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The Wheat Crop of the Northwest.

Reports as to character of the wheat crop now being harvested in the Northwest are somewhat conflicting. Some who have professed to have correct information on the subject have been saying that this year's crop was but little inferior to that of last year and that the slightly inferior yield would be fully made up by the increased acreage. Others who claim to speak from personal knowledge say that the Northwest wheat crop this year is decidedly a light one. The fact probably lies somewhere between these statements. The crop as a whole, there is a reason to believe, is not so good as last year, and in some sections of the country it is light, but in other sections there is a good crop, and taken altogether, and especially considering the present advanced price of wheat, the result will be satisfactory. In reference to the crop the *Toronto Globe* says: "In southeaster Manitoba the crop is much below the average, but west and northwest of that district prospects become better. In portions of the far west, particularly in the Regina plain, the greatest harvest in the history of the country is predicted. This is explained by the heavy soil which is characteristic of that locality. It is only the light soil that has suffered from the dry summer. But even where the crops are lightest the farmers do not complain greatly. One dollar a bushel is an unusual price for wheat, and in many places the farmers talk of accepting nothing less. The scarcity of wheat in the United States, which has necessitated the closing of a number of large flour mills, is likely to encourage this 'corner' by the farmers. In several districts of the republic the farmers are reported to have bound themselves by agreement to hold their grain for better prices. If our western wheat-raisers follow their example the result will undoubtedly be enormous profits to the producers; but from the consumer's viewpoint the prospect cannot be contemplated with enthusiasm. However, combinations are enjoying great vogue at present, so farmers cannot be blamed if they adopt modern methods. The chief cause for gratification is that, whether the wheat be held for higher prices or not, the returns to the producers are bound to be enough to assure the continued prosperity of the northwest."

The Macedonian Insurrection.

It is difficult to get any very intelligent idea of the present situation in Macedonia and Bulgaria. It is evident, however, that there is great disturbance and that many parts of the country have become scenes of atrocities of the most terrible character. Large parts of Macedonia are overrun by insurrectionary bands and the atrocities committed by these are exceeded only by the Turkish soldiery and the Bashi-Bazouks. In the vilayet or province of Monastir there has been great disturbance and bloodshed. The town of Krushevo was occupied by the insurgents who burned the residence of the Mudir, massacred the garrison of Turkish soldiers and the officials of the town and also put to death a number of Christians who, they believed, had opposed their plans. Later the Turks concentrated a force at Krushevo and took the town. An account printed by a Bulgarian newspaper says that the Turks committed unspeakable atrocities at Krushevo. The mutilated corpses of 90 women and children were found in one building. Fifteen of the principal merchants of the town were killed and their heads exhibited on poles at Monastir. The churches were demolished, the houses sacked and the town reduced to a heap of ashes. The remainder of the populace fled to the hills where they are in a starving condition. The same paper asserts that the whole of the vilayet of Monastir is a scene of massacre and pillage and nearly all the villages have been destroyed. The purpose of the Macedonian insurgents is said to be to carry their insurrectionary movement into Bulgaria and force that country into war with Turkey. Both the Macedonian representatives and the Bulgarian Government are asking for the intervention of the Powers to alleviate a situation which has become intolerable through Turkish misrule and oppression.

At a meeting of the Zionist Congress in Basle, Switzerland, last week a letter was submitted from the Russian Minister of the Interior, Von Plheve, which, it is said, apparently pledged the support of the Russian Government

to the Zionists in their movement to establish an independent state in Palestine. According to the letter, the Russian Government is favorably disposed toward the Zionist movement which would be morally and materially supported when its practical measures tended to decrease the Jewish population of Russia. This may be interpreted as meaning that Mr. Plheve and his Government do not care much where the Jews go if only they will get out of Russia. The Congress has also under consideration Great Britain's offer of an African settlement to Jewish immigrants. The Russian delegates are said to oppose the project which however appears to receive considerable support in the Congress, the English and Italian delegates urging the appointment of a committee of investigation. The idea of an African settlement also receives support from a prominent American delegate. Dr. Herzl, the president of the Conference is said also to favor the British proposition and his views, it is supposed, will have considerable influence upon the decision.

The South African War.

The report of the Royal Commission on the South African War, which has just been published, is said to make some astonishing revelations on the unpreparedness, bungling, negligence and incapacity of the War Office staff, the one redeeming feature being the work of the Intelligence Department. It is said that the report has created a sensation and that the *Times* characterizes its exposure of the war methods as simply appalling. The Commissioner's comments upon the Colonial contingents is said to be favorable. If not so useful as regulars in driving home a serious attack, the methods of the Colonials, say the Commissioners, were more akin to those of the Boers. They were distinguished by individual resourcefulness and ability to look after themselves and by intelligent scouting and despatch reading. The commissioners find that from the beginning to the end of the war 448,435 troops were engaged, and owing to the drain upon the resources for home defence, Great Britain became dangerously weak in 1900. The Commission confirms the necessity for a higher degree of intelligence in the men and a well educated staff. Lord Esher, a member of the Commission, in a supplementary report, says that the unpreparedness in 1899 shows that the War Secretary was guilty either of culpable negligence or ignorance of the facts, and urges the reorganization of the War Office, the abolition of the position of the Commander-in-Chief, and the appointment of a General commanding the army, separate from the War Office.

