

Agricultural Intelligence.

The Great Corn Field of the West.

A WRITER in the Cincinnati *Gazette* gives the statistics of the production of corn in the United States for the last twenty-five years as follows:—

In 1840, total crop.....	377,531,875
In 1850, total crop.....	592,671,104
In 1860, total crop.....	830,451,707
In 1866, total crop, (estimated).....	1,039,000,000

The increase being at the rate of four per cent. per annum, the aggregate crop of 1866 will be over one thousand millions of bushels. The following are the portions of the United States where Indian corn is the staple, in comparison with other grains:—

New England, New York, and New Jersey, 38,943,890 bushels.

Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, North and South Carolina, 128,998,249 bushels.

Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Texas, 147,425,726 bushels.

Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, and Kansas, 550,627,943 bushels.

This shows that half the immense crop of Indian corn grown in the United States is produced in the valley of Ohio and Missouri. He estimates the crop of this year in Ohio at 91,000,000 bushels.

Mr. Lawes' Wheat Crop of 1866.

TO THE EDITOR OF BELL'S WEEKLY MESSENGER.

SIR,—There can be no doubt that, owing to the long continuance of very unfavourable harvest weather, the wheat crop has suffered considerable damage, and that a very moderate produce has been harvested, both in bad condition, and at a heavy cost to the farmer. In a letter I wrote about a year ago I stated that, although upon many light soils the crop of 1865 had suffered both from the frosts of the winter, and from the heat and drought of the summer, I still considered that though very inferior to the crop of either 1864 or 1863, it would prove to be upon the whole little, if any, below an average; and I shewed that upon my own farm, both the experimental and the ordinary crops (though below either 1864 or 1863) were considerably above the average of the previous 13 years.

The following are the results obtained this year on some of the most important plots of the experimental field. The selection is the same as in former years, and this is the 23d wheat crop in succession on the same land. For comparison there is also given the produce of the three preceding years, as well as the average over the last 14 years, during the whole of which period (and in some cases longer) the same description and quantity of manure have been applied year after year on the same plot:

BUSHELS OF DRESSED CORN PER ACRE.

Plot.	How manured each year.	Harvests.				Average of 14 years, 1852-1865.
		1863.	1864.	1865.	1866.	
3	Unmanured	17½	16	13½	12½	15½
2	Farmyard manure	44	40	37½	32½	35½
7	Artificial manure	53½	45½	40½	29½	37½
8	Do.	55½	49½	43½	32½	39½
9	Do.	55½	51½	44	32½	39½

WEIGHT PER BUSHEL OF DRESSED CORN, LBS.

3	Unmanured	62.7	62.0	60.1	61.3	57.3
2	Farmyard Manure	63.1	63.6	61.6	61.7	60.8
7	Artificial Manure	62.6	63.1	61.0	61.0	60.0
8	Do.	62.3	63.6	61.1	60.1	60.5
9	Do.	62.1	62.6	61.5	60.6	60.3

Thus the crop of 1866 is, under each of the very different conditions as to manuring, considerably less than that of either of the three preceding years, and also less than the average of the 14 preceding years. The produce without manure, and that by farmyard manure, are between three and four bushels, and that by each description of artificial manure is more still below the average of the 14 years. Indeed, so far as the quantity of grain is concerned, the past season has been particularly unfavorable for the action of the artificial manures, and in this respect it presents a striking contrast to the three preceding years, but more especially to 1863, when exactly the same descriptions and amounts of artificial manure gave about 23 bushels more grain per acre than in the season just past. From the progressive decline in the produce from year to year since 1863 it will, perhaps, be supposed that the result is in great measure connected with a gradually declining condition of the land, and therefore not mainly the effect

and the indication of variation in the productive character of the seasons. That the results are not due to the changing condition of the land, but to the changing character of the seasons, is, however, evident from the fact that several times during the last 14 years the crops on these same plots have been as bad as, or worse than, in the present season. Thus, in 1852, they were worse, in 1853 much worse, and in 1860 very nearly equal, as the following figures will show. The respective plots gave:

BUSHELS PER ACRE.

Plots.		1852.	1853.	1860.	1866.
3	Unmanured	13½	6½	12½	12½
2	Farmyard Manure	27½	19½	32½	32½
7	Artificial Manure	26½	23½	27½	29½
8	Do.	27½	23½	31½	32½

The variation in amount of produce from year to year may therefore safely be taken as almost wholly referable to season.

The quality of the grain, as shewn by the weight per bushel, is seen to be considerably above the average of the last 14 years.

Turning from these experimental results to those obtained on my farm under ordinary management, I may mention that three separate fields gave this year 40, 42, and 46 bushels per acre respectively, against 38, 48, 48, and 51, obtained in four last years, thus indicating a considerable decline in amount of produce. On the other hand, the weight per bushel is somewhat higher in each of the three cases this year than in either of the four last years.

Upon the whole, I conclude that the wheat crop of 1866 will prove to be decidedly below an average, and judging from the produce of both in experimental and ordinary crops, and the relation which has been observed between them and the crops of the country generally for many years past, I should estimate the deficiency at not less than 10 or 12 per cent.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

J. B. LAWES.

Rothamsted, Herts, Oct. 8.

Mr A. Noyes, of Mears, Mich., claims to have a potato which weighs six pounds.

