

Red Cloud Chief.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

RED CLOUD. NEBRASKA

Some of New Zealand's experiments in state socialism seem to have been remarkably successful. The "Advances to Settlers Department" has just reported having issued loans to 7,000 settlers representing two millions of money. Not one shilling had been lost, and not one penny, either of principal or interest, had remained uncollected.

Many journals, each unique in its way, has been produced in the course of the campaign in South Africa. One or two of these are hard to beat in dimittiveness, but the smallest newspaper in the world, having a record of several years' regular weekly issue, is published in Guadalajara, in Mexico. Its name is "E. Telegrafo." It appears every Sunday and is published in eight columns, 14 1/2 inches long and one and a half inches wide, on thick Manila paper. Its staff includes an editor and director, an administrator or business manager, the printer, and last, but by no means least, the capitalist or owner.

The French fleet is to be provided with a new quick-firing gun, said to be superior to any now in use, and an order has been given to the Ruelle works, Charente, for the supply of 100 of these cannon to the fleet before the end of the year. The gun is of 16 millimeters (6.3 inches) caliber, throws a projectile of 52 kilos (114 pounds), has a muzzle velocity of 900 meters (2,952 feet-per-second), and can be fired five times per minute. The projectile will pierce steel armor plate of 32 centimeters (12.6 inches) in thickness and of 20 centimeters (7.8 inches) up to 3,000 meters.

At the recent marriage of the Crown Prince of Japan, immense multitudes in the streets watched and applauded the bridal procession, but not a person looked out of an upper window. To the American eye and mind this seemed strange. But the Japanese explanation of it was simple. It is contrary to etiquette—indeed, to loyalty—for a Japanese to look down, either literally or figuratively, upon a member of the royal family. One smiles at the quaint conceit that would interpret the visual angle as a slight. Yet there is much that is admirable and worthy of emulation in scrupulous regard for what are esteemed duty and honor.

The Hon. Henry Copeland, who succeeds Sir Julian Salomons as agent-general for New South Wales in London, was, like the premier of New Zealand, originally a working miner. He spent years on the Ballarat goldfields in Victoria before he settled in Sydney, one of the divisions of which he represented in parliament until his recent promotion to London. In a farewell editorial a Sydney paper says of him: "A working miner he was, and a working miner he remains. He still expresses himself as of old in vigorous and unadorned Anglo-Saxon that will make Mr. Chamberlain sit up when the pair commence to negotiate on controversial colonial questions."

Dr. Andrew Gerber, a wealthy physician of Mount Joy, made a peculiar will, in which he devised to his son Christian, only one-half the income during life of one of his farms. Almost the entire residue of his estate, amounting to about \$200,000, was bequeathed to his great-grandchildren, of whom none was in existence at the time of the decedent's death. Dr. Gerber held strange religious views and believed that at the time his youngest grandchild would arrive at the age of 22 years, he (the deceased) would return to earth, and he desired his estate kept intact until that time. The will was contested and the Supreme court gave Christian Gerber absolutely all that part of the estate bequeathed to the future generations.

Sensational morganatic marriages seem to be the order of the day in the Austrian imperial family; for after those of the Countess Stephanie de Lonyay and Archduke Franz Ferdinand it now appears that the beautiful Archduchess Maria Theresa has petitioned the emperor for permission to marry her master of the household, Maj.-Gen. Count Cavriani. The archduchess, who is the widow of the Archduke Charles Louis, the emperor's brother, whose third wife she was, is a princess of Braganza, and in her 45th year. She has been a widow just four years. Curiously enough, she is the stepmother of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, who has morganatically married the Countess Sophie Chotek. The archduchess has two daughters, the Archduchesses Maria Annunziata and Elizabeth, 24 and 22 years old respectively, who, with their cousin, the emperor's granddaughter, are at present the belles of the imperial court. Count Cavriani is a fine-looking, soldierly man, slightly older than his royal fiancée.

According to the Philadelphia Record, a great deal of the paper money that is in constant circulation in America gets frequent washing. In some banks there is a regular wash-day every month, when a clerk may be seen bent over a tub rubbing notes up and down on a wash-board. The dirty greenbacks are soaped and rubbed just like handkerchiefs and socks, and are put through a wringer before being put out to dry. After the notes have been passed through the wringer they are hung on a line stretched in the bank clerks' department.

