

United States Grain Trade and Crops.

The past week has been more seasonable than previously, and there has been little occasion for complaint from agricultural districts. Corn planting has been advanced rapidly where it has been delayed by excessive moisture, and the outlook for the start of this crop is decidedly more encouraging. In Iowa the corn crop is being planted considerably earlier than last year, and conditions as a rule are very satisfactory.

In regard to wheat the winter grain is maintaining the previous promise for the most part. Advices from Kansas are perhaps more discouraging as a whole than heretofore, while in various other regions the growth has developed better than expected. Again, in other localities, including some districts in Indiana and Ohio, the plant has had so rank a growth as to give rise to doubt as to favorable grain producing results.

In the Northwest there have been some drawbacks the past week from wind storms, but the prevailing position of the wheat crop is fairly satisfactory.—Cincinnati *Price Current*, May 25.

Where the Flour Goes.

The larger portion of the wheat crop of the United States is winter wheat. The three principal spring wheat states are Minnesota and North and South Dakota. Last year they raised, according to government estimates, 107,975,000 bushels, but these estimates were much too low, probably 140,000,000 bushels is nearer correct. The bulk of this wheat is sold at Minneapolis, mainly to local millers. The demand from them is sharp, most of the time keeping prices above an export basis. They are so now and have been for a long time. In other words, a farmer can sell his wheat to the millers in Minneapolis for more money than he can get for it either at London or Liverpool, freight off. The reason is perhaps that the flour made here is of a better quality than that made by English millers, even when identically the same wheat is used, and commands higher prices. This is due to the machinery used here being superior to much that is in use there. For this reason English millers are forced to buy cheaper wheats from India, Argentine and Russia, to mix with our spring wheat, in order to meet the competition of the spring wheat millers. The trade in the leading English wheat markets is called dull by millers here, and prices there are very low, but the demand is picking up, and spring wheat flour continues to be pushed on to them, and seems to stand at the head of patent flours, with the exception of that made in Hungary. The latter production is small. Most of our spring wheat flour is sold in the United Kingdom.—Minneapolis *Market Record*.

Crops in England.

The Liverpool *Corn Trade News* of May 16 says:—"The reign of 'perpetual summer' appears nearly over; for the last 36 hours it has been overcast and apparently doing its best to rain without, however, effecting much. If these clouds pass over without emptying themselves the situation will be looked upon as desperate, even now it is too late for much of the spring corn to do any real good, and as for the hay crop the deficiency will be most serious. On the continent the situation is not quite so strained, rain has fallen, and in many cases has revived the hopes of agriculturists, but in some instances has afforded people an opportunity of learning how serious the injury to crops wrought by the long drought really is."

The directors of the Halifax Sugar Refining Company, at their meeting in Glasgow, Scotland, on Monday, declared a dividend of 10 per cent, after writing off £3,400 for preliminary expenses, £3,500 in reduction of debentures and paying all interest charges, carrying forward £900. Stocks of sugar held by the company have been valued considerably below the present advanced prices. The directors had a cable from Canada on Thursday from the syndicate that had been negotiating with the Board in Glasgow to purchase the property, intimating that they had resolved to exercise their option to acquire the business on terms which had already been agreed upon. It is understood that these terms are very advantageous, all the more so in consequence of the recent rise in the price of sugar.

We have received the first number of a new publication, *The Canadian Engineer*, a bright monthly journal of 28 pages and cover, devoted to the mechanical, mining and other branches of the engineering trades. It is thoroughly Canadian in tone, every article has a practical purpose, and it gives an immense amount of news of interest to the trades concerned. Its design and typographical appearance are not excelled in this country. Published by *The Canadian Engineer Co.*, 62 Church street, Toronto, and the Fraser Building, Montreal, at \$1 per year.

Each subscriber to the Cincinnati *Price Current* received with the last issue a supplement, in pamphlet form, containing the most comprehensive presentation of commercial and kindred statistical information of a general nature available from any source, and in an especially compact form. Its readers will appreciate the work, though few of them will understand the extent of exacting personal labor which it has called for. This is the forty-fourth annual report of pork-packing in the United States and Canada; also provisions and grain trade and live stock and general commercial statistics. The work is an invaluable one for reference.

"As we showed last week," says the Toronto *Monetary Times*, "in an article headed 'Too Many Shops,' out of some 900 shops on Yonge street in this city fifteen per cent. are vacant. A subscriber ventures the opinion that 'on Queen street, which has more shops, I think you will not find so many vacant in proportion.' We have counted the shops on Queen street accordingly, and find more than seventeen per cent. of them vacant. So that our subscriber was wrong."

The annual meeting of shareholders of the Nanaimo Gas Company was held recently. The directors' report was very favorable, showing a large increase in receipts and an appreciable reduction in expenses. Recent extensions have necessitated an outlay of \$15,000, but the consequent improvements have fully repaid the expenditure of this amount. It was decided to sell gas for stores and motive power during the day at \$2 per 1,000 feet. The following were elected officers. President, G. L. Milne; vice-president, J. Mahrer; directors, C. D. Raud, F. H. Worlock, and M. Harris; secretary-treasurer, W. R. Leighton.

Mr Keeling, of Anvil Island, has received fine samples of bricks and tiles from Staffordshire, made from clay sent by him, there.

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