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AGRICULTURE IN ILLINOIS

Statistics for the State—Total Value of Crops for 1909—Farm Crops and Seeds—Expenses

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Crops.
Summary: 1909 and 1899.—The total value of crops in 1909 was \$372,270,000. Of this amount, 97.4 per cent was contributed by crops for which the acreage as well as the value was reported, the remainder consisting of the value of by-products (straw, garden and grass seeds, etc.) derived from the same land as other crops reported, or of orchard fruits, nuts, forest products, and the like. The combined acreage of crops for which acreage was reported was 20,273,916, representing 72.3 per cent of the total improved land in farms (28,048,323 acres). Most of the remaining improved land doubtless consisted of improved pasture, land lying fallow, house and farm yards, and land occupied by orchards and vineyards, the acreage for which was not reported.

The general character of Illinois agriculture is indicated by the fact that about four-fifths (79.9 per cent) of the total value of crops in 1909 was contributed by the cereals, and about one-tenth (10.9 per cent) by hay and forage. The remainder, representing in value about 9 per cent of the total, consisted mainly of potatoes and other vegetables, flowers and plants, nursery products, fruits and nuts, and forest products.

The total value of crops in 1909 was 73.3 per cent greater than that in 1899. This increase was clearly due to higher prices. There was a decrease of 1.2 per cent in the total acreage of crops for which acreage was reported, the principal decrease being in the acreage of cereals and broom corn, which were offset in part by increases for most of the other crops.

General farm crops, minor grains and seeds, and sundry minor crops: 1879 to 1909.—The leading crops, in the order of their importance as judged by their value, are corn, \$198,350,000; oats, \$59,694,000; hay and forage, \$40,560,000; wheat, \$38,091,000; potatoes, \$6,402,000; and broom corn, \$1,457,000.

By far the most important crop is corn, the acreage being nearly two and one-half times as great as the value over three times as great as the acreage and value of oats, which ranks second in both respects. Hay and forage is third in both acreage and value, having approximately one-third the acreage and one-fifth the value of corn. Wheat, with an acreage about two-thirds as great as that of hay and forage, has a value almost nineteen-twentieths as great as the latter crop. The cereals combined are about five times as great in acreage and over seven times as great in value as all hay and forage.

Of the hay and forage crops, "timothy alone" ranks first in both acreage and value, constituting in each respect nearly one-half of the total. Second in rank is "timothy and clover mixed," with an acreage a little less than one-fourth and a value a little more than one-fourth those of all hay and forage. Following in order of acreage are "clover alone," "coarse forage," "other tame or cultivated grasses," and "wild, salt, or prairie grasses." In value these crops rank in similar order, except that "wild, salt, or prairie grasses" precedes "other tame or cultivated grasses."

Potatoes, broom corn, and dry peas are important both in acreage and value, varying from 138,052 acres for potatoes down to 28,452 for broom corn, and in value from \$6,402,000 for potatoes down to \$273,000 for dry peas. Sweet potatoes and yams also are a crop of considerable importance. In value "clover seed," "timothy seed," and "other tame grass seed" show important amounts.

The acreage in corn, the leading crop in 1909, exceeded that in 1879 by over a million. From 1879 to 1889 there was a loss of more than a million acres, followed during the next 10 years by a gain of 2,403,310 acres, and in the following decade by a loss of nearly a quarter of a million acres. The acreage of oats nearly doubled during the first decade, made a gain of 699,332 acres during the next 10 years, and a decrease of 393,549 during the last decade, the acreage in 1910 being a little more than double that of 30 years before. Wheat decreased in acreage during the two decades following 1879 and increased

during the last 10 years, showing in 1909 an acreage about two-thirds as great as in 1879. The acreage of barley decreased rapidly between 1879 and 1899, but nearly trebled during the last decade, making the acreage in 1909 greater than in 1879. Barley, however, is not an important crop as compared with the others shown in the above table. For hay and forage the greatest acreage was reached in 1889, followed by a decrease during the next 10 years and again by a slight increase during the last decade, the acreage in 1909 being one-third greater than in 1874.