FEAR THE WORST.

London Looks for Startling News from China.

NO ASSURANCE RECEIVED FROM PEKIN

Situation More Gloomy With Every Report—Relief Forces at Tien Tsin American and Russians are Reinforced.

A Che Foo, Tuesday, June 26 dispatch says: Rear Admiral Kempff reports by a Japanese torpedo boat that the combined forces entered Tien Tsin on Saturday, June 23, sustaining small loss. They started on Sunday to relieve the force which left Tien Tsin on June 10 and which is believed to be surrounded near Pekin. According to Japanese reports Admiral Seymour has been captured and the ministers have left Pekin, guarded by Chinese soldiers. Their whereabouts is unknown.

The British cruiser Terrible, says a London June 26 dispatch, has arrived at Che Foo from Taku with the latest news, which is as follows:

Eight hundred Sikhs and 200 Welsh fusiliers have effected a junction with the American, German and Russian forces, which had been cut off by the Chinese about nine miles from Tien Tsin. It was proposed to deliver an assault upon the Chinese forces at Tien Tsin Sunday night.

It is not clear what forces united. It would seem that one relieving force, cut off, had been relieved by another. At any rate, it is apparently certain that the allies arrived in sufficient force at Tien Tsin Sunday to attack the besieging Chinese.

WANTS ARMISTICE.

Chinese Minister Urges United States to Send No More Troops.

The chief development today in the Chinese situation was the effort of the Chinese minister, Wu Ting Fang, to secure an armistice in the operation of American troops until Li Hung Chang could reach Pekin and bring about a cessation of the disorder. The proposition is rather a novel one, and is based upon the representations of the viceroys of the important provinces of the Yang Tse Kiang valley that they can maintain order without the aid of foreign troops, and that the presence of the foreigners would act merely as an incentive to disorder.

Minister Wu brought these representations to the attention of Secretary Hay, who consulted the president. The latter's decision, as subsequently presented to the minister, was that while the assurances of the viceroy for continued quiet was fully appreciated, the United States could not bind itself not to send its forces to points where disorder actually existed and where the safety of our officials and citizens were endangered. Technically speaking, in the absence of a state of war, this was not a proposition of armistice, but high government officials say that it amounted practically to an offer of armistice and a refusal on the part of the United States to make the arrangement.

Have Abandoned Warpath

A Phoenix, Ariz., dispatch says that H. F. Gill of Philadelphia, who is here from a prospecting tour in Mexico, says the Yaqui Indians have all practically abandoned the warpath. He says several hundred are still hidden in the mountains and make an occasional descent on isolated ranches. Near Tomachio on Friday last a large party raided a ranch and killed two cowboys, wounded several others and one woman. They were driven off after a hard fight.

Tornado Follows Flood.

A tornado, which originated near Blossburg, Jefferson county, Alabama, swept the country for fifteen miles westward into Walker county. Its path was a quarter of a mile wide and the greatest damage resulted around Democat, where a score of houses were wrecked and a number of persons injured more or less seriously. Crops were ruined and hundreds of trees uprooted.

World's W. C. T. U.

An Edinburgh, June 25 dispatch says: The World's Women Christian Temperance union congress reassembled today under the presidency of Mrs. Basley. The American delegates are greatly concerned at the serious illness of Mr. James Norton (principal of the Lakeview college of Chicago) at Southampton. Lady Henry Somerset and the convention sent telegrams of inquiry and sympathy today.

Nebraskan Dies in England.

A Columbus special says: News has just reached this place of the death at London, England, of Charles T. Cockson, a prominent and wealthy farmer, living seven miles south of town in Polk county, who left in May with his wife to spend several months in Europe and who is known to have been in good health up to a few days before his death.

Killed All Three.

At Granite, a new town in Greer county, Oklahoma, Cattle Inspector Jeff Gilmore, Bill Anderson, another man and a woman engaged in a game of cards. They quarreled and drew guns. Gilmore shot and killed his three assailants.

Shot Down.

Sheriff Neal Morrison was wounded and two of his deputies killed near Cloud Chief, Okla., while pursuing George Casey and a man named McKee, who had broken jail at Arapahoe.

RECEIVES FEARFUL INJURIES

Runaway Accident at Hastings May Result in Death.

