

## FRESH FROM THE WIRES

### A BUDGET OF VALUABLE AND INTERESTING INFORMATION.

Kansas Corn in Better Condition than Last Year—Rifling the United States Mails—A Mob Attacks the American Minister's Residence.

[Topeka (Kan.) special.]

The Hon. Martin Mohler, Secretary of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, has submitted his report for the month of August. In view of the fact that irresponsible reports have been circulated as to the total failure of crops in Western Kansas and of a consequent alarming exodus from that section of the State, this report of Mr. Mohler's will be read with an unusual degree of interest. He says:

While crops have been greatly damaged in certain localities in Middle and Western Kansas there will be sufficient crops harvested to supply the wants of the settlers. For the longest report which I have seen, corresponds for the most part only in relation to corn. The questions submitted were: First, what proportion of the area planted will be harvested? Second, what is the estimated product per acre of corn on the acreage harvested? Third, does listed corn show any better results than that put in with planter? If so, what per cent? Nearly 600 correspondents, representing about every county in the State, have responded to the above questions, and the following facts in regard to this important crop:

First, that the total area planted to corn in our State 74 per cent is considered worth harvesting; that in the eastern portion of the State, as far west in the north tier of the counties as Republic County and east of a line bearing eastward to Chautauqua County, on the south line of the State, the corn area will nearly all be harvested, and, with the exception of a few counties, will be a full average crop. In some counties the yield will be much above an average of 35 bushels per acre, and nearly all the way north of the Kansas River within the prescribed limits, report from forty to fifty bushels per acre. Many counties south of the Kansas River also report a high average down to the second tier of counties from the south line of the State. These counties, with the exception of Chautauqua and Elk, report a considerably lower average. A belt of territory from Jewell and Smith Counties on the north, stretching southward and bearing eastward to the south line of the State, with Ellsworth County as a center, seems to be the westward limit of the State. West of this great central belt, in which the corn is generally raised, there are in nearly all the counties belts of territory in which there is some good corn, with large intervening belts in which there is no corn. Even Hamilton County—a county bordering on the Colorado line in the southwest—has good corn, a sample of which was brought in a few days ago. The north half of all the counties in the north tier, and the south half of the same tier have fairly good corn, while the intervening belt, over thirty miles in width, has but little. The average yield per acre on the acreage worth harvesting is estimated at twenty-eight bushels.

The total area planted to corn in the spring, as shown by assessors' returns, is 6,070,070 acres; 74 per cent of this, or 5,157,780 acres, is reported as worth harvesting. The estimated average yield per acre on this gives a total corn product for the State of 14,427,840 bushels, which is almost double the product of last year and 15,417,000 bushels, the total product of 1882, but is less by 16,454,840 bushels than the product of 1884, which was the greatest in the history of Kansas. Many, however, have had an excellent crop of wheat and a fair crop of oats, and all will have an abundance of feed for stock in corn, millet, sorghum, and hay, so that the situation is an improvement on that of last year.

### ROBBING THE MAILS.

#### Many Valuable Letters Lost Between New York and the West.

[New York special.]

It can be seen at a positive fact that a thief or a gang of thieves has been stealing systematically from the United States mails between New York City and the West during the last three months. Never in the history of the Postoffice Department have so many valuable money packages and letters been stolen as during the last few weeks. The officers of the post-office have been reticent about making known the extent of the losses. Whenever it has leaked out that a large package was lost, those in charge of the postoffice have kept the information from the public. Nothing has been heard of the three \$5,000 drafts made by Blake Bros. & Co. of New York, which have failed to reach their destination in Chicago. Besides the Blake notes, other letters, containing money, checks, and drafts, mailed about the same time, are reported as having failed to reach their destination. The losses will amount to thousands of dollars. A well-known man, connected with the Postoffice Department in Washington, says that if the losses of the last two months were known, the public would be startled. "We don't care," said the man. "You will hear of more losses of packages and letters in a short time. There are some crooks at work who are reaping a rich harvest from the mail bags, but it will be a hard matter to run them down, because they do not confine their operations to one locality."

### RIOTING CHINESE.

#### The American Minister's Residence Attacked—The Immigration Treaty.

[Shanghai special telegram.]

It is still hoped that the immigration treaty with America will be ratified in a modified form. The discussion of the question has caused great excitement. There have been several riotous demonstrations. A mob, incensed at the American Minister, attacked the American official residence at Canton. The American Consul in Canton is Charles Seymour, of La Crosse, Wis. He was appointed in 1882 by President Arthur and has held the post continuously since. At last accounts his wife was in Canton with him. For some years previous to his appointment he was Postmaster in La Crosse, and for fifteen years at a still earlier period was editor of the *La Crosse Republican*. He figured prominently in Wisconsin politics and is widely known in the Northwest.

