

WINTER WHEAT. A recent visitor from Iowa to our state discussed our successes in producing winter wheat by the light of alleged failure in his own. He seemed desirous of ascertaining something about what causes success with this grain in Nebraska and failure with it in Iowa. If the fact is what the gentleman from Iowa stated it to be the question is of interest to the people of both states, especially to those of our great sister state on the other side of the river which flows between and marks the boundaries which separate them. The two states are practically in the same latitude. They are blessed with the same climate. Rainfall is certainly no less, and it is believed to be more in a given season in Iowa than it is in Nebraska. The winds and snows and changes in temperature are virtually the same in one as in the other. There can be no great difference in their respective fertility of soils. Why, then, should not winter wheat prosper in Iowa as it does in Nebraska? Assuming that the method of sowing and choice of seed are the same in each, what answer can be given to this question? Refusing to give any positive answer to it perhaps a suggestion may lead to further inquiry, and to a satisfactory solution of an important problem.

Not many weeks ago **THE CONSERVATIVE**, in an article on winter wheat culture in this state, made passing mention of the fact that, with the advent of irrigation in Colorado many years ago, a high grade of flour made from its wheat grain found its way for a time into our local markets. It was held to be superior in color and quality to the article of that day which came to us from the eastward. The view was intimated that the superiority may have depended upon the fact that the granite wash from the Rocky mountains furnished a better pabulum for the grain than can be found in other soils. This granite wash, it was hinted, permeates all the soils of the state from the foothills of the mountains to the Missouri river, which offers a perfect barrier to its deposits in the states east of it. Perhaps some of the students of the science of geology and agriculture may be able to tell us the truth about this theory of a possible answer to the question which this article puts in a speculative form.

CORN. Corn and wheat are two very different things in the American farmer's vocabulary, but at an earlier day, and in England down to the present time, the two words have been used almost interchangeably. Wheat always meant wheat, and corn meant any kind of grain used for food; but as wheat was the grain chiefly used for that purpose, when the English and the first American settlers said corn, they usually

meant wheat. This is why the legislation concerning the food supply of Great Britain, which caused much disturbance a hundred years ago, was called the Corn Laws; a thing that used greatly to puzzle young students of English history.

The American pioneers found the natives raising maize exclusively; they had cultivated it for a great length of time, as appears from ears found in prehistoric graves, put there for the consumption of departed red men, who probably found it, however, too hard for their spiritual teeth; little runty nubbins with half a dozen rows of round bluish kernels to a cob. This being the food cereal of the aborigines was called by the settlers the Indians' corn, and as it soon assumed first-rate importance as a crop, it was presently called corn pure and simple, the name that now prevails universally on this side of the water. Writers and travelers of two hundred years ago, however, sometimes speak of "maize, or Indian corn" on one page and "maize, or Indian wheat" on the next.

STUMP WISDOM. A careless swinger of the axe cut down a splendid tree so that he might rob a squirrel's nest of its young when the monarch of the forests fell. And the next day he found written upon the stump these lines:

"What nature reared by centuries of toil,
A scallawag in half a day can spoil;
An equal fate for him may Heaven provide—
Dammed in the moment of his tallest pride."

YEN. On Monday morning, February 27, 1899, in the city of San Francisco, California, the editor of **THE CONSERVATIVE** received the following letter and the two coins therein referred to, from his faithful friend, of many years, John P. Irish, than whom there is no more logical writer and eloquent speaker, in behalf of sane money, and sound economics in general, anywhere in the United States.

This short but comprehensive epistle is commended to the consideration of those citizens who have contended that the fiat of government is the sole factor of value in metallic and other currency.

If the deadlock in the senatorial struggle of California could be released by the election of John P. Irish the country at large would be benefitted, the Pacific slope highly honored and a better and broader character of statesmanship would enlighten the United States senate.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feby. 27, 1899.

MY DEAR MORTON:

Here is a Japanese yen and a Mexican dollar (8 real). Each has in it more silver than an American silver dollar, but I bought them both at a broker's shop here for an American dollar and got 5 cents change. If the gold dollar is taken from behind the silver dollar, with or

without the consent of other nations, one of these coins will ask for the change in the exchange. Truly,

JOHN P. IRISH.

NORTH AND SOUTH RAILROAD LINES.

For many years the movement of freight in this country has been East and West and a careful examination will recall the fact that the great east and west trunk lines have spent millions of dollars in putting their lines in shape so that traffic might be moved with the greatest economy. Traffic can undoubtedly be handled cheaper in these directions because of these great expenditures and because the movement of merchandise is from the East to the West thereby furnishing return loads to the carriers, but the day is not far distant when the movement of the produce of this section of the country will be southward. The distance from Central Kansas to the Gulf port of Galveston is the same as to Chicago and the latter market is 1,000 miles from tidewater.

If we had free trade with all the nations of the earth Galveston and New Orleans would soon become great distributing centers and could then supply return loads to the railroads leading South. Until then the rates will approximate some higher North and South than they do East and West, but it is only a question of time before all exports from west of and on the Missouri river will move southward instead of eastward. Coming events cast their shadows before them and already the rates to the East have been materially reduced as against the inroads of the roads to the South and still a large proportion of the export grain movement continues gulfwards.

An annihilation of one thousand miles of inland space in reaching Europe with the products of Nebraska and Kansas ought to be beneficial to either the Western farmer or the European consumer. Possibly the benefits are divided.

THE ANGLO-SAXONS. The breed to which the name of Anglo-Saxon is, by

an odd freak of language, now almost universally applied, was thus described by an English writer in the year 1701:

"These are the heroes that despise the Dutch,
And rail at new-come foreigners so much;
Forgetting that themselves are all derived
From the most scoundrel race that ever lived;
A horrid crowd of rambling thieves and drones
Who ransacked kingdoms and dispeopled
towns;

The Piet and painted Briton, treach'rous Scot,
By hunger, theft and rapine, hither brought;
Norwegian pirates, buccaneering Danes,
Whose red-hair'd offspring everywhere re-
mains;

Who, join'd with Norman French, compound
the breed

From whence your true-born Englishmen pro-
ceed.

From this amphibious, ill-born mob began,
That vain ill-natured thing, an Englishman."