

from the official and other figures published for the several wheat-producing countries. First I give the figures for Europe, as compared with those of last year :-

| THE EUROPEAN WHEAT CROP.   |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
|                            | 1888.      |
| United Kingdom .....       | 7,500,000  |
| France .....               | 28,000,000 |
| Russia (inc. Poland) ..... | 30,500,000 |
| Austria-Hungary .....      | 22,000,000 |
| Germany .....              | 11,000,000 |
| Roumania .....             | 3,500,000  |
| Servia .....               | 780,000    |
| Turkey .....               | 5,000,000  |
| Holland .....              | 574,000    |
| Belgium .....              | 2,025,500  |
| Denmark .....              | 594,000    |
| Sweden and Norway .....    | 465,500    |
| Italy .....                | 12,850,000 |
| Switzerland .....          | 700,000    |
| Greece .....               | 600,000    |
| Spain .....                | 12,000,000 |
| Portugal .....             | 800,000    |

Europe.....138,389,000 158,305,250  
Here we have a deficiency of nearly 20,000,000 quarters, or 160,000,000 bushels, in Europe, as compared with last year's production. Of course the figures are only approximations; but it is worthy of notice that a similar compilation which appears in Beerbohm's Com. Trade List, of last Friday evening, made quite independently of my own, brings out almost precisely the same totals, as far as can be seen; some of the extra European countries being grouped with a few of the minor sources of supply named above. Allowing for a great decrease in the United States and South America, increases in India and Australia, and a production in Canada as a whole about equal to that of last year, the world's deficiency, comparing the produce in 1888 with that of 1887, comes out to about 22,000,000 quarters, or 176,000,000 bushels. Beerbohm makes it 12 million bushels less; but then he allows 8,000,000 bushels too much for the Indian crop, through a clear error in calculation of the official figures. In another estimate, comparing the supposed surpluses and requirements of the several countries, he shows a deficiency of 72,000,000 bushels. But this must be too little, unless the reserve stocks in the world have greatly increased since this time last year, of which I fail to see the evidence. If they have not increased, last year's wheat crop was not too great for a year's consumption, and whatever the decreased production is, that quantity will represent the difference between the total demand and the total surplus, and, to make it good, ordinary reserve stocks will have to be drawn upon very largely. This means a considerable advance in prices. The average price of wheat here last week was 37s. 9d. a quarter, or 6s. 5d. higher than it was in the last week of June, and 8s. 8d. higher than it was at this time last year. But the advance in top prices is much greater, as good samples have been sold at 45s. to 47s. a quarter, whereas at the last of June the top price was 35s. I expect to see 50s. reached as the average, and 60s. as the top price before the cereal year is over.

IS AGRICULTURE REVIVING?

This is a question which is now receiving some attention in England. An inquiry recently instituted by an agricultural paper shows that farms have lately been letting more readily than for some years before, and it is clear, therefore, that farmers have more hope of getting a living than they have enjoyed during a long period. Rents have been generally reduced from 10 to 50 per cent., and nearly all the other expenses of farming have also been diminished. Thus, even with low prices, farmers have a better chance

of making ends meet than they had two or three years ago. But now the prices of grain and live stock alike have risen, and dairy produce has sold well during the greater part of the present year, so that apart from the harvest, which is unsatisfactory in many respects, prospects have certainly brightened. It is likely, too, that more money will be made of damp and inferior grain than was obtained last year for the best qualities in excellent condition. The great abundance of feed keeps the prices of live stock high, and fat stock are selling much better than they sold a year ago. At all the great sales of cattle and sheep held during the last month or two prices have been much higher than for the last three years. I should say that lean cattle have sold at 30s. to 40s., and sheep at 5s. to 10s. a head above last year's prices, taking them all round.

EARLY MATURITY IN SHEEP.

A friend who has been inspecting some of the Hampshire flocks says that he has seen numbers of lambs seven months old weighing 140 lbs., live weight, and worth 55s. each. In one flock the average weight of all the lambs he estimates at 140 lbs., and their average age is about ten months. He values them at 55s. all round. That is remarkable for a whole lot of lambs, not picked.

DAIRYING IN GREAT BRITAIN.

