

## FOREIGN WHEATS IN ENGLAND.

COMMENTING on the qualities of various foreign wheats used in England, "Felix Holt" says in Liverpool, England, Milling: From America to India is a far cry; from American to Indian wheat is a great descent. It would be untrue to say that American wheat is all better than Indian, or that all Indian is worse than American. Both have virtues, but those possessed by Indian are very subdued in comparison with the American. We are getting wiser with regard to wheat, and from experience we have learned that Indian wheat fills a useful function in combination with other wheats. Owing to its unprepossessing appearance this wheat has been degraded to a lower position than it legitimately deserves. Whatever may be said about it, and whatever faults it may have, it is at least honest. Some wheats are very deceptive; notably, common Azimas, some Plates, also, some western winters, with a few others, less known, but Indian wheat may generally be relied on so far as its particular characteristics are concerned.

The principal feature of Indian wheats is dryness, containing, as they do, only about eight per cent. of moisture. They are deficient in gluten, but what gluten there is is very sound and reliable. They are what are called starchy wheats, and, containing good sound, dry starch, they fulfill a useful part when mixed with weak, watery wheats, such as damp English or poor, watery Russians. When properly cleaned by washing, Indian wheat produces flour of no mean color, which will compare very favorably with that from far more expensive and pretentious wheats. Good Bombay is without doubt one of the very whitest wheats grown and, by reason of its dryness, combined with a moderate quantity of gluten, will make a fair showing in bread; but, of course, its best application is in giving color to strong wheat. Delhi wheat is very useful and comes somewhat near Bombay, except that in some cases it contains an admixture of red earth or baked clay, which is exceedingly difficult to deal with. The red variety is fine, bold wheat and fairly strong, but the strongest of these wheats is considered to be Calcutta, which is scarcely so good a color. The Kurrachees, both red and white, are very useful, although generally very foul and dirty. Of the two I give preference to the red, being, perhaps rather stronger and an equally good color when clean.

As mentioned above, Indian wheat is honest. No one would expect to get flour from Kurrachee wheat equal to that from American springs, and so would not attempt it. They might try to get strong flour from some kinds of Russian and be woefully disappointed. Some millers use large quantities, with very satisfactory results, and these, by no means, small millers. A great drawback is the very large quantity of dirt and extraneous matter mixed with it, which tends materially to enhance its cost. This season it is exceptionally foul, which may possibly be accounted for by the low price prevailing, the grower or dealer presumably, attempting to improve his price by increasing his bulk. Whether or not this is generally done, I had it from an old Indian civil engineer that he had actually seen dirt mixed with wheat to increase its weight. Some of the dirt is attributable, no doubt, to weevils. These little insects bore into the grain, releasing a portion of flour, which, mixing with the accompanying dirt apparently, swells its bulk, although in reality it is not dirt at all, but flour granules made dirty.

Whatever may be the future of Indian wheat, there is no doubt that it will always be useful and always be welcome to a great many British millers. There is nothing exactly like it, and nothing will exactly fill its place, although in some respects certain varieties of River Plate bears a slight resemblance, that is in dry granular starchiness, but perhaps a closer resemblance to it by its near neighbor, Persian wheat. This is sometimes atrociously foul, being reduced with 15 per cent. of barley admixture. This is, however, rather stronger than the Indian varieties, being, probably, grown upon more elevated land. A near neighbor is Syrian, a wheat with very little to recommend it, but its fair appearance might lead a novice into serious difficulties, in which respect it greatly differs from honest Indian. A somewhat similar wheat is Egyptian, but far superior. This comes somewhere between Indian and Syrian. It has a tolerably fair color, but very little strength, and may prove

somewhat dangerous in inexperienced hands. It is exceedingly hard, and washing does not appear materially to soften it or render it easier to reduce with rolls. On this account it may prove dear wheat, although bought at low prices.

The greater portion of Egyptian wheat imported into this country is used for sizing, for which purpose it seems peculiarly adapted, as many wheats are quite unsuitable. All clear wheats, such as Egyptian, Syrian and hard Indian, seem to come in well for this purpose, but one and all are best left out of any flour-making mixture. There may be some inducement to use the best of them when other wheats are scarce and dear; at the present time there is no need to touch them for flour-making. This warning may appear superfluous to experienced millers, but there are some who, to my knowledge, have been woefully deceived by the fair appearance and comparatively low price of some of these wheats. We may take it as a safe rule that price invariably bears a close relation to quality. If we judiciously buy good wheat, we can scarcely fail to get good flour, but whenever we descend to low-priced stuff, depend upon it, we are on dangerous ground. There is a common saying that "high interest means poor security." Even so any attempt at high profit is a trading with security. We may, if we are clear, succeed for a season on low-class wheats, but retribution will surely overtake us, for low-quality wheat is sure to be variable. Variableness in high quality wheat is not particularly felt, as there is a good margin for possible declension, but variableness in that which at best is scarcely good enough, must surely bring us into trouble sooner or later. As a matter of fact, mills using low priced wheat are the very mills that have a reputation for variableness, but let us say, in a whisper, they sometimes manage to return a good profit. Use some low-priced wheat, but also use something thoroughly reliable, so that the inevitable variation is neutralized, if not entirely overcome. Of all low priced wheats, I know none so useful and reliable as the Indian. That is, of course, so far as their particular qualities are concerned, dryness and fair color.

