

**HIG CROP DESPITE DROUGHT.**

**Alfalfa Pays Well by Yield of Seed in Dry Weather.**

Cottonwood Falls, Kan., Sept. 4.—One of the most valuable alfalfa seed crops ever raised by alfalfa growers of this country is being threshed and marketed now. While the hot, dry season has been ruining the corn crop and drying up pastures, it has been making the alfalfa men good money.

Farmers here have threshed crops which have made ten bushels to the acre, while from four to six bushels is a common yield along the Cottonwood valley and other creek bottoms this season. A few fields have made only two or three bushels to the acre, but even such a light yield as this is not so bad, as it will make the grower from \$10 to \$15 an acre. On the other hand, the men who are getting from six to ten bushel yields are getting all the way from \$30 to \$65 an acre, not to speak of the hay crops which will be harvested from the same fields, which are worth \$10 or \$12 for each cutting.

Rather unusual conditions are necessary to bring about a bumper alfalfa seed crop, but the chief requisite seems to be plenty of dry weather after the plant begins to blossom. As a general thing the second crop is the best for seed, and it is this crop from which farmers here are now getting their big yields. After the first cutting of hay had been put up early in the season, there were plenty of rains to give the second crop a good start and then it turned dry. As alfalfa sends its roots deep into the ground—sometimes to a depth of 10, 12 or even 20 feet—the plant is necessarily a hardy one and is not affected by a lack of rain as soon as the other crops. For this reason an alfalfa seed crop may be and is often produced without a drop of rain.

Just why alfalfa seed is a failure in a wet season but will make a big yield in a dry year when scarcely anything else can be raised, alfalfa growers explain as follows: With an abundance of moisture and frequent heavy rains, the plant grows up quickly, rank and tall. It will bloom and the seed pods will form, but that is about as near as seed crop as it ever arrives, for all the strength seems to go into the growing plant itself, which is heavy and luxuriant, but which makes only a big hay crop. On the other hand, if only enough rain falls to put the crop in good growing condition, and then the season turns dry before the plant begins to blossom, and continues dry during the time the seed pods are forming and maturing, the result is invariably a good seed yield. The tendency of dry weather to reduce the growth of the plant naturally causes a greater development and heavier filling of the seed pods.

In a big seed crop the plant may stand barely a foot high and appear to one unfamiliar with alfalfa to be a failure when in fact every plant is heavily laden with seed, the most valuable thing Kansas farmers have ever raised.

Among the Cottonwood valley farmers who have big seed yields this year is A. M. Breece, who this week threshed 800 bushels of seed from a 150-acre field, getting an average of six bushels to the acre. The seed is of fine quality and at the prevailing prices of \$5 to \$6 a bushel will sell for \$4,000 or \$4,500. A neighbor—HARRY STARKEY—who also threshed his crop this week obtained from a 30-acre field 305 bushels or an average of more than 10 bushels to the acre which so far is the best seed reported here this year. E. Shaft, another Cottonwood valley farmer, threshed out the same little sum of \$1,500 worth of seed from his farm a few days ago and still has another field to harvest. J. E. Gayer, J. O. Wilson, Charles Ward, Frank Copeland and a score of other farmers have harvested crops in the last few days yielding all the way from three to seven bushels an acre.

What will doubtless be the greatest alfalfa seed crop ever raised in this county, however, is now being cut on the C. M. Gregory farm just east of this city, containing more than 400 acres from which 2,000 bushels of seed is expected.

The article above about alfalfa will be very interesting to readers of the Watchman and Southron. It was the only green thing to be seen for many miles in Kansas. E. W. D.

**News and Views of Pisgah.**

Pisgah, Sept. 8.—Cotton picking is going rapidly on. The crop will be just what was expected, light. Fifty cents per hundred is the standard price paid and that gives satisfaction.

It is certainly a matter of thankfulness that our people here will have their bread for another year without depending on the west. A man from Illinois told me that the drought section through the corn belt was appalling.

Miss Madge Rogers, who has been visiting in Columbus, returned home last week.

