

carpets, hats and clothes which are supposed to be all wool are practically made of these cottons. Almost 75,000,000 pounds of cotton are used every year by our woolen mills and our woolen hat factories annually take about 400 bales.

The United States will, it is believed, always control the cotton trade of the world. We could make now more than the world's supply, and could, I am told, easily run other countries out of the markets had the south a different system of farming. The lands I have traveled through are nowhere half farmed. The cotton patches are generally small, and here in Georgia much of the farming is done on the shares. The lands are often owned by men who live in the cities, and advance supplies to the negroes, who put in thirty or forty acres and who expect to pay their debts out of their share of the year's yield. Most of the farmers until lately have raised nothing but cotton, and would rely upon the money they got from this to pay for their pork, sugar and feed for their stock. They could raise as good corn and oats as the northern states, and the grazing possibilities of the uplands of the southern states surpass the best of the northern land. This is already changing, and in the not distant future the south will raise all of its own supplies, and will use its cotton as a money crop pure and simple, which will make the southern farmers richer than the same class anywhere else in the world. With the other cotton-producing countries trying to increase their yield it would seem to be a mistake to limit the growth of cotton here in order to raise the price. With diversified farming the south can raise better and cheaper cotton than any other country, and we ought to run the other countries out of the business. It costs, it is said, over 8 cents a pound to produce Egyptian cotton, as the lands are taxed \$5 per acre and upward, and the cotton fields of China and Japan and India yield comparatively little to the acre, and that only of the very poorest variety.

But how is cotton raised?

Colonel R. R. Murdock, an Atlanta banker and cotton dealer, who has handled cotton for more than a generation, tells me that it requires but little intelligence, and that the average negro can produce almost as good a crop as the most scientific white man. The ground is ploughed and harrowed in March, and the furrows thrown up so as to make rows of hills about three or four feet apart. In April the cotton seed, little black seeds, about the size of a lemon seed, are drilled in. A few days later the green sprouts come through the soil. The rows are hilled up as the plants grow, and the weeds are kept down. The cotton plants are thinned out from time to time, and about the last of July the work of cultivation is done. By the middle of June the plants begin to blossom, and fields look like great gardens of Marshall Neil roses. As the blossoms drop off the bolls of cotton appear. They grow to about the size of a black walnut, when they crack open and the beautiful white cotton shows out. The crop is such that it will keep a long time. It does not ripen all at once, and the pickers go over the fields a half a dozen times during the season of gathering the cotton, which begins in the far south and Texas in July, and which lasts

until late in the fall. In Georgia and North and South Carolina some cotton is still being gathered at Christmas.

The picking of the cotton is an expensive item. The gathering of the crop of 1894 costs it is estimated, about \$60,000,000. The pickers are usually negroes, who are paid so much for each hundred pounds of cotton as it is taken from the pods or bolls. Here in Georgia pickers get about thirty-five cents a hundred, but in other parts of the south as high as fifty cents and upward a hundred.

In Texas a crop of 2,500 bales averaged a cost for picking of \$9 a bale. I am told there are faster pickers now than in slave times. Then 100 pounds a day was considered remarkable work. Not long ago ten convicts of the Mississippi penitentiary picked 18,000 pounds in five and a half days, an average of 333 pounds daily per man.

As to the ordinary labor, it is hard to get a negro to pick more than 100 pounds a day, and when he has done that he wants to stop. Now and then the pickers strike, but it is more often on account of bad weather than a difference about prices. The women and children, as well as the men, go out into the fields to pick, and for the time the land is alive with black gangs moving through the white fields, who are pulling out the cotton and putting it into bags strapped on their shoulders. When a bag is full the cotton is emptied into a large basket, from which it is thrown into the wagons which are to carry it to the gin. Not a pound of cotton can be sold before it is ginned. This process is necessary to get the seed out of the cotton. The lint is wrapped around the seed so tightly that it would take days to separate by hand what machinery will do in a few moments. Some large planters have gins of their own. Other gins are worked on shares. Every locality has gins near it, and within a few miles of the cotton field. I have visited a number of these cotton gins. The lint is sawed from the seed by circular saws, so graded that the seed will just pass through them. Further on in the machine there are brushes which pull the lint from the saws, and which will roll it out in a beautiful fleecy sheet of what looks like cotton batting, so that it drops on the floor in a mountain of white. It is now ready to be squeezed by machinery into the great bales for the market. Each bale as it comes from the gin is of about the size of a big dry goods box. It is about four feet square and about five feet in length. It is wrapped with rough cloth, much like coffee sacking, and is bound with bands of hoop iron. Such a bale weighs from 450 to 500 pounds, and is now worth from \$30 to \$40 as it stands on the scales of the shipper.

*Frank G. Carpenter*

#### BEET SUGAR ITEMS.

[Lehi Banner, Nov. 12.]

Owing to the recent storm the farmers have not been digging their beets quite so fast as formerly. But a glance at the company's meteorological charts revealed the fact that we have been visited with a similar storm about this time of the season for the past three years. Also, providing that the pre-

diction of the chart prove true, we may expect a season of dry weather now during which the beets will greatly improve.

The sugar company is now feeding about 1,000 head of cattle. The number will not be increased to any great extent. Last year, owing to the rapid consumption of pulp, a number of steers had to be sold before they were sufficiently fattened and others were turned on the grass. The present supply of cattle was obtained from the south and Deep Creek country.

At the factory they have received to date 34,000 tons of beets. Before the crop is all in they expect the total to reach 40,000, so there is about 6,000 tons yet to be delivered. So far they have worked up a little over 20,000 tons, so about half of the season's run is over.

Manager Cutler has contributed an article to the American Agriculturist on "New Methods of Storing Beets" in which he describes the methods now in vogue at the factory here.

The price of sugar has advanced since election but it is yet below the price last year.

At the request of Mr. Jos. P. Cooke of Rio Bonito Orchard company, San Francisco, we give the following facts concerning the sugar industry in this State as shown by the results at the Lehi factory: The average yield per acre is 15 tons and the cost of production \$30 per acre. The average sucrose contents of the beets is 12 to 13 per cent. The farmers receive \$1.25 per ton delivered at the factory. Land can be rented in this vicinity for from \$10 an acre up according to quality.

We have been saying right along that the sugar industry was a great one and was rapidly coming to the front. Not only is this the case in this county but the people of this State are realizing that it is a most important industry and should be built up here where we know it can be made a success. It is now no longer a question of experiment for it has passed that stage and is on the high road to success. No sooner is the subject broached of a factory at Mt. Nebo than Springfield comes to the front with a bid for one. They are right in making such a bid for they have some excellent land in that vicinity and can grow beets successfully, and if another factory is coming this way they want to be on the lookout for it. The people in Nephi want a factory and the Republic suggests that Representative-elect Wheeler put forth his best efforts to secure a sugar factory for that town. Let the good work go on.

Chief Justice Baker at Yuma, Arizona, Monday rendered judgment in the famous case of the State of Arizona Improvement company against the territory to compel the observance of a contract made with the retiring board of control for the leasing of the territory's convicts. The contract, which has been bitterly assailed by the territorial press, turns over the inmates of the territorial prison at Yuma for ten years to the improvement company at a rental of 70 cents a day each, payment to be made in water rights of the canal company. The decision was in favor of the plaintiffs and treats only of the legal questions involved.