

OUTCOME OF THE WAR RESTS ON FOOD.

Statement made by Mr. Prothero, British Minister of Agriculture.

"Discontent of the stomach is more to be feared than discontent of the brain—that is why we value the co-operation of American farmers." This statement was made by R. E. Prothero, Minister of Agriculture, to the Associated Press. "The outcome of the war," said Mr. Prothero, "may ultimately hang on the question of food supplies, and the American farmer is allotted the essential part to play in the great struggle for freedom."

Discussing the moral and material effect on agriculture by the entrance of the United States into the war, Mr. Prothero continued:

"To vindicate the cause of humanity and national liberty the great democracy of the western world, true to its traditions, has taken its stand on the side of the allied peoples. In clear-cut memorable phrases, President Wilson stated the high ideals animating the United States in joining the allied cause. In his address on April 15 he puts to the forefront an appeal to the farmers. He bids them to carry on to their plough lands the same spirit that animates their brother allies in trenches, on sea, and in munition factories. From the grim spectacle of human carnage and from the feverish race of piling up munitions the farmer stands aloof. His task is to make hills, plains and valleys stand so thick with corn that they shall sing. Yet the man who drives a plough is helping as is the man who shoulders a rifle."

"The need of food for man and beast is great whether peace is won or war prolonged."

BRITISH FARMERS WORK HARD.

Replying to a question as to what the United Kingdom is doing in the way of food production, Mr. Prothero said that fully one-third of labor usually employed on land has been taken for war work. "Short-handed, harassed by a hundred new difficulties, the farmers are doggedly struggling to increase grain production by half," continued the Minister. Upwards of 120,000 women in England and Wales, old and young, drawn from every section of the country, are toiling on land, toiling hard and continuously. We have quadrupled our garden plots. After a hard day's work, men return to their homes to labor with their wives.

"There has been no complaint concerning bread-stuffs substituted for wheaten loaf. The situation has been accepted, and everywhere there is determination to eat within tether, however it may be. Brewing has been reduced to a minimum. This is a serious deprivation to men working at furnaces, in foundries, and harvest fields. For generations they were accustomed to the use of beer and believe in the aid it gives them. It comes to be a part of their daily diet and they know of no other substitute to replace it."

"We are further contemplating a drastic reduction of our live stock, so more grain may be available for human food. These privations will have to be endured, but we do not fear such shortage as would mean starvation."

GUARD FOOD SUPPLIES.

Mr. Prothero then discussed the value of co-operation of the American farmers, and continued:

"There is risk that the shortage of food may strain endurance to the breaking point. There is as yet no indication that we even have distantly approached that point, but endurance might snap if, for instance, the milk supply failed through inability to feed the dairy herd, because then lives of little children would be threatened. Thus there is a greater question involved in food supply than the loss of ordinary comforts of life or even reduction in its accustomed necessities. For this reason it is a welcome relief to us to know that the farmers of the United States are co-operating with the allies, that they fully realize the essential part they play in this struggle for freedom, that they are bringing into their work the spirit of self-sacrifice and endurance, and that they are determined to put out the last ounce of their strength to win the war on the plough lands of the United States. Here and there, God-speed the plough."

CALGARY'S LARGE STOCKYARDS.

Work on improving the Alberta stockyards has actually commenced. Surveyors have been at work a week measuring the ground, and plans are prepared now ready for tenders. The yards will be increased in handling capacity by 50 per cent, and will be the largest west of Winnipeg when completed. The cost of work is estimated between \$60,000 and \$100,000.

PURIFICATION OF WHEAT.

How to clean wheat, by separating wild field seeds from it without loss of the smaller kernels of wheat, has been one of the principal subjects discussed by millers for many years. The question is becoming more and more important each year, because of the continued growth and spread of foul weed seeds. A system that would eliminate the wild seeds and send 100 per cent pure wheat to the rolls is something that millers have long been talking about and looking for.

This question of a perfect separation has been especially serious in the Northwest during the last two years, owing to the spread of the wild pea menace. On the 1916 crop, it is said, the wild pea, in southern Minnesota particularly, was found in more than 80 per cent of the wheat grown.

Speaking on the subject of separation, a milling engineer of broad experience says that in 1876, in Wisconsin, it was customary for the producer or farmer to clean his wheat before marketing, and there was no such thing as dockage known to the trade in that territory in those days. He began milling in that year. His first introduction to the wheat crop of Minnesota and the Dakotas was during the fall and winter of 1889, at St. Charles, Minn. Wheat produced in the Northwest then would weigh, right off the farm, from 58 to 62 pounds to the bushel. It was approximately clean wheat, with the exception of an occasional broken wheat head, or broken straw or chaff. The by-product of wild seed was an unknown quantity, excepting cockle seed.

Until 1893 the percentage of wild seed in wheat was only nominal, and hardly worthy of consideration so far as purity in flour was concerned. Since then, however, the variety of wild seeds that has been brought to the notice of the grain trade has been very great.

The Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station has collected and classified approximately 148 different varieties of wild seed found in the spring wheat belt of the Northwest. A few of the principal of these are: Yellow and green foxtail, quack grass, smartweed, pigweed, Russian thistle, corn cockle, wild mustard of three varieties—red, black and Indian—kingheads, ragweed, burdock, Canada thistle, Pennsylvania smartweed, Indian mallow, cow cockle, wild oats and wild pea.—Northwestern Miller.

DOMINION'S SURPLUS WHEAT.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Bonar Law indicated, in answering a question put in the House of Commons last Wednesday, by Major Hunt, that Canada is unlikely to follow the example of Australia and commandeer the exportable surplus of wheat for the use of the Empire. Major Hunt asked whether, in view of the fact that the Australian Government has commandeered wheat for the use of the Empire, and that there was estimated to be an exportable surplus of eighty million bushels in Canada, the Government would say if the Canadian Government had been asked to act in the same way as the Australian Government, or if Britain would make a request that Canada act likewise.

Mr. Bonar Law replied that the question of wheat supply from Canada had been discussed with the Canadian Government, but it was not proposed to adopt the suggestion of the same system of control, which would not be suitable in view of the geographical differences between Canada and Australia.

ONTARIO FRUIT CROP PROSPECTS ARE FAIR.

The central district fruit prospects are now considered fairly satisfactory to good. Peaches that earlier looked like a bumper crop have fallen short, especially the later varieties. Early peaches in most localities promise a two-thirds yield and the later kinds will do well if the trees produce a one-third crop all around.

Sour cherry trees seem to be well laden almost everywhere. If spraying for the cherry fly has been attended to they should give a big crop.

Sweet varieties look like a normal half crop.

The strawberry prospects, especially in the Jordan district are bright for big pickings, and the majority of growers have loaded up with a good supply of crates.

University girls to the number of about 300 are expected to help hustle off the strawberries during the coming week.

AMERICAN AND GERMAN STEEL AFTER THE WAR.

Reviewing the probable relative positions of the American and European steel industries after the war, Dr. Felix Pinner, in an article in the Berliner Tageblatt, as given by the London Ironmonger, has this to say:

"Previous to the war the costs of production of primary and semi-finished iron products were about the same in America and in Germany. Since then the cost of production and the selling prices have risen enormously in both countries. The rise in prices has been greater in the United States than in Germany, but it would be rash to conclude that the same applies to the costs of production. And so far as the future is concerned, it is probable that the costs of production will be permanently increased in Germany, as well as in Great Britain, Belgium, France and Russia, in a far higher degree than in the United States. For although the United States has now come into the war, it has been piling up money for nearly three years, while the others have been laying up debts which must very heavily burden their industries. The sooner the war comes to an end, the greater will be the difference in favor of America in this matter. It is to be expected, therefore, that after the war the United States will be a greater factor in the markets of the world than it was and that it will remain so. Against this, however, has to be remembered that wages have risen much more in America than in Germany, and that this increase may outweigh American advantages in other matters. In particular when it comes to the most highly finished products, where the cost of labor is the chief item in the price. It is thus particularly gratifying that during the war German industry has to a large extent been converted from the production of raw and semi-finished products into a highly specialized one and also that most of the manufacturers have built up great reserves of capital out of their war profits. The main thing to be done as soon as peace comes again will be to restore the financial credit of Germany abroad."

INDIA'S BIG CROP.

A cablegram received at the office of the Commissioner of the International Institute of Agriculture for Canada gives the following official crop data:

The wheat crop of France is provisionally estimated at 161,674,000 bushels, or 75 per cent of the 1916 crop.

Wheat production of India, 379,309,000 bushels, or 119 per cent of last year, and 105 per cent of the average of the five years, 1911-15.

Japan's wheat crop is estimated at 26,533,000 bushels, or 34 per cent of the 1916 crop, and 108 per cent of the five years' average.

The area sown to wheat in Italy is 10,626,000 acres, 91 per cent of last year's acreage, and 89 per cent of the five years' average.

India, 33,041,000 acres, or 110 per cent of 1916, and 108 per cent of average.

Tunis, 1,310,000, or 88 per cent of 1916, and 102 per cent of average.

Area sown to barley, 1,475,000 acres, or 95 per cent of average.

Tunis, 1,038,000, or 84 per cent of 1916, and 92 per cent of average.

Area sown to oats: France, 6,437,000 acres, or 83 per cent of 1916.

Scotland, 1,040,000, or 100 per cent of 1916, and 109 per cent of average.

Italy, 1,137,000, or 130 per cent of 1916, and 92 per cent of average.

The condition of cereal crops on June 1st was good in Ireland and Italy, average in India, Egypt, and moderate in France, Great Britain, Luxemburg, Netherlands and Switzerland.

U. S. GOVT. AND ALLIES IN MARKET FOR PIG IRON.

The Daily Iron Trade, Cleveland, of June 26, says:

"The Federal Government and the Allies have begun negotiations for large pig iron tonnages, for which prices will be fixed later. Heavy tonnage of southern basic irons has brought \$50 Birmingham, for delivery in the latter part of this year, and the first quarter of next."

Northern basic brings \$54, valley, on the good tonnage sale. Cast iron pipe advanced \$5 a ton, and sheet bars are similarly higher. Virginia coke is bringing fancy prices."