

Something About Corn.

Corn has frequently been termed the distinctly American crop, and certainly it is that in normal years nearly 80 per cent., or four-fifths of the entire world's crop of this cereal, is produced within this country. Unless all signs fail, therefore, the hot and dry summer of 1901 will probably be chiefly remembered because of its turning the brilliant promise of early spring into a comparatively moderate and even short crop of the greatest money-producing cereal the country raises. Just how valuable the crop of corn is will be shown by the following statistics of yield and farm value of the country's leading crops:—

	Yield, 1900.	Farm value, 1900.
Corn, bushels, ..	2,105,102,516	\$751,220,034
Hay, tons, ..	50,110,900	415,358,870
Cotton, bales, ..	9,142,838	334,817,869
Wheat, bush, ..	322,222,566	323,517,177
Oats, bushels, ..	849,125,959	298,023,231
Potatoes, bush, ..	210,923,507	10,811,107
Barley, bush, ..	58,925,833	21,075,271
Rye, bush, ..	23,905,327	12,235,417
Buckwheat, bush, ..	9,563,964	6,341,413

Total value .. \$2,106,314,460

*Crop of 1890.

Corn, it will be seen, is the most highly valued of all the crops, and not far from being worth as much as wheat and hay or hay and cotton combined. For twenty-one years, in fact, the corn crop has ranged in yearly value from \$500,000,000 to \$750,000,000, having only fallen once below the former price, and then in 1890, the year of largest recorded production. Its value in 1900, \$751,220,034, was the highest recorded since 1891, ten years before, and only four times were last year's values exceeded, namely, in 1891, 1890, 1882 and 1881. The average yield and value of the corn crops of the past decade are shown in the following table:—

	Yield, bushels.	Value.
1891 ..	2,004,515,200	\$836,439,228
1892 ..	2,026,058,128	842,146,930
1893 ..	2,036,465,169	869,131,131
1894 ..	2,025,231,212	770,052,551
1895 ..	2,075,850,251	1,138,580,544
1896 ..	2,102,756,228	875,165,165
1897 ..	2,095,031,190	967,583,501
1898 ..	2,121,731,124	1,041,660,552
1899 ..	2,108,572,078	1,143,383,621
1900 ..	2,105,102,516	751,220,034

Average for decade 2,077,918,189,620,057 900,444,967

The average yield for the past decade, it will be noticed, has been nearly 1,000,000,000 bushels, and the value of this crop has ruled in excess of \$600,000,000. The decade, it might be added, includes the celebrated short crop year of 1894 and the large crop year of 1896. It includes, likewise, the year of highest value, 1891, and the year 1890, which saw the lowest valued crop in the past twenty-two years.

While the corn-growing area is practically coterminous with the boundaries of the republic, the great surplus corn-producing area is located in the large central region lying between and including Ohio on the east and Nebraska and Kansas on the west, and including the lower Missouri, the middle Mississippi and the northern half of the Ohio valley. Seven states in 1900 were preeminent in corn growing, in that they produced in excess of 100,000,000 bushels each. Following are the seven states, with their production, in bushels, in each of the past four years:—

	(000's omitted.)	1890.	1891.	1898.	1897.
Iowa, ..	305,839	242,249	254,009	220,081	220,081
Ill. ..	244,176	247,150	199,959	225,761	225,761
Nebr. ..	210,430	224,373	158,754	233,218	233,218
Mo. ..	180,710	162,915	154,731	165,300	165,300
Kan. ..	163,870	237,021	132,842	171,475	171,475
Ind. ..	153,260	141,852	120,154	102,508	102,508
Ohio ..	106,800	100,018	102,828	92,170	92,170

Total .. 1,385,335,135,521,111,133,270,120,513

Total crop, 2,105,102,208,143,102,184,180,918

Per ct. in 7 states 65.5 65.2 58.0 63.0

Roughly speaking, two-thirds of the total crop of the country is produced in the great central corn-growing region comprised within these seven states, but that there is a good deal of fluctuation shown in some years is illustrated by the fact that the seven states produced only 58.9 per cent. in 1898, against 69.5 per cent. in 1890, the year of maximum yield. Another illustration of the variations mentioned is given in the fact that only two of the seven states, Missouri and Indiana, have since equaled their production of 1896. Again, Iowa, which was first in production in 1890, dropped to third place in 1897, rose again to first place in 1898, dropped to second

and in 1899, but again assumed first place in 1900.

While corn is, because of its varied uses, entitled to the title of the distinctive American cereal, yet, leaving out of question the new lands it assumes after being fed to cattle and hogs, it cuts a small figure in the export trade of the country, and has comparatively little international commercial importance. For instance, in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900, the year of largest export, the total shipments were 209,348,281 bushels, valued at \$85,206,400. These figures are, of course, better than in preceding years, though closely approached in 1898, when 208,774,000 bushels, valued at \$74,100,850, were exported. The relative importance of these exports, when compared with other leading crops, is shown in the following:—

	Export value in fiscal year 1900-01.
Cotton ..	\$313,283,578
Wheat ..	90,330,230
Wheat flour ..	68,097,441
Corn ..	82,015,220

Corn, it will be seen, constitutes only about one-half the value of wheat and wheat-flour exports, and about one-quarter the value of raw-cotton exports. It would seem certain, too, that the growing export trade in this product, favored in past years by low prices, would be largely checked by the prevailing high quotations. When the important part corn fulfills as a food for cattle and hogs is taken account of, however, the real importance of corn as a commercial element will be better understood. Its prominence in the production of hogs and hog products is well known, and it is worth noting that our exports of bacon, hams, pork and lard in the past fiscal year aggregated \$116,000,000. The value of the exports of live animals and of beef products was over \$50,000,000 in the same year, while the exports of provisions of all kinds, including dairy products, all of which have more or less a basis in the corn crop, aggregated \$216,412,312. Its value as the base of many manufactures, such as starch, glucose, whiskey, and others too numerous to mention, is also important. As the great food crop of the nation for man and beast, however, the corn crop is of first importance, and, although the tendency is to regard the talk of extreme damage to this basic crop as overestimated, it is easy to understand that a large measure of public concern may be felt touching the condition of and outlook for this typical American agricultural product.—Bradstreet's.

Ontario Crops.

Toronto, Aug. 13.—The August crop bulletin for Ontario, based on the appearances on August 1, was issued today by the department of agriculture. The information which forms the basis of the bulletin is obtained from a large corps of regular correspondents living in every part of the province. The general effect of returns is that this year has not been as good a season for farmers as 1900, although in some instances the situation is better. Fall wheat suffered very badly in the large southwestern wheat belt from the Hessian fly, while rust and exceedingly hot weather has wrought damage in other parts. The yield is estimated at 16,000,000 bushels, compared with 23,000,000 last year. The yield of all spring grains is less than last year, though not seriously except in case of peas. The hay and clover crop is exceptionally heavy, being the largest of the year. This, together with the excellent pasture which has existed throughout the season and almost normal crop of oats, will largely save the situation by providing abundance of feed for stock. The apple crop is a failure, while peaches will likely be scarce.

Raising Price of Tin.

Montreal, Aug. 13.—In consequence of the big strike the United States Steel corporation has sent agents to Canada to buy up all the tin they can. Tin manufacturers are well supplied, having laid in a stock to last them until next spring, and they have disposed of some of their stock at fancy figures. In some cases \$2 per box more than would have been offered a couple of months ago. But generally speaking they are holding on to stocks, and the effect of the strike here will be an advance in prices.

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