Of every 100 farms 90 report corn, 75 report potatoes, 70 report hay and forage, 55 report oats, and 29 report winter wheat. It will be noticed that the percentages reporting corn and oats have decreased the past decade, while the proportions reporting other crops enumerated in the preceding table have increased. These six crops together occupy about 71 per cent of the improved land of the state.

The average value per acre of cereals combined is \$17.99, corn ranking above this average, other cereals below it. The average value per acre of hay and forage is about two-thirds that of the combined cereals. The average value per acre of potatoes is over two and a half times the average value of the combined cereals.

While the production of corn is very general over the state, the greatest acreages are in the central counties. Within this district a small group of counties in the north central part of the state show increases for the past 10 years. Increases are also shown for nearly all the counties in the southern part of the state. The largest percentages of decrease are in Joe Daviess, Mason, Madison, Cass, Schuyler, Menard, Cumberland, Winnebago, Macoupin, and Stephenson Counties.

Oats are grown throughout the state, though in very small amounts in the southern counties. A decrease in the oat acreage is reported from the greater portion of the state, increases being shown in only a few scattered counties. Wheat, which is grown principally in the western and southern parts of the state, shows very great increases in the western counties during the last 10 years, but decreases in the acreages of this crop are recorded for most of the southern and for a few of the northern counties. The hay and forage acreage is very evenly distributed over the state. About one-third of the counties show decreases in acreage of this crop, the largest relative losses being reported for Hancock, Livingston, Kendall, Lawrence, and McDonough Counties. Alfalfa has thus far made little headway, although grown in every county except two. Over half of the alfalfa acreage of the state is reported from the six counties of Lake, McHenry, Alexander, Kane, Peoria and Cook.

Vegetables, flowers and plants, and nursery products: 1909 and 1899.—In 1909 the total acreage of potatoes and other vegetables was 268,911 and their value \$16,300,654. Excluding (so far as reported separately)—it is probable that some of the potatoes and sweet potatoes and yams raised in farm gardens were not reported separately by farmers, but were included in their returns for vegetables) potatoes and sweet potatoes and yams, the acreage of vegetables was 10,291 and their value \$9,392,000, both acreage and value being materially greater than in 1899.

The raising of flowers and plants and of nursery products is also comparatively important in Illinois, 4,793 acres being devoted to them in 1909, and the product being valued at \$4,517,085. Most of the product was raised on a few farms where these branches of agriculture were carried on as an important business.

Small fruits: 1909 and 1899.—Strawberries are by far the most important of the small fruits grown in Illinois, with blackberries and dewberries and raspberries and loganberries ranking second and third, respectively. The total acreage of small fruits in 1909 was 11,723 and in 1899, 16,794, a decrease of 30.2 per cent. The production in 1909 was 13,603,000 quarts as compared with 26,129,000 quarts in 1899, and the value \$1,110,000, as compared with \$1,293,000.

Orchard fruits, grapes, nuts, and tropical fruits: 1909 and 1899.—This acreage devoted to these products was not ascertained. In comparing one year with the other the number of

trees or vines of bearing age is on the whole a better index of the general changes or tendencies than the quantity of product, but the data for the censuses of 1910 and 1900 are not closely comparable and the product is therefore compared, although variations may be due largely to temporarily favorable or unfavorable climatic conditions.

The total quantity of orchard fruits produced in 1909 was 4,939,000 bushels, valued at \$3,858,000. Apples contributed about three-fifths of this quantity; peaches and nectarines ranking next in importance. The production of grapes in 1909 amounted to 16,583,000 pounds, valued at \$426,000, and that of nuts to 714,478 pounds valued at \$20,550.

The production of all orchard fruits together in 1909 was 49.4 per cent less than in 1899, and the production of grapes also declined. The value of orchard fruits, however, increased from \$3,779,000 in 1899 to \$3,858,000 in 1909, and that of grapes from \$383,000 in 1899 to \$426,000 in 1909. It should be noted in this connection that the values for 1899 include the value of more advanced products derived from orchard fruits or grapes, such as cider, vinegar, dried fruits, and the like, and may therefore involve some duplication, while the values shown for 1909 relate only to the products in their original condition.

