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GOSSIP

WHEAT CROP IN EUROPE

The August *Crop Reporter* of the United States department of agriculture contains the following summary of crop conditions in Europe. Crop conditions in Canada and the United States were given in *THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE* of August 17.

The results of the cereal harvests in parts of the south and recent climatic disturbances in the center and north of Europe indicate that the early prospect for an unprecedented abundant year on the continent as a whole is not likely to attain full realization. In Spain results, though not up to expectations, are on the whole a fair average. The wheat crop of Italy is above all previous records but one. Roumania and Bulgaria have each apparently harvested record crops of wheat.

In central Europe excessive moisture and unseasonably low temperatures have somewhat delayed maturity. Rust and rank growth of weeds are depreciating the outlook. The seeming continuous deterioration of wheat in parts of France causes grave anxiety. In Austria, Hungary and Germany more or less import declines in agricultural prospects are confirmed, and from Russia have recently come numerous reports of important reductions in the wheat yield on account of drought. There is little doubt but that the impaired situation in the two important wheat producers, Russia and France, will have a very perceptible effect on the total wheat yield of Europe. It is not generally believed that the continental total will exceed the excellent results of last year. Last year the European wheat crop—roundly two billion bushels—established a new record, exceeding the production of the previous season by 275 million bushels. The increase was due almost entirely to European Russia, whose 711 million bushel yield, surpassing that of the year before by 232 million bushels, was exceptional and not likely to be immediately repeated.

In Great Britain the harvest will be a late one, wheat cutting scarcely being possible in the earliest districts before the second week of August. In its initial report on crop prospects this season, the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries made the July condition of wheat 101 against 104 in July, 1909, 103 in 1908, 109 in 1907, and 106 in 1906, indicating for this year a poorer showing than for any one of the previous four.

Another month of overcast skies, frequent storms, unseasonably low temperatures, and retarded cereal growth has been added to the season's almost unbroken series in France. As a consequence, agricultural prospects have, as a whole, further deteriorated. The seriousness of the general situation is suggested by the recently expressed opinion of a prominent authority that the total loss to agricultural interests from the current unfavorable season may amount to as much as 400 million dollars. In the realm of agriculture the chief solicitude is in respect to wheat. The latest official estimate of the wheat yield is 289 million bushels, or 67 million less than last year.

The Italian crop is officially estimated at 185 million bushels, which is 95.4 per cent. of the 1909 crop. The Spanish government estimate a wheat crop in Spain of 137 million bushels; a few millions less than 1909, but well above the average for the past four years. The German crop was figured July 15, in about average condition. In Russia unfavorable weather in some important agricultural districts in July, has modified the popular impression created by early official forecasts that a better than average yield was, on the whole, to be expected this year. Drought and intense heat are believed to have materially reduced, in many localities, the quantitative prospects of the spring-sown crops. Moreover, the autumn-sown cereals, said to have withstood well the blighting effects of insufficient moisture, are now reported in many districts, notably in the south, to have been materially impaired in quality

by harvest rains. The probable significance of these conditions in respect of the two chief bread grains may be inferred from the fact that ordinarily the greater part of the wheat produced in this country is of the spring variety, while the bulk of the rye is autumn-sown. Although no official interpretation of the present situation has yet appeared, private opinion inclines decidedly to belief in an important deterioration in the spring wheat prospect, and considerable dissatisfaction is anticipated on some markets with the quality of winter grain. The total acreage under the two varieties of wheat in the European division of the Empire usually about ten million acres larger than the combined spring and winter wheat area of the United States—is believed increased over that of last year, but probably not sufficient to counteract appreciably prospective deficiencies in per acre yields.

A preliminary official estimate of the Roumanian government puts the yield of wheat at 141 million bushels, double the poor outturn of last year and even superior to the banner crop of 113 million bushels in 1906.

In Bulgaria the record wheat crop, 39 million bushels, is believed to have been surpassed this year. Trade estimates put the 1910 yield at upward of 50 million bushels.

In Austria and Hungary crops have been damaged by rains. The quality of the wheat in both countries will be seriously off. Wheat in Austria has been affected by lodging, hail, rust, and in June by Hessian fly. The Hungarian wheat crop is officially estimated at 198 million bushels, the largest ever produced but one.

ENUMERATION OF CENSUS VALUES

The farm and urban values of the census of 1911 will be enumerated under the date of 1st June. They will include the real estate and live-stock values of each enumeration district at that date, of the live and nursery stock sold in 1910, of the dairy products consumed at home, sent to factories or sold, and of the animals slaughtered on the farm in the same year, together with values of other products of the farm.

Land and buildings and farm implements and machinery owned by every person in the enumeration district will be recorded separately for values in 1911, and the rent of land and buildings will also be recorded if leased in that year. Values will be taken for orchard fruits, small fruits and vegetables separately for 1910; but values of horses, milch cows, other horned or neat cattle, sheep, swine, poultry and hives of bees will be taken separately for 1911, at the date of the census.

The values of live stock and nursery stock sold in 1910 will include horses, milch cows, other horned or neat cattle, sheep, swine, poultry and hives of bees, and of nursery stock, which means fruit and ornamental trees grown for transplanting into orchards, gardens and parks.

Dairy products consumed on the farm, and sent to factories or sold, refer to products of the year 1910. They include the values of milk, cream, home-made butter and home-made cheese. Animals slaughtered on the farm in 1910 will be recorded for the values of horned or neat cattle, sheep, swine and poultry. Horses are not included in these values, as in our country their meats are not used for food.

The values of other products of the farm include those of eggs, honey and wax for 1910, and wool, maple sugar and maple syrup for 1911.

The enumeration of hired labor on the farm refers to the year 1910. It will give the total number of weeks of labor employed, which means the number for all men who work for hire on the farm, and the total amount paid for hire, including allowance for board. The payment should be reckoned for the full time of service, and should include the value of board. The inquiry relating to earnings for domestic service is asked for in schedule No. 1.

In addition to the foregoing inquiries of values, a question is asked for the value of all lands and buildings not manufacturing establishments or mines owned in Canada in 1911, which are outside of the enumerator's district.