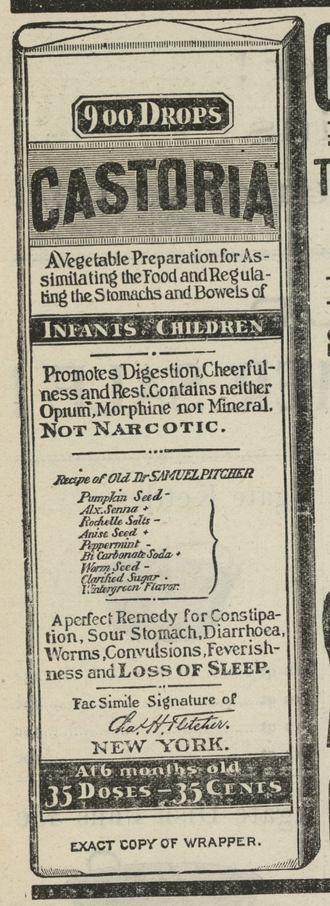

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For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher.

The Kind You Have Always Bought.

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THE CENTAUR COMPANY, NEW YORK CITY.

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Winning prices, too—the kind that indicate thrift and economy, but the goods are the newest, the qualities the best. You will believe that the store proposes an economical camdaign, when you note the careful blending of high qualities and little prices, when you realize how superior the values we offer in **Men's, Boys' and Children's Clothing** for business and dress so elegantly made that if they didn't know it came from us your friends would think it a high class made to order suit. It is high class in all but price.

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Line is complete. **Henriettas, Mohairs, Briliantine, Serges, Worsteds, Cashmeres, Covert Cloths, Piques, Lawns, Organdies, Diminities, Percales, Ginghams, Sheetings, Ticking, Silk for Shirt Wairts and Trimmings, Laces and Embroideries, Ladies' Shirt Waists and Skirts.**

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Shoes and Slippers for all young or old for work, business and dress. A cluster of notable values now fully reinforced for the spring selling with what is newest best and most stylish and all the proper shapes and colorings, but priced at real worth—a feature that interests all shoe buyers. We have also a full line of the handmade Allnutt & Moody Shoes and Slippers for Ladies', Misses' and Children. These Shoes for durability, perfect comfort and style cannot be surpassed. We also have the Mundell Children's Shoes.

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In this line we have a larger stock than ever before. Bed Room Suits in solid Oak and Maple, Bedsteads, Bureaus, Tables, Buffets, Wash Stands, Side Boards, Lounges, Couches, Chairs and Rockers, in all grades, Bed Springs, Matresses and our prices are the lowest.

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Floor and Stair. Wool, Ingrain, Rag and others.

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The largest line that has ever been in Millington. Having purchased long before the advance it enables us to sell lower than elsewhere. Come early and get your choice as we are selling fast.

☞ Poultry and Eggs taken at the HIGHEST MARKET PRICE.

BALTIMORE BARGAIN STORE,

H. H. BENNEMAN, Proprietor

OPPOSITE BRICK HOTEL, - - - MILLINGTON, MARYLAND.

CALIFORNIA SCENES

Harvesting Wheat, Cutting 75 Acres a Day—Threshing and Cutting.

NO. 16.

One of the most interesting sights in California was the harvesting and threshing of the wheat crop and the following taken from the Scientific American gives a good description of it:

Cultivation of wheat in California will long continue to be one of the greatest sources of wealth to that surprising fertile State. The history of the industry is perfectly defined. Introduced by the fathers of the mission, in 1769, from seed brought from Mexico, the adaptability of the country for the growth of cereals was quickly demonstrated, and the object accomplished of rendering the country independent of Mexico for its breadstuffs. During the supremacy of the missions enough wheat was raised to more than to supply the scanty population of the period, and this condition of affairs continued until the confiscation of the church property in 1824, after which the cultivation of wheat declined. In 1847, but very little wheat was produced and that of very inferior quality. The area of gold mining interrupted agricultural pursuits for several years, but, in 1898 the local crop began to appear upon the market in increasing quantities and gradually displaced importation from South America and the East.

The exportation of California wheat to English ports, probably as ballast, has been followed by ever increasing shipments until now a hundred of the finest sailing vessels of the world's fleet are now employed in the traffic.

The acreage devoted to wheat continued to increase until 1899, when it amounted to 3,300,000, with a crop of 18,723,680 centals. In 1899-1900 there was (estimated) 2,750,000 acres in wheat with a crop (estimated) of 20,000,000 centals.

The conditions insuring a large wheat crop in California cannot be said to depend upon the quantity so much as timeliness rainfall. The great crop of 1880 was produced with a rainfall of but 16-74 inches (in San Francisco), at least 10 inches below the annual average.

Lands devoted to wheat in California are those reclaimed from the beds of the river embankments, which have been under water for ages and never produced anything but rank growth of vegetation. Once protected from overflows, the crops of fruit, vegetables or cereals grown upon these lands are surprising. Instances of 40 sacks of wheat, averaging 130 pounds, as the product per acre of a reclaimed farm, multiply; and knowing their exceeding fertility and witnessing the rank, powerful growths of the stalk before harvest time, such a yield ceases to astonish. Wheat grown upon these soils, however, does not rank in quality with the best.

