

The U. S. Government Crop Report.

The June report of the Statistician of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, dated June 10 makes the area in winter wheat as compared with the breadth harvested last year, 111.5; spring wheat, 103.4; barley, 197.1; rye, 101.5; oats, 97.9.

Condition: Winter wheat, 96.6; spring wheat, 92.6; barley, 90.3; rye, 95.4; oats 55.

In comparison with 1899 the increase in wheat acreage is quite moderate. The reduction last year of more than 2,000,000 acres suggests the reason for most of the present increase. This advancement is therefore both replacement and development, the former notably Illinois, Missouri, Kansas and California, the latter in less degree in Washington, Oregon, the Dakotas and in several Territories. These violent fluctuations make the investigation difficult, and in some districts will require necessary supplementary work. To this extent present estimates may be considered preliminary.

The extension of acreage, according to our correspondents, depends on the price of wheat and not on available land. A large increase in wheat breadth is reported in Washington, a large amount of land is being broken for next year's crop, and the local opinion is expressed that not more than one-fifth of the wheat land of that new State is under cultivation.

The winter wheat crop is encroaching upon the southern and eastern borders of the spring wheat district, notably in Iowa, and Wisconsin, under protection of crop diversification and new methods of cultivation, while spring wheat extension responds moderately to the stimulus of higher prices.

The condition of winter wheat has declined only 1 per cent. The average of New York is 96, Pennsylvania, 97; Georgia, 98, Texas, 98, Ohio, 90; Michigan, 90; Indiana, 99; Illinois, 98, Missouri, 99; Kansas, 95; California, 97. The first monthly statement of averages of spring wheat makes Wisconsin, 77; Minnesota, 89; Iowa, 95; Nebraska, 97; the Dakotas, 96.

Early sown wheat was injured by frost in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Germination was arrested by drouth in the same region. In South Dakota drouth has retarded growth. Conditions have been more favorable generally in North Dakota. Recent rains in Nebraska and Iowa have greatly benefited wheat and encouraged the growers.

Drouth in May has greatly injured oats on the entire Atlantic Coast. Winter oats in the Southern State are far better than the spring crop, which has been partially destroyed by drouth and insects. Not only was the acreage reduced in the Ohio Valley, but condition is low in consequence of dry weather. In Minnesota the injuries by drouth were supplemented by those of cut worms. Condition is highest on the Northern Atlantic Coast and on the Pacific, where areas are very limited.

The increase in the acreage of barley is general in almost every section where it is grown, and especially marked in the States of the Ohio Valley, in Wisconsin and California. Condition is uniformly higher except in portions of the Northwest, where it has been lowered by drouth and cool weather.

The acreage in cotton is 97.7 per cent. of the area of 1890, and the average condition is 85.7. The reduction of the area is attributed in some districts to concerted contraction on account of low prices, but it is evident that it is mainly due to unfavorable conditions for planting and germination. The record for planting in the May report is quite accurately a history of the crop to the present time. Planting delayed by early rains, drouth in the latter half of April, followed by a continued drouth in May, germination arrested, re-planting active, defective stands corrected, are features of the record frequently and almost universally reported. These conditions were less general and controlling in Texas than in any other State.

Flour.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin of June 20 says: "The price of flour has declined 50 to 75c per barrel from the highest point reached about two or three months ago, and some dealers think that the bed rock has not yet been struck. City strong bakers' which sold as high as \$6 is now offered freely at \$5.50, and straight rollers which realized as high as \$5.75 and \$5.85 can be bought at \$5. The export demand for the fine spring and winter brands has subsided, the principle shipments consisting of the lower grades. Lower prices, however, will no doubt act as a stimulus for a renewal of business, and enquiries received by cable lead to the belief that operators on the other side will soon be in the market again. In fact, during the past few days western mills have made sales of low grade flour over the cable at concessions in price. A large transaction has also been made for Newfoundland at fully 25c per bbl below last week's prices."

While on the flour question, the same paper says: "Manitoba millers will have to stop mixing their best wheat with sprouted and frosted qualities if they expect to establish a regular market for their flour. The reason flour ground by Manitoba millers seldom fetches as much as that turned out in this city, is because the former as a rule is ground from mixed wheat, while the latter is the product of No. 2 hard. An instance has just come to our knowledge in which a lot of 2 cars of Manitoba strong flour was shipped to this city on the strength of a certain brand, the quantity apparently being up to the sample in color, etc., but when it got into bakers' hands its inferiority was detected in sponging, and the result was that the flour was returned upon the sellers' hands here. The millers have since acknowledged that they had a lot of poor wheat which they had worked off by mixing with good wheat, but in so doing they have spoiled the sale of their brand for a time, which had become well known here. This no doubt accounts for much irregularity experienced in brands of flour ground in Manitoba, and the sooner the millers there stop mixing, the better will it be for their interests in this and other markets."

At a meeting of the directors of the Manufacturers Life Insurance Company and Manufacturers Accident Insurance Company, held at Toronto recently, George Gooderham, of Toronto, was elected to the position of president made vacant by the death of Sir John A. McDonald.

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