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WHEAT AND CORN CBOPS.

Report of Conditions by Agricultural Department in Washington.

The weather bureau in its review of crop conditions for the week ended April 26 says: Except in the States of the Missouri and upper Mississippi Valley, where there has been too much rain, the week ending April 26 has been the most favorable of the season for farming operations.

Wheat seeding is about completed over the Southern portion of the spring wheat region, and is making favorable progress in the Dakotas, where seeding has as yet been confined largely to uplands. The early sown is coming up in Minnesota and Nebraska, and is making vigorous growth in Iowa.

Winter wheat shows improvement in Indiana and Missouri, and is fairly promising in Ohio. In the Atlantic coast and Southern States the condition of the crop is generally promising; in Texas wheat needs a warm rain.

Southward of the northern boundaries of North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas and Oklahoma corn planting is mostly finished; much has been planted in Kentucky and Kansas, and good progress has been made in Missouri. Planting has begun in Southeastern Nebraska and Southern Illinois. In the Southern States the early planted is being cultivated, the crop being reported clean and growing nicely in Texas. In the East Gulf States corn has suffered from cool nights, some injury from frost being reported from Virginia. Corn planting is nearing completion in Tennessee and over the northern portions of Texas, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, and is in progress in Missouri. Some injury has resulted from frost in South Carolina and Mississippi, and the crop has been unfavorably affected by cool weather in Texas and Georgia.

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DR. HOFFMAN'S VITAL RESTORATIVE TABLETS,

with a legal guarantee to permanently cure LOST MANHOOD, WEAKNESS, VARICOCELE; stops forever all unnatural drains. Speedily restores health and perfect manhood.

We have faith in our treatment and if we could not cure you we would not send our medicine **FREE** to try, and pay when satisfied.

WESTERN MEDICINE CO.

(Incorporated),
KALAMAZOO, MICH.

Feb. 3-1y.

THE PENSION QUESTION.

THE DISEASE GROWING IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Some Shameful Cases Cited Where Pensions are Obtained on False Pretenses.

Columbia, April 27.—Special: One of the great Federal problems is the pension question, and, little as people may think, it is one of the most important matters with which the State Government has to deal. It may not be pleasant to say so, but the State Government has to be as cautious as the National Administration in weeding out the applications that ought not to be granted. The people of an individual State are somewhat like they are in the entire country, and it would be surprising to know how very many old soldiers are eager to get to the crib to get some of the State's pension money. It is a sad fact that there are many, far too many, old soldiers who did gallant and noble service for their State who are in actual need of help, and who should be assisted by the pension fund. The pensioners in this State now run up into the thousands, and the indications are that unless some weeding is done by the county boards the list this year will be larger than ever.

Comptroller General Norton, in talking about the pension matter to-day, said that there was a tremendous number of applicants for blanks on which to apply for pensions. He has already sent a regular supply to the auditors of each of the counties, but the township boards, in many instances, are sending in for further supplies. The blanks and instructions have been made very comprehensive and complete this year, and it is the hope of the Comptroller General that there will be no delay or complication in sending in the reports.

Mr. Norton, in the course of the conversation, said that he had just received a complaint from a certain county, in which it was alleged that a man was receiving a pension that had deserted. There was nothing for Mr. Norton to do but to send the letter to the county board, and if that body found the statements were correct the name of the deserter would be dropped.

Some time ago an old soldier went into the Comptroller General's office and obtained the necessary blanks on which to apply for a pension in the class where the soldier has lost a limb, which entitles the pensioner to more money than in any of the other classes. Some time ago it was found that the veteran did not lose his leg in the war, as he claimed, but, on the other hand, it was cut off about ten years ago as the result of a railroad accident.

There is also complaint that in some of the border counties the pensioners are not residents of the State, but they come over from North Carolina, make their applications and have some of their South Carolina friends testify as to their war record.

These are but a few examples by which the pension list is swelled, and it is, of course, to be considered that every name that ought not to be there reduces the pension money that should go to those who so thoroughly deserve it. The \$100,000 which is appropriated is, after certain classes are paid, divided pro rata among the general class of pensioners whose claims have been approved.—A. K., Columbia correspondent News and Courier.

