

by flour from the United States range from about 86c. to about \$1.35 per quarter sack of 49 pounds, but there are large stocks on hand and sales are slow. On October 1st, there will be an increase of duty of .247 sen (.124 cents) per 133 pounds. The present rate of duty is .456 sen (.228 cents) per 133 pounds, and when the new duty comes into force the duty on flour will be .703 sen (.352 cents) per 133 lbs., an increase of 54½ per cent. of duty, whereas the duty on wheat does not change.

Several dealers suggest shipping to the Yokohama market trial shipments of sacks of flour weighing about 24½ pounds each. At present there is a difference of about 50c. per barrel (or four bags), against Canadian flour, so that Japanese bakers are only able to use it for fancy baking. Mr. MacLean thinks that a business could be worked up for Manitoba No. 1 Hard, notwithstanding its high price, if the right methods be adopted. He insists most strongly that no attempt be made to palm off inferior goods of any kind.

"Flour must be packed into white cotton bags containing 49 pounds each. These closely-woven, starched bags allow practically no waste and no infiltration of dust in the course of transportation. Grain bags will not do. Some Canadian flour comes shipped in 98-pound bags—grain bags, apparently—and during shipment a great deal leaks out, and much dust works its way into the flour, and the trade is complaining on that account. Wheat is usually imported in sacks, heavy, coarse bran sacks containing 133 pounds. Bags of closely-woven material, made like burlap, tear easily, with a resulting shortage on delivery."

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#### FACTS ABOUT RUSSIA.

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Russia's apparently uninterrupted series of reverses during the present war has brought into being on this continent and elsewhere, a feeling of what may be almost called contempt for that country, and all that appertains thereto. This is a feeling, however, which may easily be carried too far; Russia is a country of magnificent resources; all that has been shown so far is that her strength is not in an immediately available position. A few facts and figures about this wonderful and probably greatly misunderstood nation, which still remains the "Colossus of the North," may prove of more than usual interest at this juncture in her history.

The Russian Empire covers an area of 8,660,395 square miles, or one-seventh of the land-surface of the whole globe. Its population is estimated at 141,000,000. To show the country's marvellous growth in numbers, which of course includes the people of newly "absorbed" territories, it may be remarked that in 1859, the population of Russia was 74,000,000, or little more than half of what it is at present, and that in 1722 it was only 14,000,000. Considering the poverty and lack of opportunity for the masses, the emigration is small, probably hardly an annual average of 400,000, though it seems to have a strong tendency to increase, and would probably do so to a considerable extent if it did not meet with Government discouragement.

The sole reliance of vast masses of the people is upon agriculture, and though implements are of the most meagre description, and the methods of cultivation employed very inferior, the enormous aggregate of land under cultivation, though yielding as a rule but poor and uncertain crops, is responsible for great additions to the world's food supplies. It should not be taken for granted, however, that this agricultural inferiority will last for ever in Russia. The Government is now taking a pronounced interest in several rural departments of industry; and already in such lines as eggs and butter the Russians are beginning to make their mark in the markets of the world. At present there are 68 or more experimental farms under governmental control. It is by no means unlikely that future development will show that one of Canada's strongest commercial rivals in the supply of agricultural produce, etc., is Siberia.

In 1902 the estimated area under crops in the Russian Empire, including Poland, Finland, and Siberia, was 214,996,000 acres of land, and the crop of wheat amounted to 820,851,000 pouds; of rye, to 1,292,690,000 pouds; of oats, to 746,077,000 pouds. A poud or pood is equal to a little over 36 English pounds. In 1899 there were under flax in European Russia about 4,004,642 acres. To show that, like another country nearer home, Russia sometimes suffers in the conceptions formed by other people of its climate, it may be remarked that in the province of Transcaucasia there were in 1899 about 250,675 acres under vines, which yielded 17,043,000 gallons of wine; and there were also about 10,265 acres in tobacco, yielding 3,392 tons. Another culture which shows a tendency to expand in the same region is tea. In the production of animals, Russia is well to the front. Of horses, the estimated number she possesses is 25,961,000; cattle, 43,589; sheep and goats, 70,647. In the year 1899, it was calculated that Russia produced 14 per cent. of the total meat production of the world.

Another natural feature in which Russia is rich is timber. She has vast forests, the principal owner being the State. Altogether, belonging to the Government there are 936,546,000 acres of forest, though much of this is in Asiatic territory where its utilization is attended with greater difficulties.

Many districts are rich in mineral ore of all kinds, the chief minerals mined being gold, platinum, silver, lead, zinc, copper, iron, coal and naphtha. In the year 1902, the consumption of all sorts of iron, raw and wrought, was 177,552,000 pouds, of which 156,497,000 pouds, or nearly 98 per cent. was made at home. The output of coal in the year last mentioned was 6,022,000, and the Russian Government is trying, through the imposition of a stiff duty and other means, to increase it.

In some branches of manufacture, the Russians have shown astonishing progress in recent years, more particularly in textiles. In 1897, the number of factories, mines, and industrial establishments of all kinds in European Russia, not including Poland, was 30,029, and these employed 2,098,242 work people, and turned out goods to the value of 2,839,144,000 roubles. A rouble is about half a dollar. The cotton