

## LANDS IRRIGATED.

The eleventh census of the United States shows, from the returns of the enumerators, that the total amount of land irrigated in the western part of the United States was 3,631,381 acres, being owned by 54,136 farmers or irrigators, this being an average to each owner in round numbers of 67 acres. More than half of this land is situated in California and Colorado, and of the remainder nearly all is embraced in the states and territories lying within or adjacent to the Rocky Mountains. A comparatively small amount of land, 66,965 acres, was found in the western ends of the two Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas and Texas, most of this being along the rivers which traverse the great plains. Since the greater parts of the states last mentioned are included in that debatable area, neither humid nor arid, these outposts of irrigation are designated as being in the sub-humid region. The arid lands have been defined as those receiving annually less than a certain number of inches of rainfall, this number being placed at from sixteen to twenty. As the rainfall varies from year to year, a consideration of this fact alone does not afford definite boundaries. Moreover, the success of crops is dependent not so much upon the mean annual precipitation as upon the distribution of rain throughout the growing season. Since some arbitrary distinction must be made, therefore, it has been found convenient in the census investigation to consider the arid regions as consisting of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, California and the portions of Oregon and Washington lying east of the Cascade range. "As a matter of fact," we are informed, "not all parts of these states and territories are arid." We are quite positive that they are not, especially as relates to this Territory, where the acreage of such lands, though still relatively large, is also relatively small and growing beautifully less every year.

The number of irrigators and area irrigated in 1890 are given as follows:

States and Territories.	Number of Irrigators.	Acres Irrigated
Arizona.....	1,075	65,821
California.....	15,732	1,004,283
Colorado.....	9,639	890,735
Idaho.....	4,323	217,205
Montana.....	3,703	350,582
Nevada.....	1,167	224,403
New Mexico.....	3,085	61,745
Oregon.....	3,150	177,914
Utah.....	9,723	263,473
Washington.....	1,046	48,799
Wyoming.....	1,917	229,676
Sub humid region.....	1,552	66,965
Total.....	54,136	3,631,381

The total arid regions are given as comprising 1,350,175 square miles, or 883,312,000 acres, showing how very small a percentage of the whole—less than one-half of one percent—constitutes the area irrigated, that is, for each acre irrigated there were 274 acres not irrigated, only a very small proportion of the latter, however, being susceptible of cultivation by that means or otherwise. But it goes to show that we are a long way from being crowded and are likely to remain so for some time.

## PLOW OUT A NEW FURROW!

Passing a certain prominent store the other day, the writer noted some very attractive California evaporated fruit packed in boxes holding some twenty or twenty-five pounds each. The exhibit included apples, pears, apricots and peaches, the price of which he was informed was 20 cents for the former and 25 cents per pound for the latter, at the store counter.

Utah used to have a reputation for fine fruit. This product was deemed of full yet delicate flavor; virgin soil, young trees and untinted sun gave marketable value and reputation, until it was proven that even these advantages could not withstand ignorance, inattention and neglect. Dried fruit continued abundant; but untrimmed trees, neglect in cutting, assorting, packing and shipping coupled with California competition and care, has so depressed the Utah product that scores of carloads have been shipped out of late years for the paltry price of 4 cents per pound, while store shelves and counters filled with imported fruits have borne mute testimony to common ignorance of even the alphabet of financial or social economy.

All the towns and settlements of Utah have this season glowed again with the bloom of a possibly abundant fruit harvest. Apricot, cherry, pear, peach and apple trees have vied with each other in succession in their wealth of promise; and the query seems to suggest itself, will the curers and raisers of fruit so far forget themselves again as to barter the bounties of providence at home for the same bounty showered upon our neighbors at a ratio of three to one?

Is it not time that some systematized effort were made to make the most and best of home resources, blessings and surplus? Is it possible to evaporate, box, ship and sell at prices obtained elsewhere? Will manuring, trimming and cultivating fruit trees pay, and will proper cutting, evaporating, drying and curing by any method give again a reputation in the market for Utah fruit? Will attention to style or packing be of value in the line of success?

Failing in satisfactory answer to the foregoing, shall hap-hazard individual growing and culture give way to co-operative fruit farms in all desirable localities? Will there be pride enough in systematized company labor, either in drying, canning or both to justify fruit farms with all the latest appliances of success? Or shall diversified production on the farm enhance the price and profit of wheat raising on the lines indicated by the enterprise of beet sugar culture as an illustration? Can public opinion and usage be educated to preference for the home product, and general ambition be so stimulated as to export that alone which is at least the equal of thoughtful brains, busy fingers, and public enterprise elsewhere?

Much of the past as far as pertains to these matters, has been libelous of the Utah people, and some of her poverty and depression would vanish away at the dictation of intelligent effort in lines which are unusually spoken of as of little moment or as "small" affairs. The day for wormy windfalls, unripe

and fly-specked fruit is gone by. The buyer will not look at that which is mixed in pieces, quarters, halves, including pips, dust or other foreign substance; no gunny sack or unclean, irregular packages will now fill the bill; competition is abroad and demands clear, clean, bright, uniform, evaporated fruit, in handy-sized boxes, labeled and guaranteed equal all through. To sun-dry fine fruit is mistaken economy; even when fine the buyer gets all the advantage, for one pound of fruit that rattles after drying would mean a loss of over thirty per cent as compared with the well prepared moist, evaporated article.

The entire argument applies with equal force to other articles, prominently to that of potatoes, for which years ago Utah had almost a national reputation. Exportation and profit went hand in hand, until it was concluded that this article was so fully indispensable that anything would go if it only came from the mountains and had the outlines of a potato. Now exportation is almost obsolete, because the market was trifled with; all sizes and varieties were sacked together—Goodrich, Neshannook, Peerless, Late and Early Rose fraternized; and to sell by samples was as impossible as snow in the tropics. Proper assorting, branding and honesty (or at least less hurry) might have increased the demand until Utah would have had wealth in "spuds" and a reputation for care, thoroughness and reliability as unshaken as the hills.

The same ordeal and the same failure follows most of our exports of produce—wheat, oats, barley, lucern seed, wool, butter, fruit, are all discounted for lack of order, enterprise and system such as prevails mainly among producers. This is destructive, suicidal, impolitic, unworthy of any community; for their industry and sacrifice are defeated on the threshold of every outer market, and are even unsatisfactory at home where commodities are interchangeable, and labor accepts produce in place of cash.

## SULAMITH.

Sulamith is the title of a charming little metrical romance by Samuel McClurg Osmond, sent to us for review from the bookstore of C. H. Parsons, this city. As the name suggests it is founded on that brilliant dramatic poem of Solomon which in Hebrew idiom has been called the song of songs, to mark it as the most excellent of the one thousand and five compositions by that royal poet. Dr. Osmond modernizes the story as told by the gifted king and fascinates the reader with glowing descriptions of oriental scenery, sweet character pictures and illustrations of eastern life, all set forth with the elegance of real poetry and the truthfulness of sound philosophy. It is in fact a valuable commentary on a Biblical book concerning which much misunderstanding has prevailed among expositors. The blank verse is interspersed with rhymed songs, giving it pleasing variety. The author has by this little work proved himself worthy of a rank among classical poets, and Sulamith should find many readers. It will be appreciated by those who admire genuine poetry.