

World's Meat-Producing Stocks in War-Time.

The relative importance of the principal countries of the world in connection with meat-producing animals on farms and ranges is well brought out in the report of the American Government on the meat situation, and as the figures were the latest obtainable at the end of 1914 by the United States commercial agents in the different countries, the whole facts give us a fairly perfect picture of the live stock industry of the world as it existed at the outbreak of the great Armageddon.

So far as the meat production of the world is concerned, the deduction made from the facts collected from forty principal live stock countries, fifteen of which have an important international meat trade, is that 50,000 million lbs. (dressed carcass weight) of meat is annually produced and is consumed by 500 million people. Including the "extra-edible" meats, not included in the dressed carcass, the annual production is put at 60,000 million lbs., or the equivalent to 62,400,000 million calories. The meat thus dealt with consisted of beef (including veal), mutton (including lamb), and pork (including bacon and hams). Poultry, game, and the flesh of any animals other than cattle, sheep, and pigs, are excluded from this total.

Cattle.

So far as cattle are concerned, the United States is shown to be now the leading country of the world so far as numbers are concerned. Its farms and ranges this year (1916) possessed 61,441,000 cattle. If the cattle not on farms or ranges (nearly 2,000,000 in 1910) are added, the total number in the United States is about 63,500,000. According to the latest information the Russian Empire possesses 52,000,000 cattle, and far below that country is the Argentine with 29,500,000 cattle. An official estimate gives Brazil 30,700,000, but this is thought to be excessive. Germany's last census of cattle numbered 21,000,000, France's 15,000,000, the United Kingdom's 12,000,000, and Australia's 11,500,000. No other country of the forty from which figures were obtained possessed as many as 10,000,000 cattle, unless Austria and Hungary are combined, the total for both of these sub-divisions of the dual empire being 16,500,000.

An examination of the records of the number of cattle in the various countries for recent years, say since about 1907, reveals the important general fact that in most of the countries the number of cattle in these recent years is about stationary. In a much smaller number of countries now (1916) including the United States and the United Kingdom, the number of cattle is increasing. In Canada the number is decreasing—from 7,547,000 in 1908 to 6,066,000 in 1915. The more prominent countries in which cattle are increasing are the United States (in 1916) after half a dozen years of sharp decline, and the United Kingdom in 1915 and 1916, after being fairly stationary for something like a decade; also Asiatic Russia and Uruguay. Among the less important countries showing increases in late years are Denmark, Madagascar, and Holland. Possibly, it is thought, New Zealand might be included in this list. Among the least important cattle countries showing increases are British East Africa, British South Africa, and what was (before the war) German East Africa. In no other countries in the world, as far as could be ascertained in this inquiry, are cattle increasing in numbers. It is not always easy to form a judgment as to whether cattle are increasing or diminishing or remaining stationary in number, where fluctuations of different character show year by year, but approximately it appears that a stationary condition exists in the important countries of the Argentine, Australia, Austria-Hungary, France, Germany and, possibly, European Russia. The countries of less importance in which cattle numbers are fairly stationary are Algeria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Cuba, Finland, Greece, Paraguay, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland.

The general decline of cattle in recent years "is accentuated when comparison is made with population. In only a few countries, most of them relatively unimportant (except the United States in 1916), are cattle increasing *per capita* of population. These are the United States (1916), Uruguay, and possibly Asiatic Russia, Madagascar, Denmark, British East Africa, British South Africa, and German East Africa. The list of countries in which the *per capita* cattle are decreasing contains many important ones, and in this list are the Argentine, Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Cuba, Germany, New Zealand, European Russia, and Serbia."

Sheep.

So far as sheep are concerned Australia still led the world for numbers in 1913, when she had 85,000,000 head, but was being closely followed by the Argentine with 80,000,000. Drought is said to have reduced Australia's sheep in 1915 to 72,000,000 head, which reduces her to third place. Asiatic and European Russia combined possesses 77,000,000 sheep, but these include some goats. The United States had about 50,000,000 sheep on farms and ranges on April 15 of this year (1916). Next below the United States follow, in order, British South Africa, with 36,000,000 sheep; the United Kingdom, with 28,000,000; Uruguay, with 26,000,000; and New Zealand, with 25,000,000. France has over 16,000,000 sheep, Spain a little less than 16,000,000, Italy over 11,000,000, and Brazil somewhat less than 11,000,000 sheep.

