

## A VALUABLE CROP REPORT.

### WHICH ATTRACTED MUCH ATTENTION ON THE PRODUCE EXCHANGE.

The Foresight of "The New York Times" in Securing Mr. Prime's Careful Estimate Commended on All Sides—It is What the Grain Trade Wanted, Because of the Accuracy and Painsstaking of its Author—Some Dealers Get New Ideas from a Study of It.

[From the New York Daily Times, June 9, 1893.]

Nothing appearing in the newspapers in a long time has attracted such general attention on the Produce Exchange as the summary of the grain crop conditions, prepared by S. Thornton K. Prime, the expert statistician, of Dwight, Ill., and printed yesterday in THE NEW-YORK TIMES.

The completeness of the report, the thoroughness of its investigation of the wide field it covered, and the excellence of its arrangement was the subject of many flattering comments from leading members of the Exchange. Its usefulness and timeliness were very generally recognized, and its publication was declared to be a matter of great advantage to the grain trade, not only of this city, but of the country at large.

"I feel that I can commend most highly the course of THE NEW-YORK TIMES in securing Mr. Prime's report," said Evan Thomas the President of the Exchange. "It is a splendid thing. It covers the ground thoroughly, is well arranged, and summarizes its statistics in a thoroughly satisfactory way."

"My attention was called to it early this morning, and I found it most interesting. It seems to me to give a very fair estimate of the situation. It has been commented upon very generally to-day by the members of the Exchange. I am glad to see it printed, and I appreciate the enterprise of THE TIMES in securing it."

"It is a fine summary of the situation," said John Weir, of Weir & Hall. "It is a good thing for THE NEW-YORK TIMES to print and for the grain trade to have put at its disposal. The report shows careful work and certainly covers its field thoroughly and well."

"I have read the report and have found a great deal of interesting matter in it," said Louis M. Mills. "It certainly is a most useful piece of enterprise on the part of the New York Times. There are some things in it which are not just what we had supposed to be the condition in certain districts. For instance, I had not supposed the season to be quite so late as Mr. Prime finds it. Nor had I figured on quite so much damage to the crop in Kansas as he reports. But it covers the field and covers it well beyond question. Its publication is an excellent piece of work."

"I read every word of Mr. Prime's report with the greatest interest," said H. B. Hebert. "It corroborated advice I had received. It was a great stroke of enterprise for the New York Times to secure the report, for Mr. Prime's reports used to be regularly received here, and he is well known to all dealers. Apart from the dealers, however, the public must take a deep interest in such a statement regarding the crops, for on them good conditions generally so largely depend. So little carefully prepared news of this kind is given to the public that this report has a special value."

"Yes, I have read the report," said T. A. McIntyre, "and I guess everybody else down here has. Its conservatism gave it weight and nearly all of us have long known by reputation its writer. His conclusions are in accord with the feeling in the market."

David Binham was reading the report when by the reporter of the New York Times. "It is an excellent thing," said he, "and of value to all traders. We get our private advice regarding the crop outlook, but the general public seldom has an opportunity to get a forecast that comes from a reliable source. Everybody down here is reading it carefully, and Mr. Prime's conclusions seem to be generally approved."

"It is a report that all who are interested in the grain market will study," said Frank Maguire, "whatever side of the market they may be on, for it is evidently the result of wide observation, and is carefully prepared. The New York Times is to be congratulated upon getting it."

"I read the report this morning, and intend to study it more carefully when I have leisure," said Edward Annan. "Everybody down here seems to have read it, as they should, for it is comprehensive, and its conclusions are evidently based on conditions that have been carefully observed."

"We used to look for Mr. Prime's crop reports regularly," said William H. Wallace, "and all the traders here wanted to get a New York Times, if they did not have one when they learned this morning that Mr. Prime had gone over the field again and reported his observations. I have read the report carefully and consider it a valuable piece of news."

"I have read it and will give more

study when I have a little leisure," said Herman Stutzer. "It is attracting much attention here."

#### Braceville Items.

The early train on the Alton struck a horse belonging to Martin Brophy one morning lately, breaking one of its legs. The section foreman killed it and relieved it of its sufferings.

Mrs. Will G. Smith, and children, of Lexington, who has been visiting her husband for a few days, returned home last Monday, having enjoyed a short but pleasant visit in our village. Painters who have been busy on the Alton bridge at Mazonia the past two weeks, have finished and gone to Wilmington to paint the C. & A. bridge spanning the Kankakee river at that point. It is presumed it will take six to eight painters six to eight weeks to put a coat of paint on the immense structure.

