winter wheat, which was sown at this time, is well covered of snow which should protect it from freezing.

The wheat crop in the southwest part of Idaho (which is in a measure tributary to Salt Lake City) has also been small, and instead of being large exporters as in former years, the people in that part of Idaho have scarcely more than sufficient for the grinding of their own mills.

Oats.—The crop has been a bountiful one, both in Utah and southern Idaho, but the demand also has been extremely brisk which has permitted farmers to obtain first rate prices throughout the entire season.

Prices.—Before the new crop was harvested there was a great scarcity of oats and prices touched as high as \$1.75 to \$1.75 per hundred pounds in carloads at Salt Lake City. The new crop opened about \$1.20 to \$1.25 per hundred pounds, and the market at this time for carloads varies from \$1.25 to \$1.45 per hundred pounds, according to quality and position, in carloads at Salt Lake City.

Barley.—There has been about the usual yield of this cereal and a good demand for feed descriptions. The season opened at about \$2 to \$2.00 per 100 pounds, and this description is now worth about 15 cents to 20 cents per hundred pounds more than at the beginning of the season.

Brewing and malting barley has not been in quite as good demand as last season and prices have been nearer the value of feed barley than we have almost ever seen before, varying from \$1.10 to \$1.25 per hundred pounds, according to quality.

Alfalfa Seed.—The yield this season has been better than in the year 1900, but still not quite up to the average, as the grasshoppers did considerable damage in Utah county and also in some other parts of the state.

Prices have not been as high as in the year 1900, as there has been a large crop raised in Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado, and the farmers in those states have been competing for the eastern trade.

Values in carloads have been about \$6.75 to \$7.50 per hundred pounds, according to quality and cleanliness.

## HORTICULTURE.

The excellence of Utah fruit has long since been recognized all over the intermountain region and even in the East, and abroad. There is nothing to indicate that the quality of the fruit will ever retrograde, but rather to the contrary, the orchardists of the state are working more earnestly every year to bring their fruit nearer to perfection. The crop this year was rather small, particularly the apple harvest. The pear crop was only about one-fourth of what it usually is; but the yield in plums and prunes was very fair. One of the reasons for this is that the trees last year overbore themselves and became weak. Another is that most trees only bore heavily every other year, and the crop last year was unusually large. And still another cause is assigned for the comparatively meager fruit harvest this year, and that is the extreme dryness of the season. This had the result of preventing the trees to come to a maturity and hence could not set a good crop of buds, next year will be very large providing there is no late spring frost. There will not be so many apple worms next year for the reason that they were greatly diminished this season on account of the small apple crop. This will tend to insure a large supply of the king of fruit in 1902.

San Jose scale, the greatest known menace to the fruit had made its insidious inroads into the orchards, but has by no means become prevalent. It has given the orchardists of Utah and Utah counties some alarm, as it has appeared in those localities. But not to such an extent but it can be eradicated by proper and vigorous treatment. The fruit in Salt Lake county is comparatively healthy. Of course the old stock pests such as the codling moth and woolly aphis are still among us, but the fruit growers in and about Salt Lake are gradually getting the upper hand of them. Some of the orchards are entirely free from their enemies and a splendid, luscious and ready produced. It is hoped that it will not be long until such a condition shall prevail all over the state. The careful fruit grower who really takes pride in his orchard will this winter spray his trees with the solution of lime, sulphur and salt. This remedy does not only destroy the com-

mon pest, but is effectual against the San Jose scale.

Interest in fruit growing throughout the state is increasing, and if it continues Utah will soon rank among the great fruit-producing states.

## LIVE STOCK.

WHILE THE days of large herds are a thing of the past, Utah nevertheless holds her own when it comes to the cattle business. During late years much attention has been paid to the breed and quality of the animals in this state, with the result that better stock comes from Utah today than ever before.

Since the sale of the Island Cattle company, and the Canyon Cattle company, in 1897 and 1898, there have been no large herds of cattle owned by a single individual or corporation in this state. Cattle companies no longer pay dividends to the extent of \$50,000 to \$100,000 as was the case in the past. The names of the herds have all been broken up and today what cattle is sold and shipped out of the state is done by the buyers who take the shipments from the ranches and small farmers. In all at a rough estimate there are some seventy-five dealers in Utah who make it a business to buy up feeders and ship them into the corn belt to fatten for the market.

The cattle business during the current year has not been so good as it was during '97, '98, '99, which were essentially banner years as far as prices went. This was due largely to the falling off of the corn crop in Kansas, where the major portion of the Utah livestock is shipped in order to fatten on the corn belt market. It has been found from long experience that the Utah ranges are not especially adapted for beef for the butcher.

Utah prices have suffered in conjunction with the conditions generally all over the West, with the result that feeding cattle are today quoted at figures that run possibly fifty cents lower per hundred pounds than the prices which were in vogue last spring, and dealers look for the same state of affairs to hold good next year.