Misses Aline and Sadie Rogers are

visiting at Stateburg.

Misses Jaunita and Mazie McLeod entertained recently in honor of Misses Dargan of Stateburg, and Rivers of Eastover. Those present were Misses Dargan, Rivers, Mollie Ellerbee, Sadie Rogers, Neena Rembert, Sadie Rembert, Jaunita and Mazie McLeod. Stags: Sam Lenoir, St. Pierre Lenoir, Tom Sanders, Henry Sanders, Hoppe Sanders, Isaac Sanders, Broadus DuPre, R. E. Rembert, Leland Myers, Marion Myers, Diakins, Virgil Corbett, Henry McLeod and Pierre Sanders. Light refreshments were served.

I have interviewed many prominent men recently from several counties in this State, some from Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina and Georgia, on the liquor question and the following is about the consensus of opinions: Georgia, statewide prohibition, light wines sold in cities and whiskey secretly sold. North Carolina. This is a prohibition State but whiskey in abundance for the whiskey people, moonshine still manufacture. If the mountain people did not sell it some of them would starve for that is the way many of them make their living. They have the cooperation and sympathy of a large number of people who prefer the home "mountain dew," which makes it much harder for the government to locate and catch them. Tennessee, conditions bad, for there are two political factions. The Hooper-Carmack crowd, who are prohibitionist, and the Cooper-Patterson faction who are for whiskey. So there is a plenty of the stuff for the lovers. Virginia—about as in North Carolina, especially in the mountain sections. In this State, Union county, tried prohibition, but it was such a signal failure that the people got disgusted and voted back the dispensary. The county getting no profit and all the expense to bear in trying to enforce the law and failed in having prohibition. I saw Judge Frank Gary for a few minutes and this is about the way he expressed himself. You can't make people stop drinking whiskey, for you can't legislate temperance down their throats. Local option is bad, for one county going dry and another wet, don't make good conditions. In the dry counties the express people get all the profit and the county has all the expense to bear in trying to enforce the law. The State can enact a prohibition law. It can also prohibit the importation of whiskey in dry counties, the same as it has the right to prohibit the importation in the State. Voting for the dispensary is not endorsing whiskey, but only the best way to regulate an evil.

Many expressed themselves in this way. We rather see whiskey people buy and sell under a law giving them the right than to get it in a sneaking manner in violation of law, thereby practicing habits that in the future will be injurious to the State as well as now.

**ADVISE TO CHANGE GIN BOXES.**

**Best Way for Farmers to Escape Cotton Shipment Penalty.**

Washington, Sept. 9.—In response to many telegrams from cotton growers, complaining that they are penalized for shipping bales larger than 27 by 54 inches, the department of agriculture has advised the farmers that their best course is to insist that ginners immediately change their gin boxes to the required dimensions.

The traffic representatives of the South Atlantic and Gulf steamship companies agreed that on and after September 1, 1913, any bale from gin boxes of greater length or width than 27-54 inches shall pay an extra freight of \$1. A number of ginners promptly altered their gin boxes to conform to the new regulation, but many others did not.

It is understood that the interstate commerce commission has suggested a month's delay in collecting the \$1 penalty, in order to give the remaining ginners time to effect the necessary change.

**INTERIOR SECRETARY LANE ILL.**

**Faints While Reviewing Parade at Oakland—Has Angina Pectoris.**

Oakland, Cal. Sept. 9.—Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane fell in a faint here today when reviewing the admission day parade of the native sons' organization. He was removed to his brother's home in Berkeley, where it was reported his condition was not serious.

Mrs. Lane said her husband had been suffering from overwork and a weak heart for several months. His brother, Dr. Frederick Lane, of Berkeley, said there was no cause for worry.

Later all plans for Secretary Lane's departure were abandoned when a diagnosis of his case, by a physician called in consultation, disclosed a slight attack of angina pectoris. Secretary Lane was ordered to bed and will be kept absolutely quiet for several days.

The physicians say that, while the case is not serious, rest is necessary.

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