

THE WHEAT SUPPLY OF BRITAIN.

In an article entitled "The Gamble in Wheat," the London Economist of 27th August refers to the excitement in United States wheat markets during that month. It thinks, however, that while the bull position derived some strength from the prospect of a short crop in the States, the shortage had been much exaggerated for market purposes. What strikes us as remarkable in the article is the extent to which the amount of wheat supplied by the United States to Great Britain has declined relatively to that of other countries. Here is what the Economist says about the figures it supplies:

"The speculation has excited only a minor degree of attention here, for we are dependent upon the United States for our supplies of wheat to a much less extent than is the case with cotton. In fact, although the European harvest is also deficient, the sources of supply are now so widespread and various that the possibility of a serious shortage is very remote. For some time past the American supply has been diminishing in importance, and the United States have fallen from the place they once occupied as the principal purveyors of breadstuffs for the United Kingdom. The extent to which they have been displaced by other countries will be seen from the following statement of wheat imports:

Wheat Imported into the United Kingdom.

From	1904.	1903.
	Seven Months. Cwts.	Seven Months. Cwts.
Russia	10,247,200	8,534,647
Germany	68,400	178,281
Roumania	1,209,500	742,695
Turkey	232,200	117,029
United States	5,374,200	15,950,721
Chili	257,800	81,698
Argentina	13,529,400	9,454,425
India	12,199,900	6,021,850
Australia	4,291,000	26
New Zealand	114,300	174
Canada	4,328,600	6,198,883
Other countries	237,500	331,796
Total	52,230,000	47,612,055

	1903.	1902.	1893.
	Whole Year. Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Russia	17,176,302	6,540,457	10,061,988
Germany	310,175	239,910	362,086
Roumania	3,140,727	2,362,453	89,272
Turkey	459,104	345,525	103,552
United States ..	24,195,726	43,312,561	32,262,851
Chili	238,644	251,446	2,580,147
Argentina	14,120,455	4,315,165	7,745,587
India	17,057,842	8,841,586	6,183,508
Australia	26	4,174,753	2,655,788
New Zealand ...	204	156,626	
Canada	10,803,941	9,527,475	3,157,355
Other countries..	627,488	934,270	215,776
Total	88,130,034	81,002,227	65,417,308

It has been shown quite recently by Mr. Johnson, the Dominion Statistician, that 33,000,000 bushels of wheat of Canadian production went to Britain in

1903; 17,400,000 bushels of this was sent direct from our shores, 15,600,000 bushels of it went in bond through the States, and was shipped via United States Atlantic ports to England. Looking at the above table, where the States are credited with sending Britain 40,000,000 bush. (244,195,000 hundred-weights,) in a year, if 15,600,000 bushels of it was Canadian grain, as Johnson makes out, then the figures for Canada and the United States respectively in the Economist's table require alteration: the Canadian should be increased, the American lessened.

The Economist goes on to say: "The displacement of the United States during the current year by Russia, India, Argentina, and Australia is very striking, and in 1903 the proportion of the total supply coming from the United States was much smaller than ten years ago. At present, therefore, attempts to 'corner' wheat in the United States may be regarded here without any very great perturbation."

THE CANADIAN NATIONAL FAIR.

Some Notes on the Spot.

Outside the entrance, on the fence behind which the street cars turn, is a painted representation of cattle, life-size, to illustrate some patent medicine. The colors are high, the execution free-hand. Gazing at this from the opposite sidewalk were two men, one a country man, and therefore a judge of cattle, the other, from what followed a judge of art. Said the latter, stopping his companion and pointing to the group:

"Say! isn't that a caution?"

"Yes, them's purty good—purty well drawed, them is. See the moolies."

"Aye, aye, there's ten o' them; big as if they was alive, too. Gosh! that's wonderful."

"Look how they seem to be a follerin' ye with their eyes, as ye're goin' along. Seem to say: 'Have ye anny salt in yer pocket.'"

"Well, well! the poor critters! The man that did them was a rale machinist, an' no mistake."

Stove Building.

A marked illustration of the effect of a well-calculated background for exhibits is to be seen here. The Gurney Company have had the wall behind their large exhibit of hollow-ware painted a good umber brown, above which the name of the firm is relieved clearly. Opposite them, to the south, the Moffat Stove Company have adopted grey and gold, in which they have made a wooden frieze, against which black and nickel-finished goods show well. Contrast with these the extensive displays of the McClary Company, of London; Clare Brothers, of Preston; Doherty & Co., of Sarnia, all good exhibits, but with only white cloth banners containing the names of the firms. The difference is marked, and the appearance is distinctly in favor of the first two concerns named.

The Process Building.

Most interesting is the shed where processes of manufacture are carried on. A long range of machinery illustrates the production of the Eatonia shoe—sewing, fitting, heeling, finishing. Further along is the beautiful mechanism by which the Canada Silk Company, Limited, produces labels, dress-belts, ribbon book-marks in various widths. They show a great variety of labels made for the clothing trade and other trades. The Imperial Wire Company show wire products in process, the Canada Cork Company the manipulation of cork by machinery. At the north side the Toronto Lithograph Co. is busy turning out from lithographic presses portraits, life-size, in colors, of Laurier and Borden. These possess a great attraction for the multitude