Warren Co., Ohio, has 9,957 horses, 12,478 cattle, 23,102 sheep, and 24,603 hogs.

It is said that 500 pairs of working cattle were exhibited at the Litchfield Co., Conn., Fair.

An Oregon Farmer obtained forty bushels of flax seed from two acres of land. The seed was sold at \$1.50 per bushel.

A firm in Buffalo, N.Y., recently shipped 10,000 bushels of wheat to Toledo, O. This is reversing the natural order of things.

Mr. Goodrich originated and tested about 16,000 seedling potatoes, of which number not more than three or four varieties are considered very valuable.

A rotation of four crops, common in parts of Maryland and Virginia, is Indian corn, wheat, clover, and wheat.

In the vicinity of Chatsworth, Ill., wells are bored with an eight inch augur and lined with drain tile. The water in that region frequently rises nearly to the surface.

A Mr. Scott, of Vermont, insists, against the general opinion, that giving meal to cows "spoils" them, and says he has not had a sick cow in eight years, since he quit feeding meal.

Trotting horses command high prices in New York. At a recent auction sale, Toronto Chief brought \$5,000, Blonde \$2,400, and a pair of black horses \$2,200.

An ointment of seven parts lard to one part of iodine, applied night and morning to the udder of cows troubled with garget is recommended by the *Rural New Yorker*.

Over 3,000 grade merinos have been sent to Virginia from Vermont, within a few weeks. They were to be driven the whole distance, at the rate of about ten miles a day.

The number of entries at the Minnesota State Fair was 717. The display of live stock was very good for a new State, but that of grains was very poor.

The St. Paul Press says the quality of the wheat in Minnesota this year is much inferior to that of former years. The grain is shrunken. The average yield per acre, it is feared, will fall below fifteen bushels.

A farmer in New York has ten acres of osler willow, from which he netted \$1,500 this year. About one ton to the acre is considered a good yield.

A proposal has been made to fertilize the great Desert of Sahara, by complicated systems of river irrigation. The future alone will develop the practicability of such an enterprise.

The Ohio Farmer recommends wood ashes mixed with salt as a preventative or check for bloody murrain. A table spoonful of pulverized roll brimstone given in a meal slop is recommended when an animal is attacked with the disease.

T. C. Peters, of Maryland, says that the average yield of wool from an ordinary flock of sheep will be about one pound to twenty pounds of carcass, live weight, and that if more is obtained, it must be paid for in better care and keeping.

The Rural New Yorker thinks a crop of clover seed exhausts the soil more than the crop which is cut for hay, and advises letting the second growth rot on the land, or feeding it off, unless some remuneration is made to the land.

A correspondent of the *Germantown Telegraph* recommends pouring urine over clover seed, and sprinkling fine gypsum over the seeds, a few days before sowing. He thinks this the best possible stimulant of the germinating energy.

It is recommended to test grass seeds, especially clover, before sowing, by putting seeds, previously counted, in a small cup filled with good soil. Cover the seeds a half inch deep, and keep the soil moist and warm. In a few days the proportion of good seeds may be determined.

A Southern farmer suggests placing two barrels near the hog pen, filling with corn in the ear and covering with water. When one is emptied by feeding from it, fill again and commence feeding from the other. This softens the corn, and, in the opinion of the one suggesting it, makes it more easily digested by souring it a little.

SALE OF LONG WOOLED SHEEP.—At a late auction sale of Cotswold and Leicester sheep at Ann Arbor, Mich., by Mr. E. WALLINGTON, 100 ewe lambs were sold at \$14.00 each, buck lambs sold at from \$30 to \$50 each, three imported ewes brought \$100 each. The whole number sold was 183, bringing \$3,510.

TRAFFIC IN ANIMALS.—Some further regulations on this subject were published in a supplement to the *London Gazette* of the 18th ult. They are to the following effect:—"1. That all cattle and any other animals exposed at any market in Scotland where foreign cattle are, or within the preceding twenty-eight days have been so exposed, or within one mile of such market, shall be slaughtered within four days. 2. That from and after the 22nd inst., no market fair, auction, exhibition, or sale of sheep or lambs shall be held in the several counties enumerated in schedule annexed to order of the 24th of March last, or in the county of Oxford. Provided that markets for the sale of sheep and lambs may be held in such counties with the license of the Privy Council; and sheep and lambs belonging to the owner or occupier of premises that are not situated within the limits of an infected place, if the sheep or lambs are free from disease, and have been in the possession of the owner or occupier not less than twenty-eight days, may be sold on such premises, &c."

CHEESE IN GEauga COUNTY, OHIO.—The *Cleveland Herald* says the extent of cheese manufacture in Geauga county is a matter of surprise to all who become acquainted with its extent and importance. There are seventeen cheese factories in operation there with an average number of six hundred cows to each factory, or ten thousand and two hundred cows in all connected with these establishments. The average yield of milk per cow from May to November is three hundred and fifty gallons, producing one pound of cheese to the gallon, or a total of 3,570,000 pounds of cheese. The amount made in private dairies is put at 892,500 pounds, constituting an aggregate for the county of 4,462,500 pounds. Most of the cheese made during the warmer months is of the Cheshire style, being 15 inches in diameter and 10 inches high, weighing from 60 to 70 pounds each. This style of cheese is designed for the European market. For the home and Southern market a style varying from this is preferred.