

THE CHINCH BUG. The United States department of agriculture has in press and will soon issue Bulletin No. 15, new series, division of entomology, entitled "The Chinch bug: Its Probable Origin and Diffusion, Its Habits and Development, Natural Checks and Remedial and Preventive Measures, with Mention of the Habits of an Allied European Species."

It was prepared, under the direction of the entomologist, by F. M. Webster, entomologist of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment station.

The chinch bug is one of the most destructive insects with which the American farmer has to contend, and the department receives many requests for information about it. This bulletin is intended to meet this demand and gives many new facts concerning the life history and distribution of the species, and the whole subject of the practical handling of its diseases in order to assist in its destruction is treated at length.

It says few insects have caused such pecuniary losses as the chinch bug, and no other insect native to the Western hemisphere has spread its devastating hordes over a wider area of country with more fatal effect to the staple grains of North America. It is widely distributed over the world and hibernates in the adult stage. It is of gregarious habits and migrates in spring, summer, and autumn.

When and where it lays its eggs, the period of incubation, the different stages of development, the development and habits of the young, annual generations, and food plants are covered by the bulletin.

It treats of the influence of precipitation and temperature on the insect; its natural enemies; remedial and preventive measures; and describes the true and false chinch bugs.

The bulletin states that it would appear that this pest first made its presence known in this country in North Carolina in 1783, and mentions several serious outbreaks of the bug in the West, the estimated losses from its ravages from 1850 to 1887 reaching \$267,000,000. It also says that it is believed that the losses up to 1898 amounted to fully \$330,000,000.

The bulletin contains nineteen illustrations, including maps, showing areas infested by the chinch bug and probable course of its diffusion over North America.

SEEDSMEN. There is a great and constantly growing area of land in Nebraska and other states cultivated by seedsmen. The crops of cucumber, onion, radish, beans, peas, muskmelon and other seeds matured each year on the commercial seed plantations in the American union aggregate a value of many millions of dollars. As a rule the seed growers of this country are honest, en-

terprising and highly respectable men. But each year they meet, as their competitors, congressmen and senators who, at government expense, gratuitously distribute among a small per cent of their constituents a few hundred tons of seeds. The packets contain about one cent's worth of seeds. The packages contain five packets. The voter who is tickled with five cents' worth of garden seeds and rejoices at being so well remembered by the statesman who sends them is too simple to be allowed any part in a self-respecting government of the people by the people for the people.

Among many hoary humbugs in this form of government not one is so markedly a development of senile dementia. No other perpetrates more injustice and nourishes more favoritism.

GROWTH AND DECADENCE OF STATES.

"In the youth of a state, arms do flourish; in the middle age of a state, learning; and then both of them together for a time; in the declining age of a state, mechanical arts and merchandise." So said Lord Bacon. If the Baconian philosophy is as true as my lord undoubtedly believed it to be, is not decadence in our own country already begun through the progress of the mechanical arts and an astonishing expansion of merchandise? Lord Bacon further says:

"Upon the breaking and shivering of a great state and empire, you may be sure to have wars; for great empires, while they stand, do enervate and destroy the forces of the natives which they have subdued, resting upon their own protecting forces; and then, when they fall also all goes to ruin, and they become a prey; so was it in the decay of the Roman empire, and likewise in the Empire of Almaine (Germany) after Charles the Great, every bird taking a feather; and *were not unlike to befall Spain, if it should break.*"

UNTRAINED FARMS.

We hear and read much of the value of untrained, standard-bred trotting horses—horses to which have been transmitted by a long line of speedy ancestry the right in form, limb, lungs and courage, to make fast time. The value of these untested animals is in the fact that they are race products and invariably born with a capability for speed which training, in a proper manner, will bring out.

Nebraska has vast areas of land which contain plant-food in abundance and are opulent with fertility. Upon these areas are found many so-called farms, where domicile, barn, shed, fence, falling-to-pieces-in-the-field hay rakes, mowing machines, plows, harrows and reapers, all attest that though well-soiled the farm is untrained. Dilapidation and decay are stamped upon every hedge, tree, fence and shanty. And

these untrained farms in Nebraska are the ones which will and must change hands. Men who read and think and work efficiently can succeed in farming. Shiftless, listless, dreaming, gregarious men who rely upon organized visionaries, such as sometimes read essays and make orations before alliances, institutes and granges, will not, can not succeed as tillers of the best soil even in all the world. They cannot train and develop a farm.

DOLLARS.

The gold democrats of Nebraska and all the other states have voted against fusion and the money fallacies because they believed that confusion to commerce, manufacture and agriculture would inevitably result from a debasement of the standard of value.

Gold democrats everywhere believe in the gold standard and the gold dollar as the safest and most satisfactory basis for domestic and foreign trade.

Such dollars, gold dollars, are, by the defeat of the sixteen-to-one fusionists, illusionists, delusionists and confusionists, established as *the measuring dollars* of the United States forever, *provided*, the republican administration of McKinley, which, after the 4th of March, 1899—has both the senate and the house to sustain it—fairly and faithfully, with courage, redeems its promises to establish still more firmly the gold standard for this republic!

MONETARY REFORM.

The republicans now have the legislative and executive branches of the federal government in their charge and keeping. The republicans are pledged to the reform of the monetary system of the United States and to the maintenance of the gold standard. Upon the fidelity with which the republicans redeem their platform promises to the people depends the prosperity of the country and the solidity of its good name and credit. The house of representatives and the senate on and after March 4, 1899, will be ruled by republican majorities. Will President McKinley convene congress in extra session soon after that date for the purpose of retiring the greenbacks and giving the republic a safe and practical system of banking and currency?

DEMOCRATS AND POPULISTS.

The populists in Nebraska took sixteen nominations on the state and congressional tickets and gave the democrats one—a very little one—so small as not possible to be very wicked—Smythee!

It is said that some European writers have suggested that we adopt the tobacco-blossom as our national flower. And the spittoon as our national tune, isn't that it? Altogether it sounds like too old a joke for the year 1898.