

## CROPS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Beerholm's *London List* says. Very unsettled and stormy weather has prevailed in the United Kingdom during the past week, and there are complaints of bad crop in parts of the West, East and North. No serious harm may yet be done, but fine, settled weather is becoming very desirable. Wheat cutting in the earliest districts in the South is hardly expected to be at all general before the week after next. Many of our reports from the country are less brilliant in their expectations regarding the wheat crop than they were a few weeks ago, but there seems little doubt, with favorable weather, that the yield per acre will not fall short of 31 bushels, against 26 bushels per acre, according to the official returns of last year. The area sown is probably 1,850,000 acres, against 1,952,522 acres last year. In such a case, the total crop would be about 7½ million quarters, against 6,360,000 quarters last year.

In France, the wheat harvest is not yet commenced in the important districts of the North and Northwest, so that it is difficult to give any more than an approximate idea of the probable total crop. Meanwhile, with fine weather, a very large yield is expected in the North, and, if that be so, the total crop may not fall short of 40 million quarters, against 35 million quarters last year.

In Germany, the wheat crop is officially described, on July 15, as promising something between an average and a good yield, in which case it would not equal that of the previous year. In both Belgium and Holland, the crops have been deteriorated by the recent continuously wet weather.

In Hungary, according to the latest official crop report, the prospects have improved: the quality and natural weight of the new wheat and rye are unusually good, whilst as to quantity, the Minister of Agriculture estimates wheat to be about 17½ millions quarters, against twenty millions last year. In Austria, too, a better yield is being obtained than had been expected.

In Roumania, the dry, hot weather has favored the wheat harvest, at the expense of the maize crop: the former is now said to be very good in quality, but about 20 per cent. less in quantity than last year's yield of 7,300,000 quarters. The maize crop is, however, considered to be more or less a failure, owing to the prolonged absence of rain.

From Bulgaria, the latest reports say that the wheat harvest proves to be satisfactory in both quality and quantity, but barley and rye are both very poor crops, and maize promises to be an almost entire failure.

The Russian official crop reports are rather contradictory, the latest, which is

said to be based upon the reports of the various customs inspectors, indicating more serious injury from the unfavorable weather in June than had hitherto been acknowledged. The reports, however, add that upon the whole the crops will be very good, and probably above the average. As the average wheat crops of 1888 to 1892 in European Russia amounted to about 29½ million quarters, one might be taking an extreme view in assuming the present year's crop to be about 35 million quarters, against last year's abnormally large crop of 40 million quarters.

The Spanish wheat crop has turned out very well, but in Italy, although the quality is very good, the quantity is disappointing and certainly less than last year. Italy, in the first half of this year, only imported 865,000 quarters, against 1,572,000 quarters last year.

In Australia, according to a cabled report, copious rains have decidedly improved the agricultural outlook.

## A MINING MOVE IN B. C.

A correspondent of the *Canadian Engineer*, writes:

News has been received of a move that will be of great interest to all who have mining investments in the Kootenay country. Several leading business men of British Columbia have joined forces with Eastern Americans in the promotion of one of the most extensive schemes known to the history of this rich mineral region. For a long time it has been known that one of the chief reasons for the comparative standstill in this section is the excessive tariff that all ores coming out of its mines have been made to suffer. Owing to a combination of inadequate transportation in the immediate vicinity of the mines, the long hauls necessary to convey the products to the smelters on the American side, and the tax at the line, only high grade ores could be handled to any advantage or profit. This necessarily left a large number of valuable medium and low grade properties idle on the hands of the owners. But American enterprise was not long to be baffled by such difficulties, and the solution of the problem appears to have been reached. As the result of the efforts of Andrew B. Hendryx, of New Haven, Conn., and Mr. Joshua Davis, of Victoria, B. C., a company has been formed to be known as the Kootenay Mining and Smelting Company, with a paid up capital of \$2,250,000, which has been subscribed in New Haven, Minneapolis, and Victoria, B. C. E. W. Herrick, a Minneapolis capitalist, is the president of the new company; R. P. Rithet, of Victoria, B. C., is the vice-president, and Joshua Davis, E. Crow Baker, W. H. Ellis, W. P. Sayward, W. J. Macaulay, James Hutcheson and H. Chapman, all of whom

rank high in the business circles of British Columbia, are associated with them in the enterprise. Pilot Bay is the geographical centre of the Kootenay country, commanding on the one hand the rich Slooan with its high grade silver-lead ores, and on the other the copper, silver, and lead of Ainsworth and Nelson, with all their intermediate points. At Pilot Bay, and owned by the company, is the Blue Bell mine, one of the largest and most valuable deposits of fluxing ores in America. Such is the favorable location which the company has selected as the base of their operations. The plant as designed will accommodate four stacks each of 100 tons capacity. Seven large buildings have already been completed for the works and three others are under way. Over 200 tons of the most modern machinery has been received and is now being put into place, while several carloads more are on the way from the East. The plant will be the most modern and complete that money can buy. Extensive wharves are being erected along the water front, and apparatus will be placed for the handling of ores in large quantities.

The works will be in operation before the first of October next, with one 100-ton stack in full blast for the reduction of silver-lead ores. The three other stacks will be added as fast as the district develops, and it is designed to give the treatment of copper ores the same attention as lead ores. In fact, all ores that can be handled to profit and advantage will be purchased and treated by the company.

In addition to the smelter proper, the works will include a 300-ton sampling plant, a 200-ton concentrator, a refinery capable of treating all the bullion produced, and the finest laboratory and assay office in the west.

## DAIRY PRODUCE.

The *Montreal Trade Bulletin* says: "Butter receipts during the past week were 4,282 pkgs, against 5,096 pkgs for the week previous. The market has had a depressed and tired appearance under large offerings and a very limited demand. There has, however, been a little more enquiry during the past few days of late made creamery on local and Newfoundland account, but it has not led to much business, as holders are still too exacting. We have just heard of one or two lots changing hands, but the figures paid were not mentioned. In Eastern Townships dairy, very little is reported outside of the local trade, prices remaining about as last quoted. Newfoundland buyers say that some of the offerings of Western dairy are very poor, and require close selection. We quote prices as follows