What might have been a serious accident to a boy named Gray, last week Wednesday, was avoided by mere chance. The boy was sitting on the C. & A. track south of Mazonia with his foot placed carelessly near an interlocking switch point, and when the tower man attempted to change the switches and signals the boys foot was caught across the ankle in the switch point. The tower man feeling an obstruction looked down the track and saw the boy fast in the point, vainly trying to extricate himself, when at once the lever was thrown ahead and the boy released. Had the lever man thrown the switch hurriedly or with great force as is often times the case, the result of injuries to the boy would have been a mangled foot and ankle. This should be another warning to boys who practice sitting or loafing around inter-locking machinery, knowing full well the switches are moved from the inside at a distance with sudden action, and not telling how soon one is liable to flop over and catch you.

The public schools closed Thursday last week, for the summer vacation, and the teachers made a sort of jollification out of it. In the afternoon all the teachers and pupils assembled in the opera house where a general exhibition of the work of the various grades was given, comprising maps, manuscripts, reading, recitation, etc. In the evening the graduating exercises of the grammar school was given and a very interesting and pleasing time was had. A small admission was charged at the door the proceeds to go into the library fund. The following graduated with honor in the eighth grade: Mary Rodgers, John Radford, Alphous Ran Voux. The following received rolls of honor for not being tardy nor absent during the term: Irene Jones, John Ramsay, Clara Ramsay, Arthur Jones and Mary Gallagher. Dr. F. D. Coultrin, secretary of the school board, made the presentation speech to the graduates, and Prof. E. O. Rathfon made the closing remarks. The attendance and order was good, the majority present being interested in the work. A good time was seemingly enjoyed by all.—Ed. TRIBUNE.

#### The Murder.

From Braceville Tribune.  
It was brought out in the corner's inquest on the bodies of Seraphine De Martelaire and wife, that the former was a hard drinker, and had fortified himself with a jug of whisky before he committed the crime. He had evidently made deliberate preparations for the terrible deed. The shooting was done with a shot gun. He also had a double action six-shooter in the house. It was a horrible sight at the house, and lots of curious people viewed it. The children, of whom the eldest was but thirteen years, and the youngest eight months are being taken care of by relatives and friends.

It is a very sad case and left the children in a very sad plight.

#### A Cow Killed by Squirrels.

For some time the neighborhood about Peterville, Ky., has been infested with gray squirrels which have done incredible damage. A farmer named Mings, the other day heard a great bellowing in his field, and going to see the cause, found a fine Jersey cow covered with thousands of the squirrels actively engaged in tearing off her flesh. Mr. Mings found that the animals had eaten out the cow's eyes and had almost torn away her ears. Finally the poor brute was freed from her multitudinous foes, but it was too late. The poor cow died almost immediately.

"So," said Mr. Donnegan, "they've been printing the funeral notices a man that wasn't dead yet. It's a nice fix he'd be in if he had been w' of those people that believe everything in the newspapers."—Washington Star.

Wife—"What's that white stuff on your shoulder?" Husband—"Chalk from a billiard cue, you know." Wife (sniffing)—"Hereafter I wish you to use chalk that doesn't smell like toilet powder."—New York Weekly.

"I CAN'T sing," said the young lady when invited to warble; but she complied upon being further pressed. When she had finished, Fogg thanked her, and added behind his teeth, "I'll never doubt anybody's word again."—Boston Transcript.

What Man Can Live On.  
A very eminent authority on diet says that the average man, in a state of absolute rest, can live on 16 ounces of food a day; a man doing ordinary light work can live on 25 ounces, and a man doing laborious work needs from 26 1/2 ounces to 30 ounces. This is supposed to be food free from water, and as everything we eat contains more or less water, from 48 to 60 ounces of ordinary food may be regarded as necessary to healthy existence, according to the work in which a man is engaged. Lord Playfair, a man who generally knows what he is talking about, estimates that the following will give a healthy man sufficient sustenance for a whole day: Three pints of soup, with one pound of fat, two ordinary loaves of bread, one ounce of salt, and five pints of milk; or, for meat, five or six pounds of oat meal may be substituted.

The Missouri Drying Up.  
Dakota scientists express the opinion that the Missouri River is drying up. The volume of water is gradually decreasing, and the river men are of the opinion that the large number of artesian wells in South Dakota is the cause of this. They claim that the artesian wells of North and South Dakota recovers its supply from the Missouri, and that the immense amount of water used for irrigation in South Dakota, and that taken from the small streams tributary to the Missouri in Montana, for similar purposes, are what is causing the decrease. Old river men think that it will be but a few years until steamboat traffic up the Missouri will be a thing of the past.

Weeds as Big as Trees.  
The sage brush of the plains is a familiar sight to the Western traveler and he knows it to be a weed growing upon land which will furnish nutriment to no other plant. It seldom attains a height of three feet. But a region of Wyoming was recently visited by Prof. Elwood Mead, the State Engineer, in which he found "sage brush" growing to the height of tall trees, with thick trunks and large branches. Many of them had trunks at least a foot in diameter. When Prof. Mead returned to Cheyenne he was surprised to learn that in California the sage plant attains a size so great that the natives use it for cord wood.

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