Sugar crops: 1909 and 1899.—The total value of sorghum cane and sirup produced in 1909 was \$496,000 and in 1899, \$223,000; the total value of sugar beets produced in 1909 was \$77,732 and in 1899, \$36,223, and that of maple sugar and sirup produced in 1909 was \$23,502, as compared with \$9,841 in 1899.

Forest products: 1909 and 1899.—The census schedules for 1910 called for the "value of all firewood, fencing material, logs, railroad ties, telegraph and telephone poles, materials for barrels, bark, naval stores, or other forest products cut or produced in 1909, whether used on farm, sold, or on hand April 15, 1910;" and also, in a separate item, for the "amount received from sale of standing timber in 1909." There were 54,618 farms in Illinois (21.7 per cent of all farms in the state) which reported forest products in 1909, the total value of such products being \$3,325,259, as compared with \$2,555,890 in 1899, an increase of 30.1 per cent. Of the value in 1909, \$2,178,103 was reported as that of products used or to be used on the farms themselves, \$976,216 as that of products sold or for sale, and \$170,940 as the amount received for standing timber. It should be noted that forest products not produced on farms are not included in this report.

Miscellaneous crops: 1909.—Straw and cornstalks derived as by-products from the production of grain and corn have a considerable value for feed and other purposes. They are, however, mainly consumed on the farms producing them. The Census Bureau made no attempt to ascertain the total quantity or value of these products, but the schedules called for the quantity and value of those sold during the year 1909. The returns show that 5,613 farmers in Illinois sold, during 1909, 59,602 tons of straw, for which they received \$214,503, and that 637 farmers sold 7,831 tons of cornstalks and leaves, for which they received \$23,262.

Selected Farm Expenses and Receipts.
Farm Expenses: 1909 and 1899.—Over half of the farmers hire labor, and the average amount expended by those hiring is \$259. Of the total spent for labor, 22.9 per cent is in the form of rent and board. During the decade the total expended for labor increased 62.7 per cent. At prior censuses no tabulation was made of the number of farmers reporting expenditures for labor.

About three farmers out of every eight report some expenditure for feed, while less than 1 out of 20 reports the purchase of fertilizer. About three-fourths as much was spent for fertilizer in 1909 as in 1899, the average expenditure in 1909 for fertilizer per farm reporting being \$54.93.

Receipts from sale of feedable crops: 1909.—While the total amount expended by Illinois farmers for the purchase of feed in 1909 was \$13,916,000, the total receipts from sales of feed by those reporting sales amounted to \$104,425,000.

The Bell Telephone Operators of this city will give a grand ball in Mason Hall Tuesday, April 1st. The music for the occasion will be furnished by Burch's six piece orchestra accompanied by a special singer and the tickets of admission have been placed on sale at \$1.—Adv.

Dwight Gun Club Shoot.

The shooting match held by the Dwight Gun Club on its Club Grounds just north of the village on Wednesday proved to be a well attended affair, despite the fact the weather was very disagreeable for such an event.

Just about time for the beginning of the regular program it began to snow and the wind which was blowing directly into the faces of the contestants made it difficult to shoot with



ADOLPH TOPPERWEIN.

any degree of accuracy. However in the face of these handicaps there were several good records made and all of the events were closely contested. Each shoot found a large number of entries and some very nice purses were made up and divided.

The high scores for the regular program were made by W. Kennicott, of Evanston, 82; E. Perschnick, of Dwight, 81; C. McWilliams, 78; A. H. Ammon, 77; P. Perschnick, 76 out of a possible 100.

A number of out of town sportsmen were present among them being A. Skinner and J. Skinner, of Torino; W. Krussell and C. S. Roe, of Ottawa; F. Stauver, of Streator; W. Kennicott, of Evanston; Mat Mathisen, Munch Mathisen and W. Malek, of Wilson; H. Deffenbach, of Odell; A. H. Ammon, of Chicago.

