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## AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

TRINIDAD, April, 22, 1852.

HON. THOS. J. ROACH—*Dear Sir*: In answer to your note of this date, soliciting information touching agriculture and its pursuits in this section of our favored country, I would beg to premise that, being one of the first settlers here, and having turned much of my attention to the cultivation of the soil, I can practically afford some information you may deem desirable. To go into details would of course fill a volume; I shall therefore condense a few facts that may possibly prove of interest, and at the same time afford instruction to any one wishing to emigrate to this section.

FRUITS.—We have none as yet, except the wild varieties. Strawberries abound; we have had them *ripe* for over two weeks past. They grow on the prairies in superabundance, and of delicious flavor. Raspberries of the finest quality are now in bloom, and will be ripe in the course of three weeks; they may be found throughout the woods—the finest on the margin of the streams. Whortleberries, or “huckleberries,” abound over the uncultivated table-lands; they are large and of fine flavor, and continue in season from May till November. Blackberries, gooseberries, currants and mulberries also abound, that is, in a state of nature, requiring only the kindly hand of cultivation to make them vie in size and flavor with any in the world. There are also two or three other varieties of berries, whose qualities I have not yet tested, but which are freely used by our Indians as delicacies.

HERBS.—Parsley (finer than I ever saw raised in any garden) spontaneously shoots forth from every clear upland. Mint, marjoram, cabbage, celery, cresses of several varieties, “yerba buena,” (the healthful herb,) spinach—such as, in point of delicacy of flavor, I have never tasted—perfectly overshadow spots of ground, some hundreds of yards in extent. Medical herbs and plants also abound. I have had opportunities of testing some of their qualities, and have ever found them active and energetic in the cases to which I have applied them. (As a digression, I would beg to remark, that from an extract of *two roots*, found here, I cured a man of the scurvy in eight days, he having been previously under the hands of two physicians at the mines, who pronounced his case hopeless.)

I will now touch on gardening, and hastily endeavor to give you the result of my own experience and observation. All the products cultivated in our Eastern States

tion. All the products cultivated in our Eastern States, in the same parallel of latitude, and indeed some eight or ten degrees south of them, may here be made to yield two crops in the year with ease. Potatoes (the most grateful and nutritious bulb of God's gifts to man) may here be said to attain perfection. I have frequently not only seen, but have dug myself, potatoes weighing two and a half pounds. The average yield to the hill, last year, might be set down at twelve pounds. I have dug, in November, nineteen pounds from a single hill, planted in June and July, the ground having been lately broken, and the sod almost impervious to a shooting plant, and have on good authority statements of over thirty pounds having been taken from a single hill, whose exquisite flavor and size I have yet to see equalled. Cabbages, carrots, turnips, parsnips, radishes, beets, &c. &c. flourish beautifully; and I am of opinion that the cauliflower, brocoli, asparagus, celery, and in fact every variety of the vegetable kingdom, could be here rendered more prolific than in almost any other section of the globe. I must, however, except the onion, which, from atmospheric causes, as far as I have been able to trace, seems illy adapted to the climate. The leek, however, I think would succeed admirably. Aromatic and culinary herbs all thrive well. Apples, peaches, apricots, nectarines, plums, and I believe pears, would flourish admirably.—Caution being used in the selection of appropriate localities. As yet we have none.

Our timber is unrivalled; in this we stand preëminent, and may with safety defy the world to surpass us. (*Apropos*—Last December I helped to fall a tree on the estate of the Hon. Judge Turner, which has since been used in fencing a portion of his farm; this single tree afforded sufficient timber for posts, rails and palings to fence in about eight acres of ground, its diameter where cut being some nine feet some inches, and its height three hundred and twenty feet.) I have measured trees twenty-six feet in diameter, and am assured by those whose word may be relied on, that there are others much larger. We have, however, no hard wood nearer than the mountains, the larger growth here consisting of redwood, (a species of cedar,) fir, spruce, and a species of maple called white-wood.