A Hastings Neb., dispatch says: Mrs. Will Heffron is lying at the point of death as the result of a runaway accident and the physicians have given up all hope of her recovery. She had been out driving and was returning from the northeastern part of the city when her horse became frightened and ran away. She was thrown from the buggy, her face coming first in contact with the hard road. Her features were mangled almost beyond recognition, and she was picked up in an unconscious condition. Although the physicians have worked over her for some time, it is thought she cannot possibly live.

MURDERED BY BOXERS

Missionaries From Delaware, O., Known to Be Dead.

A Delaware, O., June 23 dispatch says: Rev. Dr. Leonard of this city, secretary of the foreign missionary society of the Methodist Episcopal church, has received semi-official news from Tien Tsin that Rev. Dr. Pyke and wife and Rev. Norman Hayner and wife, missionaries, all formerly of Delaware, have been murdered by Chinese boxers.

Getting in Trim.

The war branch of the United States government is preparing for any eventuality that may arise out of the Chinese situation. As stated by one of the highest officers of the army, the scale of preparation is of a magnitude which would both interest and surprise the public. But, he added, the information would be of even greater interest and service to any foreigner which the United States may be called upon to face within the next few weeks or months, and, for that reason, there is no purpose to make public the complete preparations making to meet whatever issue arises. All that the officials will say is that the army and the navy, if the occasion arises, will give a good account of themselves.

Oregon is Under Way.

Word has reached the navy department that the battleship Oregon got away from Hong Kong bound for Taku. This is two days ahead of her expected start. She took on 164 sailors and marines brought to Hong Kong by the Zafiro. The big ship may now have a chance to repeat her celebrated performance "around the horn," as she is being crowded for a fast run to the scene of action. The distance is about 1,500 miles, and, if she makes record time she will be at Taku in six days, about the same time that the Brooklyn arrives from Manila. These ships are the only ones going to China.

Taylor's Health Broken.

Broken in health and spirits, ex-Governor W. Taylor of Kentucky has gone to Niagara Falls. He was accompanied by Mrs. Taylor, and four detectives followed close at their heels. Two of the officers represent the state of Kentucky and bear warrants for the arrest of Mr. Taylor upon charges growing out of the assassination of Governor Goebel. The other two are employed by Mr. Taylor to guard his person.

Tornado in No Man's Land.

A tornado passed over Beaver county, formerly known as No Man's Land, says a Guthrie, Okla., dispatch. Henry Bardwell, Steve Bird and Abe Wightsman were killed and William Hammer and Paul Rhodes fatally injured. The storm swept the country for sixty miles. Hundreds of cattle were stampeded and many killed and injured. Several houses were destroyed.

Denies a Statement.

Admiral Crowninshield pronounces as untrue the reports that the gunboats Marietta, Princeton and several other ships at Manila have been ordered to Taku. There is felt to be no need for them, and, moreover, with the ships now under orders to sail Admiral Remy will have a force which is considered abundantly able to meet every possible requirement.

Charged With Statutory Rape.

Jesse George, the young man who is charged with statutory rape on a twelve-year-old girl near Lushton, Neb., recently, has been taken to York by Sheriff Lancaster and lodged in the county jail. He was apprehended near Peru. The case will be heard July 2, and in default of giving \$800 bond, the young man was placed in jail.

Orders to Kill.

A Shanghai dispatch says: It is officially said that the dowager empress has issued emphatic instructions for the extermination of all foreigners in China. Large numbers of refugees are arriving here from the north. All is quiet here and in the Yang Tse Kiang valley.

Evans Not to Resign.

A letter has been received by the Chattanooga, Tenn., News from Commissioner of Pensions Evans in which he denies the story published several days ago to the effect that he would resign as pension commissioner and run for congress.

Rebels Are Well Armed.

Oriental advices by the steamer Tartar, state that according to a Canton, China, correspondent, a rebellion is expected to break out in Kwan Tuan province at any time. Enormous quantities of Mauser rifles and quick firing guns have been smuggled in and it is said that 2,000 troops may be put in the field. Viceroy Li Hung Chang is attempting to nip the rebellion in the bud, but so far has been unable to do so. Thousands of discontented people are said to be rallying to the black flags of the rebel chieftains.

WILL SEND AN ARMY

United States Must Bear Its Part in China.

