

## WAR-TIME FARMING IN ENGLAND.

### 1,152,620 MORE ACRES UNDER THE PLOUGH.

Striking figures showing the remarkable changes that have taken place in agriculture during the last year are contained in the preliminary statement of agricultural returns for England and Wales.

Information collected on June 4 shows that the total arable area in England and Wales this year is 12,398,730 acres, representing an increase of 1,152,620 acres, or 10 per cent over the arable area of 1917. This is the largest area returned for the last 20 years. The area under permanent grass is 14,588,900 acres, a decrease of 1,246,470 acres on the year. The total area under crops and grass thus amounts to 26,987,630 acres, as compared with 27,081,480 acres in 1917.

The greater part of the grassland ploughed up has been placed under wheat and oats. The increase in the area under wheat is 638,260 acres, or 33 per cent, and the total now under this crop amounts to 2,556,740 acres, which is the largest since 1884. Oats cover 2,778,980 acres, the largest on record, and 520,070 acres (23 per cent) more than last year. The other corn and pulse crops also show increases: barley by 42,000 acres, rye by 45,000 acres, beans by 40,000 acres, and peas by 19,000 acres. To these cereal areas there have to be added 141,580 acres under mixed corn now for the first time separately distinguished.

Potatoes have been increased by 125,850 acres, or 25 per cent, and the total area (633,840 acres) is much the largest on record.

The total of cows and heifers, in milk or in calf, 2,578,000, is 113,000 more than last year, and the largest on record, being nearly 100,000 more than the previous highest (1914). The increase occurs in all categories of the dairy herd, but chiefly among the cows in calf but not in milk. Beef cattle, however, show a decline, particularly the older groups, and the total of all cattle, 6,200,000, is some 27,000 less than the record total of last year.

Sheep show a considerable reduction, in spite of a small increase in lambs; the total 16,475,000, is 4 per cent less than last year, and (like the ewes) represents the smallest number ever kept, so far as the records show; the number of lambs is the lowest since 1883. Pigs show a decline of 220,000 (over 11 per cent); and the total of 1,697,000 is the lowest on record. Breeding sows, however, show a material increase of 35,000, or 14 per cent.

### BRITISH AND FOREIGN CROPS.

The International Institute of Agriculture gives the following crop estimates:

England and Wales: Production of wheat in 1918, 84,000,000 bushels, compared with 57,317,000 in 1917, and 57,487,000 the average of the five years, 1912-16; barley, 50,000,000 bushels, against 46,162,000 in 1917; oats, 124,000,000 bushels, against 99,719,000 in 1917; potatoes, 153,000,000, against 124,693,000 in 1917.

Spain: Production of wheat in 1918, 127,982,000 bushels, against 142,676,000 in 1917, and a five years' average of 24,372,000; barley, 84,464,000 bushels, against 77,957,000 in 1917; oats, 29,113,000 bushels, against 31,116,000 last year.

Japan: Production of wheat in 1918, 31,127,000 bushels, against 25,860,000 in 1917, and a five years' average of 24,327,000; barley 76,053,000 bushels, against 95,750,000 in 1917.

Egypt: Production of wheat in 1918, 32,555,000 bushels, compared with 29,835,000 in 1917, and a five years' average of 35,409,000; barley, 9,870,000, against 13,598,000 last year.

### EUROPEAN COST OF LIVING.

Following is a table showing how the war has increased food costs in Europe:

Italy, February, 1918—153 per cent.  
Norway, March, 1918—137 per cent.  
Sweden, March, 1918—134 per cent.  
Germany, November, 1917—125 per cent.  
Great Britain, June, 1918—108 per cent.  
France, December, 1917—100 per cent.  
Switzerland, December, 1917—96 per cent.  
France (Paris), January, 1918—91 per cent.

Holland, March, 1918—82 per cent.

Denmark, February, 1918—73 per cent.

Boarding-house keepers must get a license from the Food Board if they serve fifteen meals a day outside their families. It is illegal not to get the license, and the penalties may be heavy. The grocer must not knowingly serve boarding-house keepers who have no license. He risks having his own license taken away, which would put him out of business. Order 46 of the Food Board—which, it must be emphasized, is the law of the land to-day—specifically includes among public eating places private families keeping boarders and boarding-houses, provided, of course, they serve fifteen meals.