Since about 1907 or 1908 sheep have absolutely increased in the Argentine, Uruguay, and New Zealand—all countries of high importance—and have increased also in British East Africa, British South Africa, Bulgaria,

possibly Chile, Madagascar, and possibly Serbia. In a few other countries sheep are maintaining their numbers absolutely, and by far the most important of these is Asiatic Russia, where perhaps sheep are slightly increasing. Spain, Hungary, Norway, and possibly Greece and Rumania, were maintaining their sheep stocks down to the end of 1914. The countries in which sheep are absolutely declining (i.e., in actual numbers) make a long list, and include such countries of high importance as Australia, European Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Among the countries of less importance showing a decline are Algeria, France, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Holland, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Sheep in relation to population make a worse show than in regard to absolute numbers. Uruguay and British South Africa are the only countries of importance in which sheep are increasing in comparison with population in very recent years, and the only other countries in this class are British East Africa, Madagascar, and possibly Serbia. A stationary ratio of sheep to population is found in another small list of countries, and this list contains only one country of high importance—New Zealand. The other countries are Hungary, Bulgaria, Norway, Spain, and possibly Chile. There remains a long list of countries in which sheep are declining relative to population, and the most important of these countries are the Argentine, Australia, Asiatic Russia, European Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Of considerable importance also are Algeria, France, and Rumania. The less important countries showing decline in relation to population are Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Holland, Sweden, and Switzerland. Down to 1914 sheep were declining, both absolutely and in relation to population, in the now defunct German East Africa.

Pigs.

Pigs do not fit into the agricultural economy of the various countries in the same ways and degrees that cattle and sheep do, and the facts relating to them are not so complete. Owing to the relation of these animals to the maize crop, three-quarters of the world's crop of this cereal being produced there, the United States is by far the principal swine-producing country of the world. The 70,500,000 pigs on and off the farms of

has been left in the past to chance, to haphazard business transactions, and to the enterprise of a few individuals, who, generally seeing farther than the rest of their contemporaries, have helped themselves to the trade that was offering. In the days that are to come it behooves every Breed Society to convert itself into a business house and every breeder into a business man. The days of the go-easy pedigree stock raiser, i.e., the rich man who "played" with the industry, either because he wanted something to spend his time upon, or because it was "thought well of" by his set, have gone. There is coming into live-stock breeding a new element—the men and the women who have made their money in industry. They are, we may depend, not going to waste their investments in pedigree stock by neglecting to do business with the foreigner when he knocks at our door and calls for foundation stock. They are going to treat stock-raising as a business proposition. They are going to leave "the dabbler" very severely behind in the race for trade. No longer will the latter have to tread the primrose paths of dalliance; he must be awake to all that is going on around him, and we can only reiterate what we have said oft and again in the Journal in 1916, that now is the time to make ready for the play—for play it will be, fast play, and merry, and the breeders who fasten quickest on to the object which clearly lies before them will win. We, also, have to use this sporting phrase and simile to make ourselves clear, but a War Minister has recently spoken in much the same language, and he was understood of the people, the world over.

The foregoing article is taken from the Live Stock Journal Almanac for 1917, and it sums up in a broad way world-wide conditions with regard to live stock.

THE FARM.

A Story of Our Ancestors.

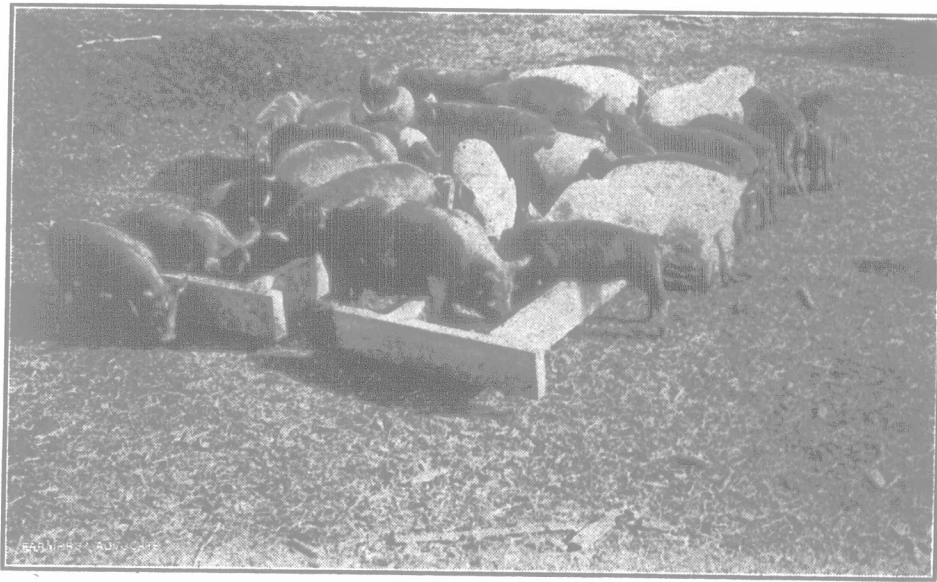
EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