At a conservative estimate there are about 100,000 head of cattle of bona fide Utah cattle shipped out of the state during the past year, with a preponderance in favor of the Hereford and Shorthorn breeds. These named classes of cattle have been steadily growing in favor among the raisers year by year until they bid fair to oust the other breeds. It has been demonstrated that the Hereford while feeding cattle are superior to the other breeds in the fact that they are hardy and are endowed by nature with good rustling qualities, while the Shorthorns are perhaps a shade less popular, but still considerably better priced. They have plenty of good feed.

An estimate given by a prominent cattleman of the number of head of cattle in this state places the figure at about 100,000; average price \$27.50; other cattle, \$25.00; average price, yearlings \$15. Two-year-old steers \$20, and over two-year-old, \$24. Horses, 100,000; average price \$7.00. The demand for good horses and mules has been extremely brisk during the past year, horses fetching the average price of \$200, and mules have been ten dollars higher. Good teams, however, have brought much higher prices. The demand, in fact, for good horses has exceeded the supply, and they have been shipped up at solid figures by the agents for railroad contractors and the remount officers of the British army, who have been supplying the troops in South Africa during the past two years with American horses via St. Louis and New Orleans.

UNDER EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES. Utah ranges are carrying nearly all the cattle and horses in conjunction with sheep possible. The cattleman, however, are building up hope that the business may be enlarged in the near future provided the pending bill to provide for the leasing of grazing purposes of vacant public domain and reserving all rights of homestead entry passes Congress. When this is accomplished, the land he uses, will protect its forage against extermination by overstocking. The vegetable covering will increase and will more and more conserve the moisture, thus creating the means of irrigation. Under these conditions the Utah cattle man will feel that he will not confine his shipments in the future to feeders solely.

## SHEEP AND WOOL.

NEXT to the mining industry, the sheep business is essentially the leading money maker of Utah. A census of the number of head of Woolbearers in this state would hardly give the uninitiated any idea of the number of sheep owned by residents, for the simple reason that there are a great number of animals which are ranging in contiguous states. It is not generally known, perhaps, nevertheless it is an official fact, that Utah comes at the head of the list for the greatest number of sheep, with perhaps, the exception of one other state in the union.

During the year that is now drawing to a close, the wool clip of the United States, according to the estimate of the National Manufacturers, has been placed at 265,592,238 pounds, exclusive of the pulled wool, as compared with 259,523,435 pounds for the year 1900, an increase of 2% per cent, while the number in the flocks of the United States, exclusive of lambs under one year old, is estimated at 11,929,000, an increase of barely 50,000. Of this number, according to the table compiled by the National association of Wool Manufacturers, there are in Utah some 2,844,674 head of sheep and 3,379,983 the previous year. And a little over 2,000,000 in 1892. In the table of the association of the wool clip for the past year, Utah is credited with 16,825,044 pounds, washed and unscoured, with an average weight per fleece of six pounds and a shrinkage of 64 per cent, making the production in scoured wool amount to 6,658,006 pounds.

In the quantity of greasy wool raised Utah comes fourth, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho coming ahead of it. As a fiber producer, Utah is rated sixth on the list, but, everything considered, this year Utah has shown a great improvement all around.

The industry of raising sheep in Utah is not confined to the big flockmasters. While some of the owners of the largest herds reside in the state, the same time it generally holds good that there are numerous small farmers and cattlemen who own their herds and range them in this and other neighboring states. There are few cities, towns and settlements where the sheep owner does not reside; the consequence is that the proceeds of the annual clip are well distributed all over, and a poor year for the flockmasters in the way of general returns is sure to make itself felt throughout the length and breadth of the state in one way or another. The Utah sheepman is very boyish in the matter of the malapropos to be one of the flockmasters.

Taken all in all it has been a hard year for the flockmasters. The mutton market has been very flimsy and for the major portion of the time depressed. The wool clip has not been so heavy per capita, perhaps, as on previous years, while the prices of wool and mutton generally have not been conducive to good times. However, the flockmasters are very boyish in the next season will be a good one in more ways than one.

In round figures the Utah wool and mutton industry represents close upon \$20,000,000, while the comparative numbers of sheep owned by Utah men is as follows:

Stock sheep, 1901, 11,929,000; 3,600,000; Lamb crop, 1901, 800,000; Utah sheep in Wyoming, 1,350,000; Utah sheep in Idaho, 400,000; Utah sheep in Colorado, 200,000.

Total, 11,929,000; 3,600,000.

With the growing herds the problem of ranging them grows every year more acute. While Utah has splendid winter ranges, the summer feed gives out, which necessitates the moving of herds to Idaho and Wyoming feeding grounds. This invasion is resented by the ranchers and cattlemen in those districts, and the result has been the two interests at times reaches a stage wherein the invaders are repelled at the point of guns. Especially has this state of affairs been the case in the Red Desert district of Wyoming where several outbreaks have been perpetrated by armed men upon Utah herds after dark during the past year. Sheep have been killed by the scores, and in some instances herders have been dangerously wounded by the bullets that have been fired into the camp from under cover. It is anticipated, however, that these difficulties will be amicably settled during the coming year.

