

The Grain Prospects Abroad.

There are still a great many speculations on the state of the grain trade and the supplies for the ensuing year. There are no well established estimates, but the most recent reports indicate that the crops on the continent of Europe will be much below an average. Great Britain will have a very fair crop. Recently the average produce per acre was estimated at 30 bushels, but a more recent report places the average at 27 bushels, and the whole crop as larger than last year by ten millions of bushels. This addition, with the large stocks held over of last year's crop, both domestic and foreign, permits the market to start off with a low range of prices for the coming grain year, which commences on the first of September.

From Hungary we learn that the deficiency in the wheat crop will be nearly 1,000,000 bushels below her usual average, but she will have a surplus for export of 1 1/2 millions of bushels. The rye crop is also short as much, but of barley and oats there will be a large surplus.

In Austria the supplies of wheat over an average harvest is estimated at a million and a quarter bushels, with an equally great surplus of barley and oats. Rye, however, remains a deficient yield.

From the Baltic provinces of Russia and Germany the reports are that the cereals have done well, but that the rust has attacked the wheat crop, but to what extent is not known, and hence nothing definite is yet learned of the yield and quality of the wheat of that section of Europe.

It is admitted that France will have a crop that is below her usual average, and will probably need a foreign supply of eight to ten millions.

From Russia we have no definite reports, but judging from the accounts that have been already received, there will be a much larger yield than there was last year. There is, therefore, likely to be a much larger supply of surplus grain in Europe than there was last year, and there will be larger supplies from the Black Sea to meet the requirements of France through her Mediterranean ports of Marseilles and Toulon, while the Baltic Sea and the railroad companies will supply the wants of Belgium and Holland to a very considerable extent.

The United States, so far as can be ascertained, east of the Pacific Slope have grown less wheat than last year, but to make up for this California, Oregon and Australia have each large surplus crops that must make up for any deficiency of grain in the States on this side of the Rocky Mountains.

These are the apparent conditions of the wheat trade at present, and lead to the conclusion that wheat will be slow to advance for the next three months, but that it is not likely to change a great deal from its present rates. It is not likely to be much lower, and there is a chance for it to be somewhat better as the year advances and the actual necessities of the consumptive demand are developed.

Items on Hydrophobia.

A correspondent having written to the Scientific Farmer, asking, when a dog is bitten by a mad animal, what chance there usually is of infection, and how long before the bitten dog will develop symptoms, that journal gives the following as the result of its dive into the literature on the subject:—"Speaking with much latitude, the stage of incubation, that is, the time elapsing between the receipt of the bite or inoculation of the virus, and the presenting of the first symptoms of this distressing malady, may be said to vary from 30 days to 18 or 20 months; the duration depending perhaps upon the virulence and quantity of the poison, as well as upon the constitution and age of the inoculated. The period appears to be shorter in the very young than in the more advanced in years. Exceptional cases are recorded, where the symptoms have set in as early as the 8th day, whilst others are known in which the appearance has been delayed for 4 to 5 and 7 years. One instance is on record where it is said that 12 years intervened between the bite and the hydrophobic symptoms. In 1862 Mr. Renault published the results of some experiments, which had been conducted with the object of learning the time of incubation in the dog. From these it appears that of 131 dogs bitten by mad dogs, and inoculated with hydrophobia saliva, 63 remained well at the end of 4 months. The disease was developed in the 68 others thus:—"In 25 dogs the disease set in between the 5th and 30th days. In 31 dogs, the disease set in between the 30th and 60th days. In 7 dogs, the disease set in between the 60th and 90 days. In 5 dogs, the disease set in between the 90th and 120th days."

THE LATEST THEORY.

The following extraordinary letter has appeared in the Brooklyn (U. S.) Argus. The effrontery with which it is asserted that the various matters stated would be proved "if the facts can be ascertained," is something out of the common way, but the letter is worth preserving, even as the production of a monomaniac. "Brooklyn Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, No. 199 Joralemon street.

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE Argus:—Hydrophobia in the dog, I am satisfied, is the result of the animal having been inoculated by biting some person suffering from the disease of intoxication. Startling as this theory may appear, there is not the least question but that the facts will bear it out.

"First.—Hydrophobia and mania a potu are identical in most physical conditions—subjects dead of either disease presenting nearly the same autopsy.

"Second.—The saliva of a man dying of delirium tremens, and that of a dog suffering from rabies, bear the same chemical analysis.

"Third.—The entire system of the patient suffering from alcoholic madness is so poisoned that rapid inoculation will follow any contact with the virus of the blood.

"Fourth.—The bite of a man in an alcoholic fit has been known to result in hydrophobia.

"As to the application of these facts:—

"First.—With the canine race hydrophobia is never spontaneous; with man the disease is known to be.

"Second.—There is not a case on record of a dog having died of hydrophobia that will not admit of proof, if the facts can be ascertained, that the dog had previously bitten an intoxicated person, or had been attacked by some other animal suffering from a like inoculation.

"GEO. WILL JOHNSTON, Superintendent."

Damages for Using Patents.