A little over a year ago an article, all too short, appeared in this paper to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of its existence and to say a few words of its founder and first editor, the late Wm. Weld. These words were, if few, very suggestive. One could not

help recalling the beautiful county of Kent, whence he came, as no doubt he himself often did. It has a just claim to call itself the garden of England though the scenery is of all varieties. Coast and cliff, woodland and meadow are all represented. Then there are orchards and hop gardens and for those who love books literary associations and old-world nooks which looking at, one feels the tide of modern life has passed by and left as relics of a former time. Dickens lived there and in his story of the wanderings of little Nell and her Grandfather, gives so realistic a description as well as an idyllic story that Bret Harte tells that

as he read it aloud in a mining camp the whole crowd of rough miners along with little Nell in English meadows, "Wandered and Lost Their Way."

But even to the dwellers in beautiful Kent as to those in the bleaker Scottish hills comes at times that irresistible "call" to leave their home and kindred and wander to a far country which they know not. This event is as old as history. Did not Abraham go forth from his home in Ur of the Chaldees long ages ago to found a great nation as thousands of his race and ours have done ever since. The "call" comes in some way or another, in early times they said direct from heaven, and will do till the end of time, as our best and bravest will respond even as their predecessors have done. It is well for this province of Ontario that the call came and had an appeal to such men as were the fathers of its present population. They were men generally of respectable middle-class families, yeoman and townspeople of moderate means. They had as a rule got from their parents as good an education as circumstances permitted, the lads themselves wanted an out-door life and some adventure, and, as a rule, though they had comfortable homes there was no money to spare. Canada, of all our colonies, was the nearest, therefore, when the settler had little money to spend on travelling it was the most convenient. The climate, too, of Ontario is not so very unlike that which they had been accustomed to, a little hotter in summer, a little colder in winter, maybe, than that of England and Scotland, but the vegetation was much the same, and with some modifications the same methods of farming could be followed as in their old home. It was not so great a change as for instance going to the tropics, nor was it so great an undertaking as journeying to our other colonies, New Zealand and Australia, where, besides a long and expensive sea voyage, to farm with any degree of success required a much larger initial outlay than here. The conditions there, too, are different, and the



Just Pigs.

that country are about as many as the pigs combined in the Argentine (3,500,000 in 1914), Austria-Hungary (7,500,000 in 1911), Canada (3,100,000 in 1915), France (7,000,000 in 1913), Germany (25,600,000 in 1913), European Russia (12,500,000 in 1913), and the United Kingdom (3,300,000 in 1913), and these are all the countries that are of considerable pig population except China, the number of whose swine is enormous but unknown. The remarkable rate of reproduction by pigs brings about great fluctuations in their numbers, so that the comparisons possible with cattle and sheep are entirely misleading when applied to pigs. As a rule, however, pigs appear to have generally increased in most countries in recent years, but not generally at the same rate as the population.

Appreciating the facts and figures adduced above, making full allowances for the times we live in, and realising the vast expansion of trade that must ensue after the European War is over, we cannot do better than add still another plea to British raisers of pedigree stock, to make ready for that business and to be well possessed of the sources from whence can come full supplies. There is already a strong bidder to British trade in U.S.A. As years roll on, the Argentine will in turn, no doubt, become a source of supply and a competitor, instead of being what she is to-day, a customer.

Expansion for British live-stock business must come after the war from Russia, from East and South Africa, and from Australasia. Breeders must keep their studs, herds, and flocks up to concert pitch. Our Breed Societies and our own R.A.S.E. have slept (or slumbered) long enough. Action is wanted, and spirited action at that. In the "Live Stock Journal" during 1916 we have done our best to awaken Breed Societies into realising what a golden treasury they have the key to, if they would only show some outward signs that they realize the importance of their own institutions. Too much