Stock of all kinds do well, and poultry is fast becoming

a dreg. The first fowls introduced here were four hens and a rooster. In less than twelve months their owner had pocketed over six hundred dollars from their yield and increase, and at that time owned over one hundred. Turkeys and geese, we as yet have none. Ducks, we have had one pair, the duck having died from "causes unknown;" the drake, (now in my possession,) like his master, seems, for some time at least, destined to a life of "single blessedness."

Should the foregoing hastily digested sketch prove satisfactory, my greatest pleasure will be in subscribing myself, dear sir, your obedient servant,

WM. W. HUNTER.

**THE INDIANS ON THE FRESNO.**—We are indebted to Dr. Wozencraft for a copy of a letter received by him from a gentleman in whom confidence can be placed, containing information relative to the Indians in the Fresno country. The letter is dated Hailer's Ranch, Fresno, May 9th, and commences as follows:

"I have been spending a few agreeable days with Lieutenant Moore and his accomplished associates, at Fort Miller, near the head of the San Joaquin River. Having a leisure moment, I employ it in scratching you a line, and as it is on the subject of your mission, I know it will be acceptable, particularly when I inform you that I found Major Savage, to my surprise, teaching your Indians agriculture. He employs men, women and children with his own family. As an evidence of their capacity to labor, I would state that he, with some 25 or 26 hands, large and small, dug a ditch four hundred yards long, five feet deep by four in width, cut down the banks of a ravine some three hundred yards, built a brush fence, which formed the ends while the river and the ditch protected the sides, of a piece of ground some ten or twelve acres in extent. The preparation above described, the ploughing and planting of the land in potatoes, melons, pumpkins and beans, with a variety of other vegetables, occupied the short space of four and a half days only. The Indians appeared to labor with uncommon spirit and cheerfulness, the Major leading the van. In the operation of ditching, each man was tasked, which appeared to stimulate their ambition to excel. Major Savage appears as their great benefactor or chief, each obeying his commands with promptness, and at the same time with apparent affection and respect.

"Since the arrival of their cattle (provided by the Government) they appear to be satisfied. The Major has dispatched couriers to bring the Four Creek Indians to the San Joaquin, which circumstance will be very gratifying to a large number of citizens of this county, who are very desirous to locate that country. Mr. Pool, with a party of ten men, has left with the intention of establishing a ferry on King's River, which will doubtless be of great convenience to the emigration this fall. Maj. Savage and Capt. Haler are preparing for harvest; they will cut some two hundred acres of as fine barley as ever grew, and are now engaged cutting hay. With them, every thing moves like clock-work, and next year they calculate to plant on a very large scale. There is but little doing in the mines as yet, the water being too high."

**THE WEATHER IN THE MOUNTAINS.**—Our exchanges from the mining interior Saturday last, speak of the continuance of cold and rainy weather in the mountains—snow in the uplands, and heavy mists in

mountains—snow in the uplands, and heavy mists in the valleys. The *Sonora Herald* says it has rained almost every day of the past week, and the air has been exceedingly cold. The *El Dorado News* complains that nearly every morning a dense fog hangs on the mountains, which does not disappear until eight or nine o'clock, and is generally accompanied by a cold southwest wind. The *Marysville* and *Calaveras* papers also mention the prolonged visitations of wintry weather in the parts of the State which they represent. This dalliance of Old Winter "in the lap of Spring," is very unbecoming the monarch of the conquered year, as he is called, when he "*reigns tremendous*," and we advise the blooming damsel to prevent such improper familiarities by standing up.

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The weather in this city, and we presume in all other cities on the northern coast of California, has been for the last fortnight really more unpleasant than any period of the same length that has passed since the commencement of the year. Within three or four days the indications of rain in the heavens have been numerous and constant, and once or twice the winds have "whipped about" to the right quarter, but thus far we have escaped a "heavy wet." We shall probably have one or two parting showers before the month ends, to close the chapter of wintry deeds for the "rainy season" of 1851-2.