

The Ghost Dance.

[In the following verses the refrain "Hul hul! hu-ah-huh!" is a phonetic expression of the peculiar song chanted by the Indians during the ghost dance.]

Hul hul hu-ah-huh!
Hear, oh, red man's Manitou:
Mouths are many; deer are few—
Hu-ah-huh!
Fill the hills with game anew—
Once again the mighty Sioux—
We will dance a dance to you—
Hu-ah-huh!

Hul hul hu-ah-huh
Where the bison feed and grow,
Fence and furrows follow through—
Hu-ah-huh!
Far abroad the paleface stray—
And, to face the starving Sioux,
If he carries, let him rue—
Hu-ah-huh!

Hul hul hu-ah-huh!
By the Spirit's promise true—
By the Spirit's self we sue—
Hu-ah-huh!
Let the scenes of blood review!
Come and lead the valiant Sioux!
We have done, and we can do!
Hu-ah-huh!

—DAN DE FOX, in *The Great Divide*,

June, 1891.

New Areas for Wheat.

Economic writers, who know little or nothing about their subject, have of late repeated in a hundred forms the assertion that "the area of land on the earth's surface suitable for wheat-growing is about taken up." Just how these economists arrive at this conclusion it is not easy to see. Certainly there are still vast areas of land fit for wheat-growing that are not utilized at all. For example, in Africa, where many great areas of fertile well watered lands are occupied by primitive people, there are tracts of large extent that offer every essential for the successful culture of wheat. Travelers in that country tell of wide prairies, grassy, forested, watered by regular rains and dotted by lakes, where enormous crops of wheat and other cereals could be grown at slight cost. The millions of acres of fine wheat land there should be taken into account, for, within the next century, the growth of the civilized nations will certainly end in the populating of those great areas. When North America and South America shall be fully occupied, the congested European breeding centres will discharge their surplus population into Africa. They will go there as breadeaters, and they will turn Africa, or a large part of it, into a wheat-growing land, much like the winter wheat section of the United States. It might not be hard task to show that in Africa there is an area of land capable of adding at least 1,000,000,000 bu of wheat to the yearly production of the world.

Another area overlooked by the economists is Siberia. There is another great stretch of land, millions of square miles in extent, much of which is fertile, well-watered and so situated climatically as to offer great capability for both spring and winter wheat growing. Siberia contains 4,826,287 square miles, and only about 5,000,000 inhabitants. Its surface is plowed by enormous rivers and dotted by lakes. It has many millions of acres of land well situated for wheat growing. Russia is now running a great railway across the country from west to east, that will open up immense areas of land to settlement, and with the populating will go

cultivating and the introduction of the cereals. Many millions of acres of fertile soil could be planted to wheat. Should the population of the over-crowded parts of Russia flow along the new railroad in Siberia, then the economists must add Siberia to the wheat-growing countries. Africa, Siberia and other portions of the eastern hemisphere could and would, under pressure, add enormously to the wheat production of the world.

Turning to the western hemisphere, it is easy to see that the capacity for wheat culture has by no means reached its limit. Leaving out Northwestern Canada, there still remain several millions of acres of good wheat land to be accounted in the United States. Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho and Montana promise really important wheat-growing additions. Other states, even those most densely populated now, could and would add to the total area. Virginia, for instance, has 15,000,000 acres of untitled land. Texas has many millions more. In both those states wheat could be grown in enormous quantities. The same is true of Arkansas and Missouri, of Kentucky and Tennessee. The greatest crop of wheat grown in any single year in the United States was that of 1891, estimated to be 612,000,000 bu, but probably really 650,000,000 bu. If the starvation sensationalist economists will reckon up the real wheat producing ability of the United States, on a fully occupied entirely utilized area, under the intensive cultivation that will follow inevitably the denser population and greater demands for wheat, they may not find it difficult to believe in a crop of 1,000,000,000 to 1,500,000,000 bu of wheat yearly in this country.

Next account is to be taken of South America. In that continent are again millions of acres of fine cereal lands, yet wholly untouched. It needs only demand to spur these countries into production. With the certainty of large profits on the operations, capital would turn most of the South American plains into wheat fields like those of Minnesota and neighboring States. With growing populations and steady, growing and profitable markets in the older countries, the young republics of South America would astonish the world with the amounts of wheat and other cereals they would produce. The economists who are figuring out a dearth of wheat do not take into account all these areas and all the features of the wheat problem the world over. They choose to consider the supply absolutely limited to its present proportions, while the demand is yearly growing. In that way they arrive at an erroneous conclusion. They argue about wheat as certain British strategists were, a few days ago, arguing how, inside of forty days, Great Britain could gather enough soldiers to invade the United States, in case the Behring Sea difficulty ended in war. The acute strategists took it for granted that, during the required forty days, the United States would sit still and wait calmly for the invasion, instead of destroying the Welland Canal, the Canadian Pacific Railway and other avenues of invasion, and gathering a million men in arms for every ten thousand Great Britain could throw on to the continent. So the purblind economists argue that the owners of the soil will fold their hands and pay no attention to the demands that would insure them wealth in return for the products of the soil.

There is no danger of a wheat famine in this century or the next. Shifting populations will inevitably end in peopling lands now unused. Better methods of culture will almost double the average output of wheat on lands now supposed to be "worn out." Higher values will stimulate intensive culture. The growers of wheat will practice the art of feeding the soil and keeping up its fertility, while ever making greater and greater demands upon it. And then, too, account should finally be taken of the ease of communication between the remotest lands. The perfection of the system of distribution, by sea and rail, adds really to the certainty that the wheat eaters, the rulers of the earth, will always be able to secure an adequate supply of wheat. Famines like those in India and Russia will be impossible, had those countries the means to distribute their crops from surplus into deficient districts. When all the continents are peopled thickly and thoroughly covered with railroads, and when ships touch every land on earth that is peopled, the wheat supply question, as well as the general food supply question, will be solved in a way to disappoint the pessimistic, purblind prophets of the nineteenth century. — *Milling World*.

Railways in British Columbia.

Two bills having for their object the aiding of railway construction, have come before the legislature of British Columbia. One bears the title, "An Act to authorize the granting of a certain land subsidy for and in aid of the Kaslo and Slocan Railway." It provides for the granting to the Company formed to build from the town of Kaslo to a point on or near Slocan Lake, 10,240 acres per mile, upon condition that construction be commenced and finished within the time specified in the articles of incorporation. The land is to be granted in alternate blocks, and Crown grants may be increased as the work proceeds.

The other, is a bill to aid the Victoria and Sidney Railway company and provides that the Government of British Columbia may guarantee the payment of interest, until maturity, at two per cent per annum on bonds of the Company issued to an amount not exceeding \$300,000, or its equivalent in sterling money, which bonds the company is by its character authorized to issue.

Farmers Making Creamery Butter.

The demand for the De Laval "Baby" Cream Separator shows that farmers are going into the creamery business on their own account in earnest. Quite a number of farmers having dairies of from ten to forty cows in Ontario and Quebec are using these "Baby" Separators with remarkable success, as they claim to make 20 per cent. more butter with this machine than by the Cooley or deep setting system. If our makers of dairy butter could be all induced to change their faulty modes of making dairy butter to the perfect creamery system, the long desired reformation in Canadian butter-making would then be an accomplished fact. Some of those who have used the above Separators state that they are enabled to get 6c to 7c per lb more for their butter than formerly, besides making a decided gain in quantity. — *Montreal Trade Bulletin*.