

THE HERALD.

EXTERMINATING GRASSHOPPERS.

[From the Omaha Republican.]

PROF. RILEY'S VIEWS.

In closing our report of the conference in this city upon the grasshopper question, the views of Prof. C. V. Riley, state entomologist of Missouri, who undoubtedly stands at the head of the list in scientific research in the insect kingdom, in this country, will be of general interest.

REMEDIES AGAINST THE UNFLEDGED GRASSHOPPERS.

The means to be employed against the ravages of this insect in the more fertile country subject to its periodical visitation, but in which it is not indigenous, may be classed under five heads: 1. Natural agencies. 2. Artificial means of destroying the unfledged young. 3. Remedies against the matured or winged insects. 4. Prevention. Having considered these measures for a year, I shall treat here principally of the second, third and fifth, bringing together the most valuable experiences of the year.

Artificial Means of Destroying the Eggs.

The fact that man can accomplish most in his warfare against locusts by destroying the eggs has long been recognized by European and Asiatic governments liable to suffer from the insects. The eggs are laid in masses just below the surface of the ground, seldom to a greater depth than an inch, and high, dry ground is preferred for that purpose. Any soil that is not so completely filled with these egg masses that not a spoon full of the soil can be turned up without exposing them, and harrowing or shallow plowing will cause the surface to look quite whitish as the masses break up and bleach from exposure to the atmosphere.

The most important results are likely to flow from a thorough study of the Rocky Mountain locust in its native haunts and breeding places. By learning just when and how to strike the insect, so as to prevent its undue multiplication there—whether by some more extensive system of irrigation, based on improved knowledge of the topography and water supply of the country, or by other means of destroying the eggs—we may hope to protect the fertile states to the east from future calamity.

One of the best means of checking the increase of the species in its native haunts, will be found in the encouragement and increase of its natural enemies, especially the game birds, and the example of Kansas should be followed in enacting stringent laws for their protection. The introduction of the English sparrow has been advised. From what I know of the bird both here and in its native country, I should expect little aid from it in this line, and if it can thrive to the northwest, it will soon spread there, as it is rapidly multiplying at several points along the Mississippi. We may expect more good from the encouragement of native locust-feeding species. Prof. Thomas has suggested that inducements be offered to the Indians to destroy the eggs and young along the west side of the plateau. Some systems of preventing the extensive prairie fires in the fall that are common in the country where the insect naturally breeds, and then subsequently firing the country in the spring, so that the young locusts, and before the young grass gets too rank, might also be adopted. But whatever the means employed, they must be carried out systematically and on a sufficiently extended and comprehensive scale.

TELEGRAPHIC!

FROM THE EASTERN WAR.

Affairs in Cuba.—Crop Statistics, etc.

St. Petersburg, Nov. 2.

An official telegram received here from General Ignatieff, announces that the Czar has accepted a two months' armistice, beginning Nov. 1, and has ordered immediate cessation of hostilities.

Belgrade, Nov. 2.

It is officially announced that both armies will retain the positions they now hold.

London, Nov. 3.

The Post publishes in an official form the following paragraph: "Turkey having accepted the armistice, we understand Russia has taken immediate steps to press forward negotiations for the arrangement of all pending questions on the basis of the English proposals."

The Post also states that official investigation shows that only 4,100 persons were killed by the Turks in Bulgaria.

A telegram from Constantinople says it is believed that a conference will assemble shortly.

A dispatch to the Standard from Paris and one to the Daily Telegraph from Constantinople also state that a conference will be held, and add that a representative of the Porte will be admitted to it by some such compromise as that described by the London Post of Oct. 31, according to which the six powers will deliberate on terms, and the Turkish representatives will only take a seat when results are declared.

Havana, Nov. 2.

A battalion of troops, 1,000 strong arrived from Spain yesterday. A cable dispatch from Barcelona, Spain, to Captain General Jovellar, announced the establishment there of a colonial bank, which promises all the necessary financial resources for suppressing the insurrection.

Foundations in the interior of the island are reported, which have caused great damage in some of the ricest districts.

London, Nov. 3.

A Vienna correspondent of the Times announces that Montenegro has accepted armistice on the same terms as Serbia.

Washington, Nov. 3.

The digest of crop returns for October, as prepared at the department of agriculture, indicates a reduction in the yield of the wheat crop of one-fifth, while the quality is somewhat superior. Every section of the union indicates a reduced product except the middle states. Figures point to a yield of one hundred and forty-five million bushels. Rye is reported four million less than in 1875, but the quality is better. Barley, 6 per cent less than last year. Buckwheat, full average. Oats show a falling off of 2 per cent. Every section of the union is deficient. The corn crop is deficient, but figures are not yet obtained. The cotton crop will be large, and likely to approach the heavy yield of 1875.

Salt Lake, Utah, Nov. 2.

A report from Camp Stambaugh, Wyoming, says a village of 50 lodges of Shoshones was attacked, Oct. 25, by a large Sioux war party, estimated at 1,200 lodges, at Painted Rock, near the scene of Capt. Bates' fight in July, 1874, and about ninety miles from Camp Stambaugh. As far as learned only one Shoshone, by the name of "Humpty," escaped. He was the Indian that saved the life of Captain Henry, in Crook's second fight this summer.

The Official Returns in Colorado.

We have from the Denver Tribune particulars of the results of the official canvass by the state board, consisting of Secretary Feltz, Mr. L. Q. Charles, and Mr. F. Z. Solomon. The board examined the notes passed for representative in congress, for judges of the supreme court, for district judges and attorneys, and for both houses of the Legislature. The democrats have seven members of senate and the republicans nineteen; the house has thirty-one republicans and eight democrats, making a joint ballot fifty republicans and twenty-five democrats. The total vote for state senators was 28,492. Of these 15,218 were republican and 13,274 democratic, republican majority 1,944. This may be taken as a representative vote. Judge Belford's majority over Patterson for the forty-fourth congress was 1,028. For the forty-fifth it was 939.

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[Letter from a Minister.]

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