GENERAL CHAFFEE TO TAKE COMMAND

Adequate Military Force—Orders Issued Instruct Him to Go Direct to Pekin

—Relief of Tien Tsin the Only News at Washington.

A Washington, June 26, dispatch says: The purpose of the government to place an adequate military force in China was made perfectly clear today when orders were issued to Brigadier General Adna R. Chaffee to take command of the forces in China and to proceed at once to assume his new duties. More significant, probably, than the assignment itself was the wording of the formal orders to General Chaffee, issued late in the day by Acting Secretary of War Meiklejohn, directing him "to take command of the troops ordered to China," and to proceed to Pekin by way of San Francisco and Taku, accompanied by his aides. It has been expected that the military forces would be concentrated at Che Foo or some other convenient military base, but the direction to proceed to Pekin, the capital of the Chinese empire, indicated a firm determination on the part of the government authorities to have a strong military force at the capital of the Chinese government. The announcement of General Chaffee's assignment, and the orders to proceed to Pekin, came after the state department had declined to accede to a second proposition from six great viceroys of China that foreign troops be kept out of China until Li Hung Chang reaches Pekin.

Secretary Long received nothing during the day beyond the early dispatch from Admiral Kempff stating that the combined forces had entered Tien Tsin and that the Seymour expedition was reported ten miles from Tien Tsin, surrounded. This cleared up one situation only to present another condition which may prove even more grave.

General Chaffee who is staying at the Arlington hotel, was given a serenade tonight by the Third cavalry band, of which regiment he was lieutenant colonel before the war with Spain. The general said tonight he would leave the city tomorrow morning for San Francisco, whence he is to sail on the transport Grant for Japan and China. Beyond this definite news in regard to sending a force to China, the only news of importance is contained in dispatches confirmatory of the relief of Tien Tsin, and that the Pekin expedition is ten miles from Tien Tsin, surrounded.

Dewey Cannon Unveiling.

The programme for the ceremonies connected with the unveiling of the Dewey cannon at Three Oaks, Mich., is substantially complete. The address of welcome on behalf of the state of Michigan will be delivered by General R. A. Alger, and the oration of the day by William Barton, D. D., of Chicago, on the theme "The Victories of Peace and of War." The unveiling of the Dewey cannon will be performed by Miss Helen Miller Gould.

Want to Parade.

Adjutant General Barry is kept busy granting permission to national guardsmen to take part in Fourth of July celebrations. Recently Company A, Second regiment, with headquarters at Kearney, and Company C, First regiment, Beatrice, were given permission to parade with arms and participate in Fourth of July celebrations. One or two companies of the guard will take part in sham battles and the state will furnish blank cartridges.

Losses Fifty-five Thousand Dollars.

H. K. Duffield, Chicago board of trade broker, was robbed of \$55,000 while riding on a Cottage Grove avenue cable car. The money was in bonds, mining stock and deeds, which Mr. Duffield was taking to the bank. The robbery is credited to professional pickpockets, who, it is believed, have been watching board of trade men on the big bulge in wheat. Mr. Duffield could give the police no clew.

Complaint to Governor.

Governor Poynter has received a complaint from Wolbach, Greeley county, that persons there were killing whole coveys of young prairie chickens. The governor cannot take action, further than to send copies of the state law to the interested people. The open season for killing prairie chickens is from September 1 to January 1, and the fine for killing outside the open season is \$5 for each bird slaughtered.

Brooklyn Going to Taku.

The United States armored cruiser Brooklyn with 300 marines from Cavite has sailed for Nagasaki, where she will coal, and from which place she will go to Taku. Col. Robert I. Meade is in command of the marines. The U. S. transport Logan, with the Ninth infantry, and the United States gunboat Princeton will follow.

China Makes Formal Request.

In more formal manner, with the signatures of six viceroys representing the greater part of the empire, Minister Wu repeated Tuesday his plea of the previous day that the foreign troops be kept out of the country. Secretary Hay laid the formal request of the viceroys before the cabinet meeting, but there was no disposition to vary from the president's determination, already made public by Secretary Hay to the Chinese minister, to send our forces to such points as were menaced and where our officials and citizens were in danger.

SHOOTS HIS BROTHER DEAD

News Brought to Wymore, Neb., of a Kansas Tragedy.