All those attending pronounced themselves as well pleased with the treatment accorded them by the Club and gave assurances of their return at future shoots. The exhibition given by Mr. Topperwein was a treat for those present and he has given the Club his promise that he will come here again when the weather gets warmer and will then give his full exhibition.

From the time shooting started in the forenoon until the last event was over in the afternoon there was an average of eight shots per minute fired, the total number for the day being 3200, which is quite a shoot for such weather.

Dwight has acquired the reputation of having a live and enterprising gun club and no doubt they will have some pretty big tournaments the coming summer and fall.

NEW THEATRE BEING ERRECTED IN CANADA.

E. E. Davis, a Former Dwight Resident, Constructing Same.

E. E. Davis, a former resident of this city, will soon erect a new Victoria Opera House in Canada which will be completed and ready for business by November 1st. Mr. Davis has become famous for his work as a bridge builder and is now also qualified as an expert in the erection of steel buildings. Just recently the L. C. Smith building, of Seattle, Wash., a building of forty-two stories, was completed by him as well as many other large buildings.

LETTER FROM CUBA

Dwight Citizen, Sojourning on the Island, Writes Interesting Article from There

Most of our readers are doubtless informed in a general way as to the Island of Cuba, it having figured so prominently in the recent history of our own country; general information is all that can be expected under such circumstances. Maj. Curtis J. Judd, who is at present in Cuba, has made an extensive tour of the Island and, as usual, can be depended upon to search out something new and unique, and therefore something of more than usual interest. He has sent the following letter to a friend in Dwight who has turned it over to 'the STAR AND HERALD' for publication:

Ceballos, Cuba, March 18, 1913.

Of all the novel colony enterprises—Ceballos with its one hundred resident Americans and four hundred Cubans in shack houses, presents an American mecca. Location is 280 miles east by rail from Havana or 550 by steamer to Jucaro and 25 miles north by rail. In 1903 a New York syndicate organized the Cuba Development Company, secured 40,000 acres, established the town and laid out a town site of one thousand acres; purchased the seventy-five room Plaza Hotel, 59th street and Central Park, New York; removed and rebuilt it here; installed the Berlin system of drainage, including a water, ice and electric plant; sold fruit grove tracts in small acreages to non-residents thru advertising with contracts to clear the ground, plant fruit trees, cultivate and care for a term of three years. Orange, tangerine and grape fruit then showing budding growth was at future expense of purchaser. Fertilization being an experiment and the Florida system a failure, large acreage at the end of two years proved a failure. Then the German system of chemical spraying was adopted and so far with excellent success. The contracts so exceeded the capacity of the Company as to necessitate abandonment in many cases before expiration. Many of the purchasers failing to find the fruit claims materialize, sacrificed their investment and hundreds of fruit groves lapsed.

Three years ago the Company learning favorable indications of the soil for sugar cane and upon the assurance of the Stewart Sugar Company of New York, that they would advance funds towards planting, with a promise of locating a sugar mill here, planted within two seasons over 6,000 acres. The mill, like all Cuban progress, was delayed so much that only during one month was grinding done last year, although the Mill Company had contracted to grind all the cane at 5 per cent for the service. The acreage exceeding the capacity, the Mill Company proceeded to enlarge to capacity of 500,000 bags of 325 pounds each, but the work was not completed until March 3, 1913, instead of December 1, 1912. The situation now is, that the two years growth without cutting until next year results in a swell of stalk and cracking with 50 to 75 per cent loss. The new one year cane now ready can stand a second year without serious loss, although losing this year's cutting. Not only this misfortune but the opportunity to plant new fields now is too discouraging, even though the Mill Company have plans nearly completed for another mill of equal capacity. It requires from 12 to 18 months to install a mill. The Development Company have never sold a lot, giving them to builders free and have themselves built over one hundred shack houses to protect service of resident Cubans. In the fields it is no exception to see cane now from 18 to 20 feet high to the trimming point. This Company operates a bank, express post, telegraph, telephone and general store. In fact, everything towards a complete organization. For over a year they have been operating at great expense and must continue through another on the Mill Company's promises; offering no sales of their lands or advertising, merely resting on the hopes of a future realization of this "Dream of Paradise."