About this time look out for men travelling about the country and charging farmers a royalty for using a patent right. They generally hunt in pairs and threaten the farmers on whose places they find patented articles that unless they pay a certain stipulated price by way of damages, an action will be brought against them in court. Most farmers are afraid of a law suit, especially one brought in one of the federal courts. They are ordinarily held at a distance from the home of farmers, and it is understood that great expense is incurred in conducting suits in them. On these accounts farmers generally put themselves at the mercy of the patent sharks, and submit to their demands. Every year some community in the West is preyed upon by parties who are seeking damages from farmers for using the sliding gate. This is a gate that is made like a length of a board fence, is supported by one or more pins on which it slides half its length, and is then turned round at right angles with its position when it is in place. For years farmers submitted to their demands, and paid a royalty for using each of the gates on their farms. At length the members of a grange in this state refused the demand, and prepared to contest the claim in the courts. In looking up the facts in the case, they soon found that the gate had been used for years before it was patented, and that a cut of it had been published in an agricultural paper of general circulation at least a year before a patent was issued for it. They had then a valid defence, and the patent right sharks, seeing their determination, were scared out of bringing a suit. They went, however, to other places and succeeded in collecting large amounts of money. Quite likely they are operating in some parts of the country at present. In like manner many farmers have been made to pay considerable sums for using singletrees, lightning-rods and dairy utensils on which there was never any valid patent.

It now appears that an attempt is to be made to force all farmers who have driven or tube wells on their places to pay the sum of ten dollars on each of them. It is said that there are at least three-quarters of a million of these wells in operation in this country, for the use of which a royalty has already been paid in some form. It also appears that wells of this kind have been in use in England for more than fifty years, and that they are described in a work printed in 1829, and in very general circulation. It seems, moreover, that the naked savages of Ethiopia have used a contrivance of the same kind for unknown ages. It consisted simply of a reed pointed at the end and forced into the mud or sand till water was reached. The fact that these wells have been in use and a description of them published is a sufficient defence in an action for damages for using a contrivance on which a patent was granted. It will be the part of wisdom for western farmers to unite in resisting paying damages for the use of a thing that has been known for so many years.—Chicago Times.

Short-Horn Sales.

The Short-Horn Reporter (W. T. Bailey, Buffalo) for October, contains reports of the following sales—

Table with columns: Date, Place, No, Average, Total. Rows include sales from Marshalltown, Iowa; Oak Grove, Ohio; Fairview, Cynthia, Ky.; Stoner Farm, Paris; Paris, Ky.; The Bines, Lexington; Chillicothe, Ohio; Osborn, Missouri; Windfall, Iowa; Grinnell, Iowa; Emporia, Kansas; Ottumwa, Iowa.

The tabulation of these figures, and consequently the general result is our own; it turns out an average, as will be seen, of \$325 each on 679 animals of both sexes, against \$382 each on 1,347 animals in the table of spring sales as published in this paper of July 13th. Of the 679, there were 148 bulls and 531 females—more than one-quarter as many of the former as of the latter, which must certainly be regarded as a very good proportion.

There was not a large crowd of buyers at the Short-Horn Sale yesterday at Dexter Park, says the Chicago Tribune of October 6, for a copy of which we are indebted to the auctioneer of the day, Mr. J. R. Page. Following is a record of the sale:—

Table listing various animals for sale with prices. Includes entries like Mazurka 26th, Winslow Bros., Kankakee, Ill. \$725; Mazurka Armstrong, Maj. E. S. Ward, Kansas City, 800; Constance of Lyndale 5th, G. H. Morrison, Minneapolis, 475; etc.

BULLS.

Table listing bulls for sale with prices. Includes entries like Mazurka Duke, Mr. Bullock, Tonica, Ill. 150; Baron Lyndale 3rd, L. Hanna, 206; etc.

SEMI-MART.

Table listing semi-mart animals for sale with prices. Includes entries like 33 cows and heifers, average \$93 10—Total \$23,110; 5 bulls and bull calves, do. 252 00—do. 1,200; 48 head, average \$302 74—Total \$24,37.

H. P. Thomson's Herd.

This sale came off on the 11th ult. with the following results. Forty-one head were disposed of—thirty-three cows and eight bulls. The total amount of sales was \$39,980, a general average of \$975 12. Bulls averaged \$704 38, and cows \$1,040 75.

Table listing various animals for sale with prices. Includes entries like Fidelity 6th, Joshua Barton, Millersburg, Ky. \$1000; Belle Duchess, Joseph Julian, Bainbridge, N. Y. 4000; Duke of Moundale, Mrs. Jessie Long, Monroe, La. 1800; etc.

The Kentucky Live Stock Record contains the result of the two sales of Oct. 10th. We give a few of the leading prices, with summary:—

Ware & McGoodwin's Sale.

Table listing animals for sale with prices. Includes entries like 3rd Duke of Onolis (guaranteed to be a breeder), Ayres, Barstow and Hutchcraft, Millersburg, \$6800; Fennel Duchess 7th, W. N. Offutt, Georgetown, 625; etc.