Jake Baker shot and killed his brother, Pete Baker, at the home of the latter in Hanover, Kas., and after seeing the result of his deadly aim turned the weapon on himself and would have taken his own life had not his wife and the wife of the murdered man stopped him. He then walked across the street and gave himself up to an officer. The story of the shooting and the trouble which led up to it, as told is to the effect that the two brothers were running a beer stand at a Sunday picnic near Hanover and that sometime during the day Pete became intoxicated and had a fight. Later the two brothers and their wives, who are sisters, were at Pete's home settling up the day's business, when Jake made the remark that the only thing to mar the pleasure of the picnic was the fight Pete had. This remark is said to have angered Pete, who was still under the influence of liquor, and he attacked his brother and finally put him under a table. Jake tried to get out, but was put back, and told by Pete that he would kill him if he came out, but Jake was too quick and jumping out from under the table he grabbed a gun and shot his brother twice, killing him instantly. The coroner's jury exonerated Jake Baker, the shooting being in self-defense.

BREAKING THROUGH A NET

Boers Playing a Lively Game of Hide and Seek.

A London dispatch says: Lord Roberts' six columns are converging apparently so as to close in upon the Free Staters, although decisive results cannot be expected for several days.

A number of Boers who were supposed to be within the wide-flung net have broken or rather stolen through General Ruddle's Ficksburg-Semelal lines. The Canadians were engaged in the Honingspruit fight last Friday. General Dewet's men cut off a Canadian outpost of mounted rifles at dawn, two being killed. Lieutenant Trigilis and four others were wounded and three were captured. The Free Staters then attacked the camp, where were fifty Canadians and two companies of Shropshires, though without much effect; as the men were well entrenched.

DOUBLE TRAGEDY AT OMAHA

German Carpenter Kills His Wife and Commits Suicide.

John Stumfmaier, a German carpenter, living in the extreme southern part of Omaha, Neb., shot and mortally wounded his wife and killed himself in their home. The tragedy was the culmination of a night's quarrel over domestic affairs. After shooting his wife Stumfmaier lighted a match and stood over her prostrate body to assure himself that she was dead. Enraged by the sight of his twelve-year-old son sobbing upon the neck of his dying mother, Stumfmaier kicked the boy off the porch and out into the street and then going into the house shot himself through the left eye, dying instantly. The woman was taken to St. Joseph's hospital in a dying condition.

TAKES THE LIFE OF HER SON

Widow at Chicago Attempts to Die With Him.

Myra Conkling, a widow, living on Belden avenue, Chicago, took the life of her nine-year-old son, John, at their home, and then attempted her own life. After stopping up all the crevices and cracks in the room in which her boy slept, she turned on the gas and lay down on the bed near him to die. Before the deadly vapor had taken her life neighbors found her. She was taken out into the air and revived. Her son was dead.

LIFT FOR STATE GUARD

Steps Taken to Draw Share of One Million Dollars.

The preliminary steps were taken Tuesday to secure for the Nebraska national guard its share of the \$1,000,000 annual appropriation recently made by an act of congress. Adjutant General Barry certified to Adjutant General H. C. Corbin the number of men in the guard in the state, and in due time over \$17,000 worth of supplies and equipment will be drawn annually for the benefit of the guard.

LOOK FOR EARLY RELIEF

British Central African Force Leaves for Ashanti.

The British government has received dispatches from Ashanti indicating that the relief of Kumassi should be accomplished this week. About 850 men of the British central African native forces sailed June 22 for Ashanti, where they will be employed to quell the rising. This is the first time that British Central Africa has been called upon to partake in the responsibilities of the empire.

Paying off Indebtedness.

State Treasurer Schamber of South Dakota will send out draft for \$95,000 to take up bonds not due for ten years. This will leave a bonded indebtedness for the state of \$913,000.

Knights of St. John.

The twenty-second international convention of the Knights of St. John has begun at Philadelphia with several hundred knights in attendance. Mass was celebrated at the cathedral and the delegates then proceeded to Odd Fellows' temple, where the convention was called to order by Chas. W. Naulty, Mayor Ashbridge extended the hospitality of the city to the visiting knights. In the parade 900 members of the organization participated.

A Glorious Fourth will be celebrated in grand style at Plainview this year.

RUMOR OF BIG MASSACRE

Fifteen Hundred Foreigners Reported to Have Been Murdered.

