

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY
by
The Monetary Times
Printing Company
of Canada, Limited

Publishers also of
"The Canadian Engineer"

Monetary Times

Trade Review and Insurance Chronicle
of Canada

Established 1867

Old as Confederation

JAS. J. SALMOND
Managing Director

FRED. W. FIELD
Managing Editor

A. E. JENNINGS
Advertising Manager

Food Situation in Belligerent Countries

EXTENT of Destruction and Waste—Germany's Deficiency Threatens Serious Consequences—Wheat \$2.25 a Bushel at Vienna—Uses of the Crops—Teutons' Potato Crop May Help—Germans Consume Much Rye

BROOMHALL'S estimate makes out for European countries a deficiency of wheat for 1914, as compared with 1913, of 357,888,000 bushels, against a surplus in the countries outside of Europe of 124,840,000, leaving a net deficiency for the whole world of 233,048,000 bushels. Mr. Broomhall estimates, writes Mr. T. K. Doherty, in the bulletin of international institute of agriculture, that the season's (1914-15) Hungarian crop is 9,000,000 bushels less than the official estimate announced at the end of July, and 53,000,000 bushels below official figures. He reduces Spain by 7,000,000 bushels and Belgium by 4,000,000 from the earlier official estimates. On the other hand, he raises his earlier estimate of the French crop from his October figures of 256,000,000 bushels to 296,000,000 bushels. This is only 23,000,000 bushels less than official estimate which, however, was below the average.

Taking these recent estimates of Mr. Broomhall, in combination with the official estimates, in so far as they are available, and the official trade statistics, Germany and Austria-Hungary reflect a considerable proportion of the European deficiency. It appears from the import and export figures that the balance is largely against Germany for wheat, of which her net imports were 73,000,000 bushels for the cereal year ending July 31st, 1914. For the last two years, at least, the wheat production of Austria-Hungary has been sufficient for her own needs, the surplus production of Hungary compensating for Austria's deficiency. The present season, however, will result in a large deficiency for both countries.

In order to appreciate the extent of that deficiency in relation to the general food supply, it must not be forgotten that both countries use rye flour for bread as well as wheat flour, with this distinction that, while the Germans consume twice as much rye as wheat, the Austrians use slightly more wheat than rye. Leaving aside for the present the very important potato crop, which will be dealt with later, the following figures show the supplies of wheat and rye remaining in each country for consumption for the years 1912-13 and 1913-14. It also shows the supplies which it is estimated will be available to them for the year 1914-15, that is to say, until the 1915 harvest becomes available.

Year,	Wheat and wheat flour in equivalent quantity of wheat. Bushels.	Rye. Bushels.	Total wheat and rye. Bushels.
Germany:			
1912-13	229,162,000	433,439,000	662,601,000
1913-14	236,417,000	456,479,000	692,896,000
1914-15	152,000,000	431,000,000	583,000,000
Austria-Hungary:			
1912-13	252,939,000	173,986,000	426,925,000
1913-14	242,951,000	162,477,000	405,428,000
1914-15	176,000,000	147,000,000	323,000,000

For Germany, therefore, in the current year (1914-15) the combined supplies of wheat and rye are 109,896,000 bushels short as compared with the previous year, and for Austria-Hungary they are 82,428,000 bushels short.

Mr. Broomhall, when making his estimate of November 3rd, 1914, probably had in mind the damage inflicted by the Russians in the enemy's territory and especially in Galicia, although it is not so certain that he took into account the great destruction and waste of the crops in Belgium.

The extent of the destruction and waste in East Prussia and Galicia may be appreciated from an examination of the agricultural production of these provinces contained in the official year books for 1912 of the respective countries. In East Prussia there were, in 1912, 1,137,000 acres in rye out of a total for Prussia of 11,824,000 acres and 15,489,000 acres for the empire. In potatoes there were 440,000 acres in East Prussia out of a total for Prussia of 5,582,000 acres and 8,258,000 for the empire. In wheat there was the inconsiderable proportion of 220,000 acres, out of 2,797,000 in all Prussia; but in oats, about which we are not now particularly concerned, there were 2,100,000 acres out of 7,092,000 for Prussia. For the purpose of determining the total production in bushels the yields per acre for these various products are not given for 1912, but the average yields per acre in East Prussia for the years 1906-10 are for rye 24, for potatoes 189, for wheat 24, and for oats 28. A similar per acre yield for 1912 would therefore give East Prussia 27,288,000 bushels of rye, 83,160,000 bushels of potatoes (Canada's total production the same year was 84,885,000), 5,328,000 bushels of wheat, and 58,800,000 bushels of oats. In Galicia, ex-