Plaza Hotel is a roomy well-furnished house, with wide porches on all sides, swinging couches, settees and porch rockers tempt one to lounge at ease—a real palace in a desert. So far as outside development shows, having about fifteen guests, one-third members of the Company, proves it an expensive luxury. A semi-American table, with more fairly good things to eat than Cuba can offer elsewhere. Tropical trees, plants and

flowers surround the house. The oranges and grape fruit are a very hardy and superior quality. Price now \$10 to \$12 per thousand as they run delivered in box cars (at station) containing 100 to 120 thousand, loaded as we see potatoes, destination Havana, none exported. Where the groves are over six years old and have been well cared for, the income is from \$125 to \$250 per acre. The shipping production is small but it is all the earnings in sight.

My voyage here was by steamer around west end of Cuba, which trip completes my circling the island by water transportation. From Jucaro here I crossed on the trail of trochas and block houses, the famous line of Spanish defense during the Spanish war. A strip of five-eighths of a mile was cleared for thirty miles, an open field, covered with block house protection, many of which remain, some in perfect condition.

Just opposite San Fernando, ten miles north and terminal of this railroad, on edge of "Old Bahama Channel" from one to three miles out, is Isla Turiguan, of one hundred thousand acres, owned and partially improved by a Chicago company for plantain and cocoa. Other large tract holders in this vicinity are patiently waiting for safe planting propositions. Like all other promoting locations in Cuba, Ceballos is claimed to be the superior cane soil and the finest future prospect for American investment. To an outsider, the old song of "Every Day will be Sunday Bye and Bye," is practically illustrated here today without the future prophecy.

The proposition to annex the "Isle of Pines" by American residents of 2,500 and ownership of lands by 8,000 Americans—while only 500 Cubans and Spaniards are left and rapidly disposing of their interests,—looks favorable from that side.

The "Isle of Pines" is, however, a part of the Province of Havana, governed, officered and patrolled same as any other part of Cuba. The Cuba side claim that Norwegians holding a majority land interest in a part of Minnesota might just as reasonably apply to Norway for annexation. The "La Lucha," a Spanish-American paper in Havana, says, "The Americans on 'Isle of Pines' better let well enough alone" or they will find the old Spanish titles to their holdings revived."

President Gomez has vetoed the franchise granted for re-opening the Spanish ball game of Jacilia, (pronounced *Hily*) and establishing a new track for horse racing for the reason that his successor, Mario Menocal, requests not to be burdened with these gambling enterprises. The new President comes May 20th.

The ten acre garden enclosed in a pole stockade fence, I visited yesterday. All kinds of vegetables show a luscious growth. Peas, beans, lettuce, beets, cabbage, peppers, tomatoes, are supplied the table and wagon loads more could be easily gathered. Plantains, oranges, grape fruit, bananas and pine apples in abundance. Wild deer play havoc nights with unprotected gardens.

I saw several orange and grape fruit groves within two miles, about one in three given proper care.

One tree of King oranges produced a sale of one thousand for \$12 while there and we were shown half a dozen having a still larger bearing. The King oranges are considered here the very best. They are larger than Florida, very heavy and sweet. All kinds of fruit free to guests at Hotel whenever wished. Two car loads oranges were shipped yesterday. This sounds large, but in proportion to the groves that may average one hundred to a tree, seventy-five trees to an acre, these high producing groves are the exception and represent a small portion of a promising fair average.

It looks to me as though the individual purchaser having in anticipation fruit growing Finca (farms) on an income basis, will find it difficult to succeed. If any one can reap a profit it is far more likely to come from joining a colony organization where labor can be mutually exercised. Care of groves, gathering fruit and shipping on limited time, require more service to fully protect than possibilities of a single family are able to provide.