

Foreign Crop Conditions

France—The weather in general has continued most favorable for the crops; rye is being brought under cover in excellent condition and one or two early fields of wheat have been cut in the neighborhood of Paris. Some reports seem to indicate that farmers expect to harvest rather less wheat than last year, but the great wheat growing region of the "Nord" has an excellent crop.

Russia.—Reports from the south tend to confirm the news, mentioned by us last week, of poor crops in some of the districts which feed more directly the export places; taken as a whole, however, the latest reports to hand do not indicate any serious impairment of crop conditions over wide areas. We still await a reliable, comprehensive report, either from official or private sources.

Roumania.—Wheat cutting is now well under way, and prospects continue excellent. A noteworthy feature of recent reports is the unanimity with which they agree to abundance of smut in this year's crop.

Austria-Hungary—People are somewhat inclined to reduce estimates of the probable return of wheat in Hungary, but still nothing less than a full average is expected. Repeated rain storms occurred last week and caused interruption to harvest work in both parts of the Empire.

Italy—The harvest makes satisfactory progress, and fair yields are still expected.

Spain—The Government are asking the Cortes to renew the extra import duty on wheat of 2.5 per qr., which was first imposed last year. It is probable they expect a freer movement inward of foreign grain during the ensuing season, and wish to check it as much as possible. This accords with the general tenor of reports, viz., that the harvest is rather smaller than usual, but there is no fear of a great deficit.

Germany—From north, south and centre come reports of fine seasonable weather, and general satisfaction prevails at the welcome change. A start has been made with cutting in some of the earlier districts.

Belgium—Weather most favorable for the crops. Barley is partly cut and the rye crop is ripe.

Holland—Crop reports continue very satisfactory.

North Africa—Harvest results permit reporters to confirm earlier advices that the rains came in time to save a good part of the cereal crops.

Australia—Extremely favorable reports received from Victoria and New South Wales, with a good seed-time increased area has been planted. In South Australia the rainfall was not sufficient up to the end of May, but the seed had germinated and it was hoped that good results would be obtained if June turned out a fairly wet month.—*Liverpool Corn Trade News.*

Crops in the United Kingdom.

Dornbusch's London List of July 17 says: In the Eastern countries and in the Fen districts, the promise of the wheat crop is unusually fine. In the countries lying between the Wash and the Tweed the crop is coming on grandly, and with fine weather at harvest, the result along the east coast wheat fields can not fail to be satisfactory as to quantity and quality, although it is doubtful if the price will please farmers. Fine samples of malting barley should be numerous this season, but taken all round the crop is not expected to reach an average in quantity. Oats on the Fen lands should turn out well, but otherwise the yield must be deficient. With the exception of 1866 this year is the earliest wheat harvest of the past 30 years. The harvest outlook in Scotland and Ireland

is very promising—potatoes in particular present a luxuriant appearance. The North British Agriculturist says that crops in Scotland at this season have rarely looked better.

Crops in Northern Alberta.

The Edmonton Bulletin of July 30, says Barley is ready to cut in some fields on Stony Plain, and a large number will be ready to cut on Monday, August 3rd. This is much earlier than usual. The crop is fair, but the straw is short. Wheat is reported to be a fairly good crop throughout the district, having had the choice of land and being better able to stand dry weather than oats or barley, it has done better than either. Oats have suffered most and are generally very short in the straw. Speaking generally the prospect is: an early harvest, a light yield and a good sample of grain.

The Indiana Wheat Crop.

The Chief of the Indiana Bureau of Statistics has issued a report of the yield of wheat for 1896. The area is returned at 2,862,236 acres, or 141,018 acres more than in 1895. This is 568,000 acres more than reported by the National Department of Agriculture. Returns received from 571 threshers giving the yield from 144,018 acres—only about one-twentieth of the State—indicate a yield of 8.5 bu per acre, or 23,574,800 bu for the State. Possibly a larger number of returns would indicate a little better yield, though the aggregate for the State will not vary much from the figures returned, as the abandoned acreage is included. The quality of the wheat is not very good—weighing from 55 to 53 lbs per bu.

Binder Twine.

Farm Implements, a Minneapolis agricultural paper, says: As harvest approaches, the binder twine situation grows more interesting. Prices still remain at the figures quoted the first of the season, though with an upward tendency, and this in spite of the fact that there has already been shipped from this market a larger amount of twine than was sold to bind the immense crop of 1895; that there still remain four weeks before the demand for twine will cease, that the dealers in the southern or winter wheat territory made an underestimate of their needs and will have no twine to unload onto the north-western trade.

Low Price of Pork.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: "The continued weakness and the recent sharp decline in prices in the Chicago pork market has created a week feeling in this market, and it is reported that round lots of Canadian clear and mess pork have been offered at a further decline of 50c per barrel. Prices at Montreal are quoted as follows: Canadian short cut, clear \$10.50 to \$11.00; Canadian short cut, mess \$11 to \$11.50; hams, 7½ to 9½c; lard, Canadian, in pails 7½c; bacon, per lb 8½ to 9½c; lard compound refined, per lb 5 to 5½c."

A Crime Against Labor.

The greatest crime short of absolute political enslavement that could be committed against the workingman in this country would be to confiscate his labor for the benefit of the employer by destroying the value of the money in which his wages are paid. The irreparable wrong can never be perpetrated under our system of government unless the laboring man himself assists in forging his own chains.—John G. Carlisle,

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