

storage. Generally, winter storage varieties most suitable for any particular section of the country are those varieties which do not attain maturity until cool weather prevails.—*U. S. Dept. of Agriculture "Clip Sheet."*

NOTES ON WEATHER AND BUSINESS IN LATIN AMERICA

(Excerpts from Weekly Commerce Reports)

Argentine (Cable, Feb. 25). Harvesting and threshing operations in linseed and all cereals except corn are practically completed. Returns have fully confirmed first expectations of large crops characterized by high quality and good yields. Growing corn is in excellent condition and a bumper crop is expected which will be harvested in March, April and May.

Agricultural exports during January and February totaled approximately 2,500,000 metric tons or a weekly average of about 312,000 tons. Grain is moving from rail-collecting points at the full capacity of the rail-collecting points at the full capacity of the railroads and storage depots, resulting in heavy congestion at the ports. The ocean freight market is strong. The European demand for new Argentine wheat is good and prices are holding fairly steady considering the large crop.

British Guiana (Cable, Feb. 24). No improvement has occurred in the unfavorable economic conditions prevalent throughout British Guiana in recent months, but continued rains are expected to materially help the agricultural situation as well as the mining industry. The working of the diamond mines in the interior requires abundant water for the sluice ways, and the movement of workmen and supplies to and from the mining areas depends solely on transportation afforded by the rivers and streams.

Dominican Republic (Cable, Feb. 24). General business conditions in the Dominican Republic continued dull in February, with both imports and exports below normal, but all factors point to an improvement when sugar, tobacco and cacao, the important crops, begin to move in the late spring. . . . Reports for the major crops continued favorable, and the cacao crop, especially, is expected to be larger than usual with high prices prevailing. Latest statistics of sugar production indicate that the previous estimate of 434,000 short tons for the Dominican sugar crop will be reduced to approximately 395,000 short tons. Rainfall has been insufficient.

Honduras (Cable, Feb. 20). Business throughout the Republic of Honduras during February was stagnant, but the outlook is optimistic, as activity in the basic agricultural industries has increased. In the Puerto Castillo district excessive rains coupled with northern windstorms caused heavy losses to the banana crop. Bridges were swept away and the roadbed washed out to such an extent that traffic was completely demoralized. The January banana shipments of 719,500 stems were the lowest since February, 1925. The sugar grinding season has begun.

Porto Rico (Cable, March 4). Rainfall has been below normal and this has tended to increase the sucrose content of the cane and has also favored agriculture generally, except in certain limited areas where low precipitation has delayed the planting of late cotton and tobacco. Prospects for a large tobacco crop continue bright. The sugar campaign is progressing satisfactorily with little fluctuation in prices. The grapefruit canneries are now buying and the outlook for the late grapefruit crop is promising, with expectations of a considerable gain in price.

Venezuela (Cable, March 7). The two principal crops of the country,

coffee and cacao, have both been damaged by unseasonable rains which have greatly delayed the maturity of the crops.

NOTES ON PUBLICATIONS

“Manual of Meteorology, Volume 1: Meteorology in History.” By Sir Napier Shaw. Cambridge, The University Press, 1926. Sole American Agents, the Macmillan Company, N. Y. 339 pp. Illus. If any book may be called indispensable, this is such an one. It is no dry historical treatise, but it manages to include a world of information on the varied phases through which meteorology in its many branches has developed to its present status among the sciences. Though it is impossible to indicate here the range of materials presented, this may be faintly suggested by noting such diverse items as the biographies of pioneers in meteorology, a discussion of Mediterranean climates, tephigram (tee-fee-gram) paper as a graphical aid in aerological research, 95 beautiful little cloud photographs, Roman weather lore, aneroid barometers.

“Health and Environment.” By Leonard Hill and Argyll Campbell. London, Edward Arnold & Co., 1925. 208 pp. Illus. The reader will find here in brief, simplified and, for certain purposes, more usable form, the substance of three extremely important “Medical Research Council’s Special Reports,” Series Nos. 32, 50 and 73, being respectively: “The Science of Ventilation and Open Air Treatment, parts 1 and 2,” and “The Kata-Thermometer in Studies of Body Heat and Efficiency.” That the findings presented in this book might with profit be widely acted upon in these United States, is suggested by the following quotations from the preface: “Our aim has been to bring before the educated and patriotic public, in addition to students and others interested in the pure medical and ventilation sciences, the main conditions which at present are apparently opposing the improvement of National health and efficiency. We hope it will be fully recognized that our aim is not to pamper the individual by improving his surroundings and conditions undeservedly and unnecessarily, but to keep him a hardy, fit, and efficient working unit such as he became in the late War by hard training with open-air life and proper food. . . . Most of the information herein contained should become known to those who are interested in the welfare of their country. It has been shut away in Medical and Official Journals. We have attempted to generalize most of it, so that an ordinary educated individual may understand the important facts. There is a certain amount of technical matter scattered throughout the book. We thought it wiser to include this as only an elementary knowledge of physics is required to understand most of it. It appears to us to be impossible to omit technical matters completely without disadvantage to the more scientific reader.”

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