## ONTARIO CROPS

THE latest report of the Ontario Bureau of Industries, in making conditions up to June 15, says:

Fall Wheat. This crop has stood the heavy rain and changes of weather much better than the spring crops. Throughout the entire province some low lands have been flooded, and the crop drowned out. On very heavy clays there has been some damage, but on light and loam soils very little injury has resulted. The reports for this time of the year are quite up to the average. The frost of the first week of June was felt to a very slight extent. The reports from all parts of the province are practically the same—that after the rain the wheat soon picked up and showed less injury than had been supposed. No more than usual has been ploughed up and resown to spring grain. Heading out was in progress on the 15th. In some places the growth was quite rank. With favorable weather for the next three weeks a good crop of fall wheat may be looked for. At present the conditions promise an average yield. In the Lake Erie district the crop was fair to very good except on low lands and a very heavy clay. Damage by frost was very slight. In the Lake Huron district most of the reports are for a good crop. Some attention is given by correspondents to the benefits of drainage, which were very apparent during the present season. In the Georgian Bay counties a small fraction of the crop has been lost, but on the whole it is quite up to the average. In the West Midland group the best reports come from Wellington, and the worst from Middlesex, where, however, the crop is reported fair. Along Lake Ontario the reports are also favourable for a fair crop—fully up to the average. In the Eastern Counties the amount of fall wheat is too small to affect the total, but reports are favourable. To sum up, the present condition is fair, with prospects of a crop quite up to, if not a little over, the average, with favourable weather.

Spring Wheat. As usual there is but little spring wheat in the western part of the province, while in the eastern half the acreage is declining. The low-lying lands have suffered severely, but the higher lands have fair crops. The grain was sown in fine condition and is

now recovering rapidly from the extra rain. In many places correspondents state that the rain did more good than harm. In the Eastern Counties about one-third of the spring wheat is either destroyed or is in poor condition; two-thirds may be said to be fair to good. Less than usual has been sown in the Northern districts. On the whole, present indications are for a crop about two-thirds of the average.

Barley.—In the Lake Erie district only a moderate quantity has been sown, and the condition is under the average. It has suffered from rain and also from frost. In the Lake Huron district barley is not in so good a form as spring wheat; it is backward and a little yellow in places, but is now improving. In the Georgian Bay district rain and frost did some injury, but an improvement has taken place since warm weather returned. In the West Midland district the crop is reported as being uneven or patchy and backward. In the Lake Ontario district the condition is a little under the average. In the St. Lawrence and Ottawa district the condition is reported as more favourable, and with good weather a fair crop will be obtained. In the East Midland district the crop is fair. In the Northern districts nothing of any consequence is reported. On the whole it may be concluded that the barley has suffered quite extensively, is backward in growth, but at present is making very rapid progress, and with a continuance of favourable weather, will probably come up to nearly the average of the last two years.

Oats.—The reports from every section of the province are practically the same, and to the following effect: The rains drowned out the crop on low-lying fields. On higher lands and those underdrained little or no damage was done. At the time of reporting the crop was making a very rapid growth, and becoming somewhat rank in straw. A few fields were baked by the hot sun, but on the whole the prospects were most promising, the only unfavourable report being as to the low lands. The crop is on the whole somewhat more backward than usual, but present conditions point to a yield fully up to the average.

Rye.—There appears to be less and less of this crop sown every year. As far as reported upon it came through the winter in good condition, was favourably affected by the continued rains and now is in excellent condition, having made a very heavy growth.

Peas.—The continued rains did more damage to this crop than to the other spring sown crops. Early sown peas have done well on high lands, but on low lands have suffered heavily. The rains retarded sowing, so that a large acreage has been put in late. As a consequence the yield will be a little short in quantity, but at present the quality of the crop is in general all that could be desired. The reports from the largest pea counties of the west are quite favourable.

Corn.—In the south-west a considerable quantity had been planted before the rain came, and much of it had to be replanted. The crop over the province is backward, growth being checked by cool weather. The condition at present is hardly up to the average. The late start may interfere with the maturing of the southern ensilage variety. Many report the young crop as not looking very thrifty. From all parts of the province come reports of replanting, of late planting, and of slow growth. Prospects are for a crop a little under the average in quantity.

Buckwheat.—Two-thirds of this crop is grown in the Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence and Ottawa groups. Very little had been sown before the rains came on. At the same time of writing farmers were just putting in their crops. The only report possible at this time is that quite an extensive acreage will be grown this year.

Beans.—Early planted beans, especially in gardens, were cut off by late frosts. Most of the crop has been put in late. The acreage will therefore probably be below the average. While many report that the crop is now coming on well, the general opinion is that the early frosts and the lateness of planting will cause a diminished yield for this year.

The Lake of the Woods Milling Company recently shipped a large quantity of flour to the sufferers by the recent floods in British Columbia. The C. P. R. carried the flour free of charge.