During the year now drawing to a close a special effort has been made to stamp out that bane of all flockmasters—scab. A law upon that much vexed question has been brought to bear upon delinquents with the result that it is hoped that it may be effectually stamped out in the near future.

Brilliantly the Utah sheepmen are here, and they are short on summer and spring ranges in the state, at the same time they are sanguine that the forest reserves will be thrown open to them, thus relieving them from the necessity of clashing with the flockmasters and cattlemen of other states.

DAIRY. THIS year has been rather an off year in the creamery business. There has been very little building done and nearly all the creameries that have been in operation have done less business this year than formerly. This has been due to the drought, which has caused a short-

age of hay and consequently an advance in the price of it. Cache Valley, the largest producer of creamery products, is an exception. While their hay crop has been small they always have a surplus of it and the price depends entirely on the outside market, so that hay has not been much higher there this year than formerly, therefore, about as much milk has been produced there this year as last. In most of the other counties of the state, particularly in Salt Lake, Utah and Sanpete counties, hay has almost doubled in price and the supply has been very scarce, so that farmers have had to sell or dry up their stock in order to have enough hay to keep all their stock alive for the winter, and the milk produced has not been over one-half of what it was formerly. This has had a decided effect on the market and prices this year have ruled a little higher than formerly, but owing to the low price of butter in the eastern market the increase has been in keeping with the supply. This has been the first year for a number of years that large quantities of eastern butter and cheese have come into our market. There has, perhaps, been about one hundred thousand pounds of butter brought here from the East, and probably about the same amount of cheese. Had it not been for the low price of butter in the East, prices would have ruled very high here this year.

Some of the older creameries have increased their facilities and there is a general inclination on the part of creamery men to centralize the business. This has been the tendency in the East, especially in Kansas and Nebraska for the past several years and the Continental Creamery company at Topeka, Kansas, operates about two hundred creameries in skimming stations, expressing their cream into one central point at Topeka and churning it there. The Beatrice Creamery company at Beatrice, Nebraska, operates about one hundred and thirty-five creameries and is doing the same thing. These plants can be operated as skimming stations for considerably less expense, and the cost of a skimming station is only one-half the cost of a creamery. The express on the cream there does not cost any more than the express on the butter the cream company is centralizing the business in this way they get a better and more uniform article of butter and can ship it in carloads to every point in the world. An attempt is being made here to accomplish the same thing. A complete churning plant with every modern appliance is now in operation in Salt Lake and in time it is expected that it will be the best of the butter that is being shipped out to Montana, California and Colorado will be made here and shipped in carload lots, thus making a considerable saving both in the manufacture of the product and in the transportation of it. One plant in Cache Valley has put in a cold storage plant at the cost of \$4,000, and as now able to carry their surplus product of May, June and July over to fall and sell at the higher price prevailing at that time. The butter is frozen and if properly taken care of cannot be told from the fresh product, sixty or ninety days old.

This centralizing will continue and in time there will probably not be over a dozen churning plants in the state. Instead of about seventy-five, as at present. The farmers are finding that they can best market their hay through feeding it to the cow and producing milk, and therefore the business will continue to grow correspondingly with the increased production of hay. There is no better prospect for any manufacturing business of the state than the creamery business, inasmuch as the product of the creamery is a highly concentrated product and the transportation costs but a small percentage of the cost of the product, and there is no reason why Utah should not produce and supply a large proportion of the butter and cheese consumed by Montana and other western states. I am of the opinion that we shall do so in the near future.

J. H. PAUST, JR.

## BEEES AND HONEY.

THE following letter was furnished to the "News" by President E. S. Lovejoy of the Utah Beekeepers' association, and is a review of the apian situation in Utah:

While the bee industry in the beginning of the new century has been fairly prosperous in some portions of the state, all things considered, the conditions existing in the hitherto great honey producing belt through the central part of the state from east to west are not so gratifying. We have received some very good reports, but on the whole they have not been nearly so encouraging and successful as desired. In most of the southern counties the honey flow as a rule has been good, and favorable conditions have prevailed generally in most localities south of Panguitch and in the northern part of the state at nearly all points north of Ogden. We have received some good reports from some of those localities. The greater portion of the honey has been disposed of at the desired price, in most of the southern counties the honey flow as a rule has been good, and favorable conditions have prevailed generally in most localities south of Panguitch and in the northern part of the state at nearly all points north of Ogden. We have received some good reports from some of those localities. The greater portion of the honey has been disposed of at the desired price, in most of the southern counties the honey flow as a rule has been good, and favorable conditions have prevailed generally in most localities south of Panguitch and in the northern part of the state at nearly all points north of Ogden. We have received some good reports from some of those localities. 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