The late Marquis of Salisbury, whose death was noted in these columns last week, was born on February 3, 1830. As the second son of the second Marquis of Salisbury, he bore the honorary title of Lord Robert Cecil. He was educated at Eton and at Oxford. As a younger son he had his own way to make, and accordingly, after a tour of Europe, Lord Robert went to New Zealand where for a short time he lived the life of the cattleman in that country. When the great rush to the gold fields of Australia occurred he went thither, and for a time, it is said, he was a common miner, working a claim and living in the rudest kind of a shack. With his return to England there came a change, but not a huge immediately to affluence and high station. He was elected to Parliament from Stamford which constituency he continued to represent until, by his succession to the family title, he was transferred to the House of Lords in 1868. Not very long after his return to England Lord Robert Cecil fell in love with Miss Georgina Alderson, the eldest daughter of Sir Edward Alderson, an eminent English judge. The lady was possessed of many graces of person and of mind, and as Justin McCarthy has written, "such a wife might have been thought a suitable match even for a great aristocrat." But she lacked wealth, and accordingly the match was not acceptable to the then Marquis of Salisbury. However it was too much of a love match to be broken off by parental disapproval and the prospect of comparative poverty. The marriage led to another extraordinary phase of the budding premier's career. When thrown upon his own resources as a youth, he had travelled far and sought his fortune in rough fields. Now, refused assistance by the father, who insisted that he should have married an heiress, he set himself up in modest chambers near the news-

paper offices, and worked as a journalist. He chose the fields of an essayist and a leader writer, and contributed to the *Saturday Review*, the *Quarterly*, and the *Morning Chronicle*, as well as, to a considerable extent, to the editorial page of the *Times*. From his marriage in 1857 until the death of his elder brother, when he inherited the courtesy title of Lord Cranbourne, he made his living as a writer for the press. In 1866 Lord Cranbourne became a member of the Conservative Government of the day, and Secretary of State for India. The next year he showed an independent spirit by resigning being opposed to Disraeli's reform bill extending the franchise. In 1868, by the death of his father, Lord Cranbourne succeeded to the title. In 1874-78 he was again Secretary of State for India and President of the Indian Council. In 1877 he was special ambassador to the Conference at Constantinople; in 1878 he was plenipotentiary at the Congress in Berlin. In 1881 he became leader of the Conservative party, and held the position of leadership until his retirement from public life last year. He was Prime Minister first in 1886, but a year later his party was defeated at the polls. He was again Premier 1885-1902, and again from 1895 to 1902.

A School of Journal- alism.

Mr. Joseph Pulitzer of the *New York World* has provided a sum of \$2,000,000 for the purpose of establishing a School of Journalism in connection with Columbia University. The proposed school will hold, towards the University a relation similar to that of the other professional schools, as the Law School, the School of Medicine, and the School of Mines. An important feature of the organization of the School will be an advisory board, to be nominated by the donor, composed of distinguished men possessing all the knowledge and experience gained by years of successful labor. This board will aid in devising a plan and course of instruction that will meet every requirement on the scholastic as well as on the more strictly practical side. Seven members of this board have been named as follows: Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, President of Columbia University; Hon. Whitelaw Reid; Hon. John Hay, Secretary of State; Hon. St. Clair Kelway; Hon. Andrew D. White; Dr. Charles W. Eliot, President of Harvard University; Mr. Victor F. Lawson, of Chicago; General Charles H. Taylor, of Boston. Such a school ought indeed to constitute a grand addition to the educational forces of a great University and afford invaluable aid to those who are seeking to qualify themselves for an honorable profession. Success in this, perhaps more than in most other callings is indeed, due to natural aptitude and to experience, but while the plan of throwing young men into the sea of journalism, to sink or swim as they may be able, may have its advantages, it certainly leaves much to be desired. There is every reason why there should be schools of journalism to cultivate in those who have chosen it as their life work, the highest ideals, and the most correct taste, as well as all that properly pertains to the field of practical journalism. But Mr. Pulitzer of the *N. Y. World* is hardly the man to whom we should have looked for establishing a school for the cultivation of the highest and best ideals of the profession. He has been known as one of the leaders of that "yellow journalism" which sets material results far above moral ideals. It is by the practice of that kind of journalism that Mr. Pulitzer has become a multimillionaire and able to endow a school of journalism. It seems to be a case of a man seeking to save a son's conscience as to perpetrate an outraged public opinion by a head-on use of the mammon of unrighteousness. It is to be feared that the public opinion of this day is somewhat too willing to be propitiated by such methods.

The Russian Black Sea squadron, which was ordered to Turkish waters and which arrived at Inada, eastern European Turkey, Aug. 14, in order to support Russia's demands on the Sultan growing out of the assassination of M. Rostkowski, Russian consul at Monastir, has been recalled to Sebastopol, the squadron's point of departure. The recall followed on a notification from the Porte that the Sultan had ordered all the Russian demands to be complied with.