HOME RULES FOR THE CUBANS.

THE PROMISED REFORMS AT LAST APPLIED TO THE ISLAND.

A Decree to that Effect Signed by the Queen Regent at a Cabinet Meeting on Thursday—The Cubans to have a Sort of Parliament of their Own, the Majority of the Members being Elected by the People, while the Remainder are Appointed by the Crown.

Madrid, April 29.—The Queen Regent, at a Cabinet meeting to-day, signed a decree providing for the application of the agreement upon reforms for the island of Cuba. Her Majesty's action was due to the receipt of a cable message from Captain General Weyler announcing that the western part of the island is completely pacified.

DETAILS OF THE SCHEME.

Washington, April 29.—The announcement from Madrid that the Queen Regent has signed a decree applying the reform laws to Cuba is considered by officials here as realization of the plans under negotiation for many months to give Cuba an autonomous form of government, or home rule. The home rule plan about to be applied was made public in detail by Minister Dupuy De Lome on February 6 last. A council of administration is created for the government of the affairs of the island. This council will be in the nature of a Parliament made up of thirty-one members, a majority of them being elected by the Cubans and a lesser number appointed by the Throne. The council of administration is given practically supreme control of the island, subject to certain supervisory authority by the home Government. One of the most important features of the plan is that allowing Cuba to revise her tariff schedules.

The reform law was passed March 15, 1895, but never applied to Cuba owing to the uprising. On last New Year's Day it was promulgated by the Queen Regent and gazetted in Havana as a concession of the new year. Its actual application was still withheld, however, until General Weyler could announce that the island was pacified. On the King's fete day the plan was amplified. The decree signed by the Queen to-day applying the law to Cuba.

THE NEWS IN HAVANA.

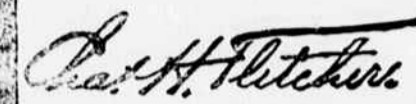
Havana, April 29.—News reached here to-day from Madrid that the Queen Regent has signed a decree providing for immediately putting in operation the scheme for reforms in Cuba already agreed upon. A mail steamer was detained twenty-four hours at Cadiz in order to carry the decree establishing the work of reform, which will begin in the providences of Pinar Del Rio, Havana, Matanas and Santa Clara.

\$100 Reward, \$100.

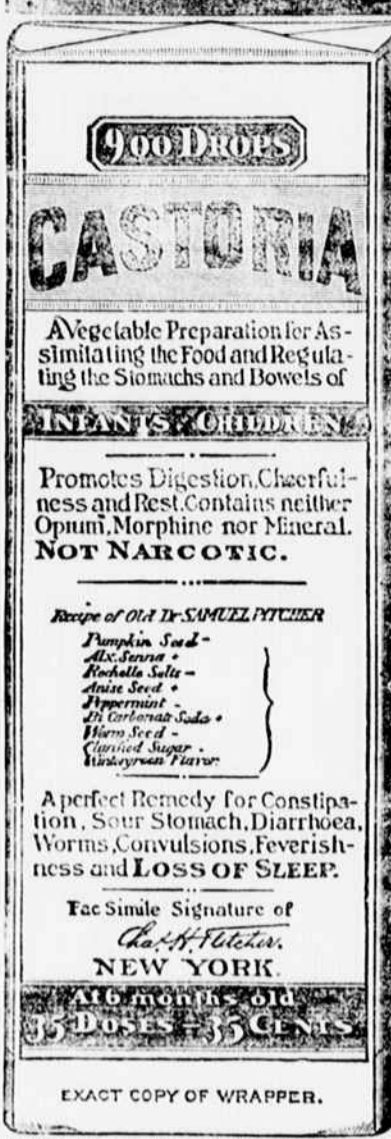
The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case it fails to cure. Sent for list of testimonials.

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Promotes Digestion, Cheerfulness and Rest. Contains neither Opium, Morphine nor Mineral. **NOT NARCOTIC.**

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A perfect Remedy for Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, Worms, Convulsions, Feverishness and **LOSS OF SLEEP.**

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