Lands which are protected from overflow by artificial levees, of which there are hundreds of thousands of acres along the banks of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, are the finest wheat lands of the State, and the most valuable. Lying low, they are independent of drought, and their natural fertility has been augmented by deposits brought down by overflows before the levees were constructed. The Yalo basin on the Sacramento River, in the time of harvest, is a sight beyond descripton. The wide level valley, stretching on both sides of the river, is a golden sea of vegetation. The great Glenn ranch of 60,000 acres, all in wheat, is situated here. The highlands, located above the influence of the river floods, and dependent of the rainfall for moisture, extend in these valleys to where the foothills begin. They are of vast extent, and produce the finest, deepest and weightiest wheat grown in the world. They average, perhaps, six sacks, of 150 pounds each, per acre.

After persistent cultivation the reclaimed and leveed lands show no signs of exhaustion. No fertilizers have ever been added to these fields other than the charred straw burned after each harvest. The highlands, some after 50 years of continuous planting to wheat upon which no fertilizers have ever been spread, do show the effects of wear, though these lands are quickly restored to their old fertility by deep plowing and a change of crops. Alfalfa substituted for wheat for a few years, and then a change back to wheat, has shown as fine crops on these soils as ever was raised.

These high lands are all capable of irrigation. In Merced County, where thousands of acres of wheat are planted under superb irrigating system there established, crops never fail and are always of huge dimensions.

The fortunes so rapidly acquired by the early wheat growers naturally influenced others to follow their example; but the scarcity of laborers became a serious problem when the wheat area increased to hundreds of acres.

Then it was that mechanical ingenuity supplied the means for plowing, cultivating, seeding and harvesting the enormous wheat crops.

To California mechanics is due the distinction of instituting steam for hand labor in manipulating cereals in the fields. Huge 50-horse power traction engines, with driving wheels 60 inches in diameter, flanges 60 inches in width drawing over the fields sixteen ten-inch plows, four 6 foot harrows, and a press drill to match, plowing, harrowing and seeding from 42 to 75 acres at one operation each day, explains why the vast crops of California, covering millions of acres, can be planted and cultivated in a country where the supply of labor is not great enough to plant a crop one-tenth as large. In harvest time, by aid of one of those enormous harvesters, whose cutters are 26 feet wide, the wheat is at once headed, threshed, cleaned, sacked and ready for market, the machine in one day gathering the wheat off of seventy-five acres.

To observe one of these enormous machines traveling over the uneven surface of these fields, crossing ditches, or crawling along the side hills, surmounting every obstacle with the most perfect ease, and automatically gathering in the ripened grain, sacked ready for market, is a sight of the rarest description.

The mechanical prodigies are adapted only for countries like California, with seasons wet and dry, well defined, where cereals ripened by hot suns easily fall from the husks. For the moist lands of the great North these harvesters have not proved an entire success.

Preparing the ground for the coming wheat crop in California differs little from the methods used in other countries, though "deep" plowing is not common. On the higher lands the furrow is never over 6 inches in depth, and rarely over 5 inches. Deeper plowing is thought to dry out the land too fast and is avoided on that account. Summer fallowing is on the increase, and to allow absolute rest in alternate years is more and more encouraged. Five crops in ten years aggregate, it is found by experience, as much as yearly crops would do. In summer fallowing, plowing during the late spring rains is the custom. The land lies undisturbed, with the exception of running over a weeder during the season. On the first rain the cultivator is run over the ground, which is seeded at the same time, and then cultivation is over. No further attention is required until the maturity of the crop.

The marketing of California wheat bears no resemblance to the methods of the great Northwest. Wheat in bulk is unmarketable. Shippers and exporters refuse to handle it. A cargo in bulk was once sent to Liverpool; the ship was never heard from. Since that time shipments in sacks only are permitted. Otherwise no insurance can be effected.

San Francisco, Port Costa and Stockton are the great tidewater markets for wheat. The latter city is the great manufacturing center of the coast. Its great flour mills turn out 8,000 barrels every day. It is at the head of navigation of the San Joaquin River system and an important station of two transcontinental roads. Its warehouses have a capacity for 120,000 tons. Its flour is known the world over. The flour mills of the State have a capacity of 20,000 barrels daily. San Francisco has a warehouse capacity of 120,000 tons, under the control of its Produce Exchange. All foreign shipments are arranged at this port, and every question of values, insurance, or exchange adjudicated. The operations of the Produce Exchange are enormous in their volume, and it enjoys the unlimited confidence of merchants, foreign and at home.

Port Costa, forty miles north of San Francisco, on the bay, has warehouse facilities for 290,000 tons. The great storehouses extend for miles along the water front, and at these docks ships from all over the world find the best facilities for prompt loading. This point is the head of deep water navigation on San Francisco Bay, and there have been seen forty vessels at the docks at one time, all waiting for cargoes for foreign countries.

California wheat and flour find a market in Europe, Mexico, Central and South America, Australia, China and Japan. The islands of the Pacific are taking increased quantities. Siberia is becoming an active customer, and South Africa, until war interrupted, consumed large amounts. Flour as well as wheat is handled only in sacks.

The future of California wheat is dependent upon price. At a rate remunerative to the grower the quantity now raised could be greatly exceeded. With a plentiful supply of moisture, such as an intelligent conservation of the resources of streams now going to waste would assure, the wheat crop of the State could be quadrupled.

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