

Condition of Crops in Foreign Countries.

Beerholm's London List of May 10 says: "We have had a week of very favorable weather for the crops, and vegetation is making rapid progress. Last week's cold easterly and northeasterly winds were prejudicial to the pastures, but this week the temperature has been altogether more genial. In France the weather has also left little to desire this week, and the crop reports are generally quite favorable; nobody looks for a large crop, but if all goes well, France may likely enough reap 87 million quarters, which would be about 5 million quarters less than last year.

In Germany the weather has improved this week, but complaints continue to be heard regarding the condition of the winter crops, whilst the spring grown crops badly wanted rain in many parts of the country. In Hungary, according to our own correspondent's advices, the condition of the crops in the eastern parts was deplorable, but elsewhere the outlook was promising. In Austria the general prospects are fair, and in Roumania they are described as excellent; the area under wheat, however, is very much reduced this year.

The advices from Russia are various and rather contradictory; our Riga correspondent expresses the opinion that the fine weather came too late to repair the damage to the winter crops, but on the other hand our Odessa reports are very satisfactory; rain is reported from the latter center, and this has been much desired for spring crops. Much of course depends upon spring wheat, which represents about two-thirds of the total crop. It is believed, although there is no official confirmation of the statement, that the area sown has been less than last year.

In Italy, according to an official report of April 30, dry warm weather was wanted, especially in upper Italy, where maize sowing had been much delayed. In Spain, milder weather, with rain, has greatly benefitted the crops, which are now described as in a very satisfactory condition. In Belgium and Holland the winter crops promise well, but the latter country complains of the outlook for spring grain. From Algeria and Tunis the latest advices are less favorable, but from Smyrna we are told, under date of May 4, that the crop prospect continues most favorable, although here and there damage has been done by rain and hailstorms.

The Indian wheat crop is estimated to be less than last year as a whole, but the Kurrahee wheat districts have been blessed, it is stated, with a very good crop. Latest cables from Argentina speak well of the maize crop, which it is expected will reach a total of 5,750,000 quarters, of which 3,500,000 quarters would be available for export to Europe. The same reports state that supplies of wheat from the interior are drawing to a close, and that after May the shipments may be expected to be unimportant.

Decrease in Wheat Acreage.

It is generally conceded that prices reached during 1894 the lowest point they are likely to touch for some years to come. The principal reason for this opinion is that the low prices of the last few years has turned the attention of farmers to other crops. The acreage seeded to spring wheat is evidently somewhat less than it was last year, and the same conditions appear to be true with winter wheat farmers in this country, while in Europe nearly every state reports smaller acreage. The United Kingdom reports a less acreage of approximately 10 per cent. Too little is known of the acreage of Russia to state with any certainty the area there. With the extension of railroads through that country it is probable that the acreage may be increased, although it is possible that the

increased cultivation of land would be put into other crops more than to wheat. The Argentine appears to have reached the top for the present at least with their large yield of last year. Australia has been for the past year calculating upon a reduction of its wheat acreage while going into diversified farming instead. The acreage of India is estimated by the best authorities to be not less than one million acres smaller than last year.

The narrowing of the area seeded to wheat is the chief reason in sight for an expectation of higher prices in the coming few years, for with the exception of 1891 in this country and one or two late seasons in Europe and Argentine, the crops of the world have yielded per acre only about an average, which it is fair to presume they will yield in the future, excepting on some extraordinary occasion. Wheat area had been broadened largely in the last five or six years in the entire world, until the excess of production brought prices to such an extremity that it was not profitable to raise it. This is the cause of the smaller area seeded to this grain and once started as it is, is likely to continue until a shortage in production may occur that will put up prices so far, a few years hence that area will again be broadened.

So far as the prospective yield per acre this year is concerned it seems to be on the whole about an average. It promises above an average in England, a fair crop in Germany, Belgium, Holland, Austria, Hungary, Roumania, Italy, Spain and most other northern countries. There is no doubt that supplies are ample for all demands at the present, yet they are decreasing faster than in any other late year, although some of that decrease may be due, and probably is, to the large amount that was fed to live stock. Still it is evident that the shortage that will necessarily come from decreased acreage in the next few years, will consume the production without dropping prices so low as to feed the grain to farm animals.—Minneapolis Market Record.

