

industry, is such that it is very important to keep labour down, but to do this they must have cheap bread.

On the score of humanity, no complaint would be made of this policy if it were pursued consistently with the interests of the grain producers of the United States; but as the latter have not been receiving a remunerative price for grain, it is not to be expected that this shall be continued. Every season we are confronted with a determined, general, and powerful interest, proceeding from the dealers of London and Liverpool, to press down this important interest.

As to the way in which it is to be done, the Weekly says: "The English employ their consular establishments to obtain precise information of the state of the crops in every wheat-growing country. This information is presented in London in a statistical form, with comparative tables embracing former years, so that at a glance the power of each State to export is ascertained. We have no such policy and no such information. The English also, from a necessity to import from eighty to one hundred million bushels of wheat, in addition to other articles of food, amounting in value, in the aggregate, to six hundred millions of dollars, spread their agents over the whole world, so that the knowledge may be minute and specific, of the quantity and value of the world's production. We have few advantages of this character. We cannot meet the systematic and effective course of dealing which is employed against us. At one time purchases of wheat are made at San Francisco and neglected in New York, and *vice versa*. Then both are left, and either the Black Sea, the Baltic or Egypt becomes the theatre of operations. The three or four hundred vessels which are constantly converging from the four quarters of the universe to England, are consigned by those who know and appreciate the views of H. Kains Jackson, and of the powerful interest which he represents and advances." Very little is done to counteract this; and it is said that it may be our abundant supplies have led us to neglect the means to make the most of them; but with the heavy burthen of taxation which the country bears, it must soon become necessary that we shall not waste our resources.

It seems that Mr. Jackson, as well as other British authorities, largely depends on the United States to furnish the wheat and flour needed before harvest, and this too, without present rates advancing. But in this he is evidently mistaken, as prices in Liverpool up to the latest cable reports are constantly advancing. But this no doubt is largely due to the dry weather on the continent, and the large demand for breadstuffs in France. There, too, all the questions of supply and de-

mand are closely watched, and as soon as it is evident that the next crop of wheat must be short, great efforts are made to lay in supplies of wheat and flour while prices are low.

The efforts of Mr. Jackson to keep down the price of wheat are in accordance with several cable reports from England furnished by commercial authorities. First it was reported that information collated from the agricultural papers indicated more than an average crop of wheat. Then in a short time we find that the "London Shipping and Mercantile Gazette" says that notwithstanding the despondent remarks of the agricultural press, wheat is progressing quite favorably and promises a fair average yield, but the prospects of other crops are discouraging." One of these commercial reports says spring grains will not be over half a crop; another despatch says "the alarm among English farmers from the continued dry weather; almost amounts to a panic." So it appears that these commercial authorities would have us believe that the drought and unfavorable season, that is so severe on other crops, will result in a good crop of wheat.

Now, is it not time that something more was done to counteract these great efforts to get our breadstuffs for less than their fair value? The Weekly shows that little can be expected from the Government, but still something may be done by the farmers. Let them see that more general and minute information in regard to wheat shall be furnished from all the wheat sections of the country. Let this information be sent to those papers that are most inclined to promote the farmers' whole interest. Then make it understood that in and through these papers, the best attainable information in regard to the growing crops, and the supply and demand, of wheat in all parts of the world are earnestly desired; and then see that the papers that will furnish the most and best information of this character—that will labor most effectively for the farmers' interest in this respect—have the largest possible circulation. This is very necessary, not only that the papers shall have the means to work most effectively, but that the information shall be furnished to the largest possible number of wheat growers. For the more generally and thoroughly understood this information can be rendered, the more effective it will be; hence it is for every wheat-grower's interest to have the papers that give it, widely circulated. For whenever the supply appears to be large, and prices are depressed—the more general the sales by farmers—the larger will be the stocks in the different markets and the lower the price; but the more generally farmers are induced to hold wheat, and only sell when prices are remunerative, the sooner will

this point be reached. So it is largely for the interest of all wheat-growers to have the very best information the most generally and widely understood.

Now here are two very important points for farmers to consider: One is, that for a series of years there is not the least danger of a surplus of wheat, but the larger supplies of favorable years are sure to be wanted when crops are less abundant. The other is that steam, the telegraph and the press, can be and are used with great effect by the commercial classes; and that the only practical means to counteract the efforts of these classes to obtain the products of the farmers' labors for less than half their value, is to collect the information there pointed out, and give it the widest possible circulation.

PRESENT CONDITION OF CROPS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Through the kindness of the Hon. Horace Capron, U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture, we have received his statistical Reports of Crops, up to 19th July.

In Wheat, twelve States show above an average crop, whilst nineteen States are below the average. It is remarkable that in the latter category we have the principal Wheat growing States of the Union, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, California, Oregon, &c. The Commissioner of Agriculture remarks that the great wheat-growing districts all show a reduction in condition, rendering it certain that the crop of the year will be materially less than that of 1869. The estimated decrease in Wheat production for this year, is "at least" forty-eight millions of bushels.

The increase in the breadth of Indian Corn is greater than the decrease in Wheat, and the crop is above an average in every Western State, except Nebraska.

In Cotton there is an increase of nearly a million acres. "The people are devoting all their energies to the culture of cotton," and thus sacrificing food crops.

Oats are a full average in half the States, and the quality will be good.

Tobacco shows an increase in the South, but north of the Ohio it has been injured by drought.

The prospect for Apples is unusually good from Maine to Georgia. Peaches are less abundant, but Grapes promise remarkably well.

The Colorado "Potato Bug" is spreading over the Western States, and doing great damage to the crop. It has appeared also on the western boundary of Canada. Let us hope that the Canadians will intercept its progress and prevent its reaching the Maritime Provinces.

In Oregon the Daisies bloom all winter.