A London, June 23 dispatch says: The silence of Pekin continues unbroken. Four thousand men of the allied forces were having sharp defensive fighting at Tien Tsin Tuesday and Wednesday, with a prospect of being reinforced Thursday. This is the situation in China as set forth in the British government dispatches.

"Eight hundred Americans are taking part in the fighting at Tien Tsin," says the Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Express, cabling last evening, "and they apparently form a part of a supplementary force, arriving with Germans and British after the conflict started. It is impossible to estimate the number of Chinese there, but they had a surprising number of guns."

This information appears to have been brought by the United States gunboat Nashville to Che Foo and telegraphed thence to Shanghai. The Shanghai dispatch says: It is reported from Japanese sources that 1,500 foreigners have been massacred at Tien Tsin.

Report of Massacre Doubted.

The apprehension as to the fate of the Europeans cut off at Tien Tsin have been sharpened by Admiral Kempff's message, says a Washington dispatch, which was the first definite announcement of the bombardment and destruction of the foreign concessions. But, in spite of Shanghai's grim statement, that the Chinese used forty-pounders, and that 1,500 foreigners were massacred, there is no reason to conclude that the foreign colony has been unable to protect itself. A Shanghai dispatch reports that Tien Tsin was bombarded for two days, that the casualties were 100; that 5,000 international troops are there, and that now that the allied commanders at Taku are hastily pushing forward a relief column it is hoped the worst apprehensions will soon be dispelled.

WHEAT CROP RUINED

Northwest Crop in Bad Shape—Blowing Up Whole Fields.

A Duluth, Minn., special says: Oliver Dalrymple, the big wheat grower of North Dakota, says,

"I am of the opinion that two-thirds of the spring wheat crop is killed beyond redemption. The Grandin farm is running sixty plows in the wheat fields. I shall start plows tomorrow and nearly all spring wheat farmers will be plowing under wheat next week unless heavy rains come."

A Chicago, June 22 dispatch says: The Times-Herald tomorrow will publish a crop report prepared by Snow, the crop expert who has completed a two weeks' trip through the states of Minnesota, North and South Dakota. He declares the situation a national calamity and claims the wheat failure there is the worst ever known. He estimates the Dakotas as promising only 20,000,000 bushels each and Minnesota 35,000,000 bushels, a total of 75,000,000, against 200,000,000 bushels last year and 225,000,000 bushels in 1898.

MUCH DAMAGE DONE

Furious Hail Storm in and Around Sioux City, Iowa.

A Sioux City, Ia., dispatch says: By a hail storm which passed over this city, but which reached its worst a few miles east of here, 75 per cent of the crop of small grain and corn was destroyed in the district where the storm was most severe.

C. E. Finney, a workman at the Younglove ranch, had two ribs broken by the force of hail. Another workman had his face pounded almost to a pulp. The ten-year-old daughter of Clem Martin, a farmer residing near Merville, got caught in the storm on her way from school and was bruised so badly by the large stones that it is feared she will die. At Crit Bush's farm six pigs and a number of chickens were killed at different places. Horses and cattle were knocked down by the force of the hail.

FIRE AT SOUTH OMAHA

Warehouse and Two Cottages Totally Consumed.

Fire totally destroyed the feed warehouse of Arthur A. Rusland and two cottages belonging to Frank Shilahan at Twenty-fourth and Q streets, South Omaha. The total loss will be in the neighborhood of \$7,000. It was about 4 o'clock when fire was discovered in the Rusford warehouse and a telephone alarm sent in.

Shot During Labor Row.

During a labor row at the Ogden Gas company's plant at Chicago, Gus Ponokomin, a contractor, was shot and seriously wounded by James Collins, a negro. Collins, a non-union man, was set upon by strikers and began shooting at his assailants. Ponokomin, who happened to be passing and had no hand in the trouble, received a bullet intended for one of the strikers. Collins was arrested.

Thinks He Will Surrender.

General MacArthur will soon formally announce President McKinley's order of amnesty. Buenavista Paterno and other prominent Filipino leaders are greatly pleased, as they believe that under the amnesty they can bring about the surrender of Aguinaldo.

Shorts See Their Danger.

On the New York cotton exchange shorts were driven to cover by reports of bad crop conditions in the south. Prices were 24 to 52 points higher at the close.