

here. The comfortable position which the majority of these settlers have now attained is therefore the more a matter for surprise.

### WORLD'S WHEAT REQUIREMENTS.

The last issue of the *Miller*, of London, England, dated October 1st, contains the usual very complete monthly review of the breadstuffs situation. From it we learn that the month of September was a remarkably fine one in Britain, though preceded by three months of bad weather for the crops. The bulk of the harvesting in England was done during September, but in Scotland and Ireland oats were still uncut, and the wheat harvest had not been finished. Straw is reported heavy, but the ears are defective, and the crop will therefore be light. In Holland and Belgium, where the climatic conditions have been somewhat similar to Britain, the crop is placed at 18 per cent. under an average, though improved in condition by a favorable harvest. In the northern portion of France, the harvest, though very late was secured during the fine September weather, but in the south, where the harvest came in earlier, during the bad weather, the result is unfavorable. The crop of Italy is placed at 20 per cent. under the average. Spain and Portugal have an inferior crop. Turkey, including Servia, Bulgaria and Roumelia have good average crops, and Greece is likewise favored. The yield in Prussia is reckoned at 9 per cent. under an average. Austria, Hungary and Roumania are credited with a yield about ten per cent. over average. The deficiency in Germany will be fully met by the adjoining countries of Austria, Hungary and Roumania. Russia has been favored with another abundant crop, though the quality is said to be hardly up to the average. The yield is placed at 10 per cent. above an average. The crop of India is also said to be above an average. The harvest in Australia comes in December and January, and this region cannot therefore be safely estimated yet.

Of the United States the *Miller* says: "In the deficient wheat yield of this most important division is to be found the cause of the season's principal difficulty. The United States consume a vast quantity of maize as well as wheat. If this were not so, and the Americans ate as much wheat per head as the English, there would be little wheat to export. If they ate as much as the French an importation of wheat would be required."

Coming to our own country the following remarks of the *Miller* will be interesting:

"The climate of Canada is such as to need separate classification, apart from its immense area and its indefinite possibilities of wheat growing in a not illimitably distant futurity, when America and Austria, if not Russia and Turkey also, have ceased to be export powers. The wheat crop from British Columbia to the eastern seaboard was generally good this year, and an export surplus of 1,500,000 qrs. of wheat was confidently reckoned upon. But the crop in its harvesting has been badly caught by frost, and we do not expect that more than a clear 1,000,000 qrs. will now reach us from the Dominion."

The *Miller* concludes its review of the wheat situation with the following table, showing the requirements of importing countries over and above home supplies, and the surpluses available for export from countries having more wheat than is required for home use:

	Import requirements.	Export surpluses.
United Kingdom.....	17,883,480	.....
France .....	7,700,000	.....
Belgium and Holland...	2,843,000	.....
Spain and Portugal ....	1,750,000	.....
Italy and Sicily .....	5,500,000	.....
Turkey & Principalities.	.....	3,750,000
Greece .....	450,000	.....
Germany .....	1,675,000	.....
Switzerland .....	1,150,000	.....
Austria-Hungary .....	.....	2,500,000
Roumania .....	.....	750,000
Russia .....	.....	8,800,000
India and South Asia ..	.....	5,792,000
Australasia .....	.....	1,000,000
United States .....	.....	11,912,255
Mexico .....	50,000	.....
West Indies .....	950,000	.....
Central America.....	950,000	.....
Canada .....	.....	1,000,000
South America.....	.....	1,000,000
South Africa.....	250,000	.....
China .....	1,000,000	.....
Egypt .....	.....	250,000
Total .....	42,151,480	36,754,255

The table above is given in quarters (8 bushels to a quarter) and shows a deficiency of 5,397,225 quarters—equal to 43,177,800 bushels—in the supply of wheat for the present crop year. It will be noticed that the *Miller* places the export surplus of the United States at 95,298,000, and of Canada at 8,000,000 bushels. The figures for the United States are 30 to 35,000,000 bushels greater than the amount is now placed at by conservative authorities, whilst other authorities believe that Canada will have practically no wheat for export from this crop. If recent estimates of the crop of the United States are correct, the deficit made out by the *Miller* would be nearly doubled. A deficit of say 75,000,000 bushels in the world's wheat supply would appear to be a serious matter, but it does not follow that the result would be as serious as it appears on paper. Indeed, it is quite probable that the world would get along very well even with this deficit. Wheat has been very cheap during recent years, and consequently the cereal has met with heavy consumption. The high

prices which would accompany a short crop, would so reduce consumption, that at the end of the year the supply would probably be found equal to the demand.

### THE WHEAT STANDARDS.

The result of the disagreement over the selection of standards upon which to grade the present year's wheat crop of Manitoba and the Territories, has been very satisfactory to the West. According to the Dominion Act, the grain samples are sent to Toronto, from which standards are selected by the representatives of the boards of trade, to be used as guides in grading the various grain crops, of Canada. Western grain men have contended that the standards for grading grain from the West, should be selected here, instead of at Toronto. This year the wheat samples sent from Manitoba and the Territories to Toronto, were thrown out by the eastern representatives, who had met to select the standards, on the ground that the samples were too low in quality. The result was that no standards were selected for grading the present wheat crop of the West. The matter was then referred to the Minister of Inland Revenue at Ottawa, who has decided to allow the Winnipeg and Port Arthur inspectors and three members of the Winnipeg board of grain examiners to select the standards. This decision has been received with favor here, as it practically gives the matter into the hands of the western grain interest. It is to be hoped that before the time for fixing standards again comes around, the inspection act will be so amended as to provide for the selection of the standards here each year. It has been found that the date of holding the annual meeting at Toronto for the selection of standards, is usually too early in the season to meet the requirements of the western grain interest. The eastern dealers claim that it would be an injury to their local interests to have the meeting held at a later date in the season. To subserve both eastern and western grain interests, it would therefore seem necessary to allow each division of the country to arrange standards independent of the other. This is the view of the case taken here. As the department at Ottawa has of late taken sides with the western grain interest, in any disagreement between eastern and western grain men regarding the grading of western grain, it would only seem reasonable to expect that the department will soon decide to have the standards for the grading of western grain, selected each year at Winnipeg. This course would seem only fair to the West. Western grain men do not ask to have a voice in the grading of eastern grain, and they therefore think it would be but right to allow the western trade to control, under the act, the grading of grain grown only in the West.