

Correspondence.

Editor Deseret News.—Dear Sir,—That Utah is decidedly a silk country, there can be no doubt whatever. The soil of our extensive benches skirting the mountain ranges, is most admirably adapted to the cultivation of the Mulberry tree, the leaves of which are the natural food for the silk worm. This has been demonstrated beyond all doubt by the luxuriant manner in which the few Mulberry trees in the country have made wood and leaves. I have Mulberry trees on my lot that have made shoots the last year from five to eight feet long. This is argument sufficient to satisfy anybody that our soil and climate are admirably adapted to the production of silk.

The Mulberry tree prefers a light, gravelly, deep, dry, rich loam. From that kind of soil the best silk can be produced. The tree sends its roots deep into the soil, and when well established needs very little if any water at all from the irrigating ditch. It should be planted all over Utah. I know of no tree so full of usefulness, profit and blessing to the human family as it is; and besides this, it is one of the most ornamental trees that grow, making a fine top, and lasting for hundreds of years. Its wood is compact, elastic and hard, and capable of an extremely fine silky polish, and will be sought for by the turner, carver, and upholsterer; and the great strength of its timber also makes it very desirable and useful to the joiner. The syrup from its fruit is a sovereign medicine for inflammation of the throat, and when the fruit of the *morus multicaulis*, is mixed with cider, gives what is called mulberry cider, which in color is similar to port wine. The fermented juice of its fruits produces a pleasant venous wine of itself. The fruit, which is very abundant, continually falls from the tree as it ripens, and is greedily devoured by birds and poultry, and is exceedingly wholesome for children to eat, and when mixed with acid fruits, for pies, &c. If the mulberry tree were planted upon the side walks of our cities, and if plantations were planted all over our country for silk culture, our choice fruits would be less troubled with birds, for they devour the mulberry fruit greedily. The cottonwood tree is not an ornamental tree, and is in every way unprofitable as a city shade tree. The wood of its trunk is preyed upon by borers, and its top is a nest for myriads of distinctive insects. What is the use of such a tree? They should be all cut down as soon as good mulberry trees can be planted in their stead, for no insects feed upon their leaves except the silk worm; and then their branches give us fruit and wine, and their leaves an article of clothing of the best and finest quality.

In the extensive cultivation of the mulberry in Utah I see a source of immense wealth to our people. I know of no textile substance so easily produced as silk can be in Utah; and I know of no production that has so extensive a market; for the whole world is a market for our surplus of this production. I am satisfied that if our Territory were filled with mulberry trees, and every family silk producers, we could find a paying market for it all, and bring into our country millions of wealth annually. The price of labor has been urged as an argument against this most profitable industry. Now, it has been ascertained by actual trial in California, that one man can tend as many worms as eight persons in the old world. The system of feeding in this country can be so much more simplified, in consequence of the climate being so much more favorable for the growth of the trees and the health of the worms, that silk can be produced as cheaply here as in those countries where labor is much cheaper than in this country. Silk has been produced in the old world for generations past at a profit, notwithstanding the expensive buildings and furniture and skill which it is necessary to supply there to secure success. Why should we not be able to produce it profitably in these valleys which give us a soil and climate altogether superior to that of nearly every other silk producing country? Kind nature seems to have been especially partial to the Pacific slope in this respect. Then, while we are so powerfully aided, let us put forth our hands and gather the rich blessings which are within our reach in such unlimited abundance, for there is silk in the soil, silk in the waters and silk in the air.

Grain is the chief staple of Utah. The Utah farmer toils to support a large family of children, and may be an aged mother or father who cannot labor in the field to help him bear his expenses.

The consequence is that numbers of our farmers are constantly comparatively poor, and it seems impossible for them to rise above what they are to-day by their toil. Could their wives and children, and others dependant upon them, be employed at some easy pursuit, they would do much towards earning the bread which they eat. The silk culture comes to their aid. Every farmer in the Territory should have a portion of his land planted with mulberry trees, and, in the season thereof, let their leaves be fed to the silk worm by the hands of women and children and aged persons. The feeding time only lasts two months, and that at a time when the farmer has got through his spring work, and before the harvest commences, when cocoons should be made in sufficient quantities to give employment to the family in the winter in winding silk and preparing it for the loom at home and the market abroad. Independence and plenty can only be reached by any people by the employment of all who can work, giving so much time for work, so much for recreation, and so much for education.

We have a growing population. Our children are crowding upon us. They begin to throng the streets of our cities, and our houses are filled with them. How can we employ them? I say plant mulberry trees, and let them produce silk in the season thereof, and thus assist the fathers of the people to employ the elements by the means God has prepared for the development of a never failing source of wealth, aiding to make us self-sustaining and independent as a people.

Respectfully,

GEO. D. WATT.

Pres. B. Young has for sale some 600-000 three year old mulberry trees.

MARSHAL'S SALE.

WHEREAS, judgment was rendered in the District Court of the 3d Judicial District of the Territory of Utah, on the 18th day of January, 1888, in favor of Nounnan, Orr & Co., and against Wm. H. Miles and others, I have levied upon and will offer for sale on the premises, the undivided half interest in the Lime Kiln, situated a little north of Hot Springs, Salt Lake City, at 11 a. m. of the 14th day of March, 1888.

J. D. T. McALLISTER, Territorial Marshal.

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FOR

1888.

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