How Two Boys Became Great.

The death of A. M. Smith, Toronto, brings to mind a little bit of history. Two lads joined the 91st Highlanders, and came to Canada with the regiment to quell the rebellion of 1837. They were bosom companions, always together when off duty. They were excellent soldiers; never grumbling; it was duty first and all the time, and their commanding officer was heard to remark that they would be officers some day.

One of them took his discharge just as the regiment was leaving Canada. He was fond of soldiering, but fond of a Scotch girl whom he met in Canada. He married her, and went into the grocery business, in which he made a great success.

At time went on his assistance and counsel were much sought after by financial corporations, and he became president or director of several banks, loan companies, insurance corporations, and many other interests, and an extensive steamship owner. He became one of the wealthiest men in Canada. He went into the militia, and for a time during the Fenian raid commanded a garrison brigade. Going into politics, he became an alderman, Mayor of Toronto, and member of Parliament, and, had he so desired, could have been a Senator, for he sank his politics when he considered it in the interest of his country that he should do so.

The other boy, much grieved at the parting, remained with his regiment, won distinction and promotion for his bravery in the Crimea, and afterwards in the Indian Mutiny and in lesser campaigns. He led his men to victory in many a storming party in many a battle. He was at Alma, Inkerman, Balaclava, at Cawnpore and Lucknow. He was one of the famous "thin red line" that

withstood the desperate Russian cavalry charge. He won a Victoria Cross, the highest award a soldier can get. When there was hard and dangerous work to do, he was selected to lead, for his regiment would follow him anywhere. He never thought of himself, his duty was his first consideration. He became a major-general, and, if I mistake not, was knighted.

They are both gone now. The first boy was A. M. Smith and the other Major-General McBean.

This is a story for clerks. It shows that hard work and strict attention to duty will always tell in the long run. The boy or young man who considers his personal comfort and engagements before those of his employers never makes a success.

British Trade Returns.

The British board of trade returns for the month of April show that the imports for the month amounted to £31,311,358, against £35,015,781 for the corresponding month last year, being a decrease of \$674,423. The imports for the four months ended 30th April were £135,140,418, against £142,704,036 for the corresponding period last year, showing a decrease of \$7,564,218. The exports last month amounted to £17,252,311, compared £17,559,876 in April, 1891, being a decrease of £307,565. The exports for the four months were £69,972,672, against £71,490,108 in the corresponding period of 1891, showing a decrease of £1,517,436.

The Dairy Interest.

A Washington dispatch says that a dairy division has been created in the Bureau of Animal Industry of the Agricultural Department, and that it will be organized about the 1st of July. The purpose of this division will be to collect and disseminate information about the dairy industry of this country.

The wisdom of such a department can not be questioned when we consider the wonderful development of the dairy industry in this country in the last twenty years. Its growth and development has been so phenomenal that it is almost impossible for dairymen to keep track of them and secure the statistics necessary to show the production of butter and cheese.—Cincinnati Price-Current.

Importing English Hides.

A few weeks ago a Quebec tanner, says the Montreal Trade Bulletin, imported a lot of English green salted hides, costing about 7½¢ laid down in that city. Following this lot, 2,000 hides are being received from England, —1,000 for Quebec and 1,000 for St. Hyacinthe; the quality, however, is not quite as good as that of our own. But now that three good sized lots have been brought in, dealers here are asking themselves how many more of the same description are likely to come in?

Extraordinary Prices.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: Hart & Tuckwell the well-known fruit dealers of this city, sold two barrels of apples for the sum of fifty dollars to a large retail grocer in this city. The specie of the apple is called Longovity, and these are the first two barrels ever sold in Canada. In appearance the Longovity resembles the Cooper's Market, save that it is much larger and brighter. These are the highest prices ever realized in Canada.

We have just received now price list from Jas. McMillan & Co., dealers in hides, wool, seneca root, etc., of Minneapolis, Minn. It can be referred to at this office at any time.