We do not intend to be left behind much longer in this country in the production of first-class butter. Our best cheese has always been equal to any, only there has been too little of it. The same might be said of butter, with this difference, that the dairies which have turned out first-class butter regularly are much fewer in proportion than those which have sent out fine cheese. Now, however, butter factories and dairy schools are being established in various parts of England and Scotland. The foundation of which is stimulated by the promise of government grants. They are small in amount but sufficient to induce people to subscribe in many localities to establish these institutions. A factory at Glyside, Sussex, owned by Lord Hampden, which I visited lately, is turning out splendid butter, and getting good prices for it—from 1s. 2d. in the cheapest season of the year to 1s. 6d. per lb. in the winter half-year. A good business is also being done in the sale of cream in one-quarter and one-half pint earthenware pots, retailed at 9d. and 1s. each. Lord Hampden is now giving 7½d. per imperial gallon (spirits) for Shorthorn milk and 9d. for Jersey milk, so the farmers on his estate and others in the district do well with their cows. It was for their benefit that Lord Hampden established the factory. As Mr. Brand he was for many years Speaker of the House of Commons.

MARGARINE.

It is gratifying to observe that our imports of margarine (formerly called butterine) are falling off, while those of butter are increasing. During the eight months ended with August we imported 1,116,144 cwt. of butter and 728,778 of margarine, as compared with 1,070,423 cwt. of the former and 784,547 of the latter in the corresponding period of last year. Previous to the passing of the Margarine Act, which prohibits the sale of the spurious article for the real one, the imports of margarine had been constantly and rapidly increasing, therefore the decrease this year is a clear sign of the benefit of the act.

FRUIT GROWING.

Another subject which is attracting a good deal of attention here is the desirability of growing more first-class fruit, and storing and marketing it on a better system than the rough-and-ready one now prevailing. A conference of fruit growers has just been held at the Crystal Palace and an association has been formed to organize an improved system of dealing with fruit. High railway charges are among the most serious impediments to remunerative fruit-growing in this country. Hitherto the railway companies have given advantages to foreign fruit growers, but it is expected that our new Railway Act will prevent this injustice, and at the same time bring down all exorbitant charges.

A NEW DEPARTURE IN AGRICULTURE.

A bill has been introduced by the Government, to be discussed during the autumn session, establishing what is called the Board of Agriculture—a thoroughly organized department which will take the place of our present make-shift. A Cabinet Minister is to be at the head of it, and it is to have control of agricultural statistics, education and experiments, the prevention of cattle diseases and the dissemination of ample information of an agricultural character.

THE LONDON DAIRY SHOW.

The Dairy Show will be held in the Agricultural Hall, Islington, on October 9th to 12th, and in my next letter I shall report on its most important features. It may here be mentioned that the British Dairy Farmers' Association will next May visit Scotland for its annual conference and excursion. Any Canadian dairymen wishing to see what is best worth inspecting in Scotch dairying, which has of late made great advance, would do well to join this very pleasant party. Mr. Lynch, who represented Canada at our conference last May in the Eastern Counties, can tell his fellow-countrymen what a pleasant trip we had. But there is more to see in Scotland than there was in Norfolk and Suffolk, where dairying is very backward.

SIR JOHN LAWES ON ENSILAGE.

Sir John Lawes has contributed to the Agricultural Gazette of Monday last an article describing his experience of ensilage—experiments in relation to the system having been conducted on his farm at Rothamsted since 1884. He concludes that there is more waste of feeding material in converting grass or clover into silage than in converting it into hay, where the latter can be well made; but he admits the value of the system of ensilage in a wet season such as the last. In a dry climate, such as that at Rothamsted, where the average annual rainfall is 28 inches, he is not disposed to make ensilage part of the regular-farm system, because, he says, the produce of an acre in hay will go further in feeding live stock than the same produce made into silage.

Loose Tires.

We have noticed this paragraph in several of our American exchanges, it is said to answer well, try it and report to us. "When spokes and felloes shrink and the wagon tires become loose in consequence, it is the custom to have the tires reset, at the usual expense of fifty cents each. It is far cheaper and better for the wheels to saturate the entire woodwork with hot linseed oil. It can be applied with a rag tied to a stick. This fills the pores and causes the timber to swell and fill the tire as when new. With a coat of hot oil once in a year or two there will be no loose tires, and the wheels will last very much longer."

Do not graze your pastures too close this fall.

As prolonged darkness is detrimental to vegetable life so are dark stables injurious to the health of stock. Many stables are made to face the blank wall of the building and when the animal is in the stall it so darkens the manger that it must feed at random. After standing in a dark stable and then coming out into sunlight the eyes are dazzled, and this oft repeated impairs the sight and sometimes leads to blindness.

In the Fort Atkinson Centrifugal Creamery is kept what is called a Jersey vat, where is placed the milk of those patrons whose cows possess 50 per cent or more of Jersey or Guernsey blood. This milk is run separately from the other, and a separate account is kept with those who furnish it. A difference of 20 cents per hundred pounds of milk is found in favor of the Jersey vat. This provision the proprietors of the creamery were obliged to make in order to obtain the milk of the Jersey and Guernsey.