### MOURNED BY THREE WIVES.

#### Gen. Horace S. Elbridge Passes Away at Salt Lake.

[Salt Lake (Utah) special.]

Gen. Horace S. Elbridge, Superintendent of Zion's Co-operative Merchantile Institution, which does a business of \$5,000,000 annually, died in the city, aged 72 years. He was appointed Brigadier General of militia in 1860 by Brigham Young, was a member of the Territorial Legislature in 1855, and has held many other county and Territorial offices. He joined the Mormon Church fifty-two years ago, and has ever since been a staunch adherent of the faith. He amassed considerable wealth during his long business career and owned much real estate and live stock throughout the Territory. He had five wives, three of whom, together with a large posterity, mourn his loss.

### AFGHANS REVOLT.

#### A Civil War a Proclaimed.

A St. Petersburg telegram states that the Novo Vremya has a dispatch to the effect that the Northern Afghans have revolted and proclaimed Iskak Khan Amear. A battle has taken place, the result of which is not known. The paper says it believes a civil war will complicate Abdurrahman Khan's relations with his neighbors unless it be promptly suppressed, and it doubts if this will be accomplished.

The African lakes expedition, under the command of Capt. Lugard, had a fight with African slave dealers in the Nyassa district about June 16. A European attached to the expedition and several black allies were killed. Capt. Lugard was wounded. The Arab losses are unknown. It is believed the Arabs retained their position.

## WALLA WALLA VALLEY.

### A Region Famous for Wheat, Fruits, and Garden Products.

WALLA WALLA, Wash. Ter., Sept. 5, 1888. This city is one of the oldest, and best known in the Pacific Northwest, but being off the main lines of the Northern and Union Pacific Railways, with both of which, however, it has branch connections through the Oregon Railroad and Navigation system, has often given the go-by because the traveler dislikes to take a change as long as his ticket holds out and the train goes on. A new road, due here under contract by Jan. 1, 1889, however, will bring closer traffic arrangements with the Northern Pacific to Pullman and the East, a project to which the citizens gave a bonus of \$100,000. The outlook, too, is good for the Manitoba Road, which next year is to be extended to the coast, coming from Butte, Montana, through Lola Pass, in the Rockies, through Clearwater, in Idaho, thence into the Palouse country, and to the Walla Walla valley.

According to the Government monument in the court yard, Walla Walla is in latitude 45 degrees 3 minutes 55 seconds north, and longitude 41 degrees 17 minutes and 7 seconds west from Washington, or 118 degrees west of Greenwich. The city was laid out on a liberal scale, with broad streets, the residence portion being embowered in shade trees. There are many pretty homes and substantial stores and public buildings, and the whole looks well, solid and wealthy. One of the best evidences of the prosperity and importance of a city is shown in public improvements. Judged by this standard, Walla Walla makes a showing worthy of older and larger cities. The Court House is the finest in the Territory, the City Building is a model structure, while the Fire Department is the crack organization of the Northwest. There are two electric-light companies, a gas company, a telephone service, and other modern comforts and conveniences, and free postal delivery has been ordered. Two companies supply the water, coming from springs of temperature varying little from forty-five degrees the year round. Nearly every house has its hydrant, and cooling streams thread their way along the streets. The natural surface drainage is into Mill Creek, a rapid stream of 2,000 inches, having a fall of sixty-five feet to the mile, which furnishes power to several large roller flouring mills, a threshing factory, a foundry, and several other industries, but there is room for more; a sawmill is engaged, a pottery, an oil mill, a soap factory, a paper mill, fruit canneries, a jute-bag factory, etc., and fair inducements are offered all practical enterprises.

The people are a unit in local matters, a board of trade is on the alert for whatever tends to the public good, and information is promptly given on any subject. The 6,000 people of the city support three vigorous daily papers, *The Union Morning*, and the *Statesman* and *Journal* (evening publications). What Eastern city of equal size can boast of three daily papers? The people are a unit in local matters, a board of trade is on the alert for whatever tends to the public good, and information is promptly given on any subject. The 6,000 people of the city support three vigorous daily papers, *The Union Morning*, and the *Statesman* and *Journal* (evening publications). What Eastern city of equal size can boast of three daily papers? The people are a unit in local matters, a board of trade is on the alert for whatever tends to the public good, and information is promptly given on any subject. 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