

### Latest Data About Rye Crops.

The failure of the Russian rye crop and the ukase forbidding its export has stimulated the demand for the American product and greatly advanced values abroad. The condition of our crop is of especial interest now that the export demand has become so pressing. The July report of the Department of Agriculture contains the following: "The July average for spring and winter rye combined is 93.9, a figure nearly two points above that of last year, but which has been exceeded by eight years out of the past eleven. The condition of the crop in the winter-wheat states is especially high and remarkably uniform, no average falling below 94 and none going above 99. In those states the indications favor a yield considerably above the average for a series of years. In the spring-wheat states the average is lower on account of the low returns of Wisconsin, where nearly half of the crop is grown, and South Dakota. A poor condition in Wisconsin is the result of the same unfavorable conditions of temperature during the early spring months that have injuriously affected the prospect of wheat. Practically the crop in all other states will be at least up to the average." The August report of the Department of Agriculture puts the condition of spring rye at 89.6.

Rye is not a staple food product in the United States, and its production and consumption have not increased as those of other grains. Although a very large per cent. of our population are aliens who are accustomed to the use of rye in place of other cereals, yet judging from the small increase in its consumption as compared with the increase of our foreign population their diet evidently must change with their altered condition of living. Some statisticians estimate that the annual consumption per capita of wheat in this country is about 5 bushels, of corn 3 qushels, while of oats and rye together it is but 1 bushel.

Between 1849 and 1859 the production of rye in this country was doubled, but in the same time the output of corn and wheat was increased four fold. Our production in 1849 was estimated at 14,188,813 bushels, in 1859 it was increased to 21,101,380 bushels, but in 1869 it was reduced to 16,918,795 bushels, and in 1879 it rose to 19,831,595 bushels. Our output between 1850 and 1888, inclusive, with the value of the same for each year, was as follows:

	Bushels.	Value.
1850 .....	24,540,829	\$18,501,560
1851 .....	27,704,950	19,327,415
1852 .....	20,960,037	18,439,101
1853 .....	28,038,582	16,300,503
1854 .....	28,640,000	14,857,040
1855 .....	21,756,000	12,594,820
1856 .....	24,480,008	13,181,330
1857 .....	20,603,000	11,283,140
1858 .....	28,415,700	16,721,869

In 1888 the total area devoted to rye was 2,364,205 acres, the yield per acre being but 12 bushels, while the average yield of corn per acre for the same year was 34.1 bushels; of wheat 11.1 bushels, of oats, 26 bushels; of barley, 21.3 bushels; and of buckwheat, 13.2 bushels. With the exception of corn and oats, the value per bushel of rye fell below all other cereals in 1888. The average value of rye per bushel that year was 58.8c; of buckwheat, 63.3c; of barley, 59c; of oats, 22.9c; of wheat, 92.6c; and of corn, 28.3c. But considering the yield per acre with the average price, it is at

once seen that rye returns less profit to the farmer than any other grain. It is for this reason mainly that rye is not a popular crop in our agriculture. However the acreage devoted to its growth this year shows an increase as compared with 1890. Using 1890 as a standard, the present acreage is estimated at 101.5. The increase this year is due to larger sowing in several states in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys.

Our exports of rye are very small as compared with those of wheat, corn, oats and barley. The following were our shipments of rye and rye flour for ten years:

	Rye.	Rye Flour
1882 .....	\$ 946,086	\$28,593
1883 .....	1,657,993	25,079
1884 .....	1,323,105	18,876
1885 .....	2,000,294	15,937
1886 .....	133,105	12,733
1887 .....	216,190	11,781
1888 .....	50,765	10,063
1889 .....	158,717	13,370
1890 .....	1,279,814	13,782
1891 .....	212,161	19,185

Our exports of rye flour have for several years been principally to the Danish West Indies. European countries and Canada take the major part of our shipments of rye. Our exports of rye to Europe and Canada for three years were as follows:

	1890.	1889.	1887.
Belgium .....	974,125	31,977	87,477
Germany .....	560,195	110,200	93,900
England .....	128,824	8,891	—
Scotland .....	393,696	25,338	—
Ireland .....	20,086	—	—
Netherlands .....	40,758	—	89,992
Italy .....	21,510	—	—
Denmark .....	83,704	—	—
Canada .....	108,514	101,509	200

The following is a list of rye-producing countries, with sizes of late rye crops there, as recently made public:

	Bushels
Russia .....	692,600,000
Austria-Hungary .....	130,000,000
Roumania .....	40,000,000
Sweden .....	20,000,000
Denmark .....	—
Holland .....	48,000,000
Belgium .....	—
Germany .....	216,000,000
France .....	64,000,000
Spain .....	24,000,000
United States .....	28,000,000
Portugal .....	6,000,000
Total .....	1,274,800,000

In round numbers net imports of rye into Germany amount to about 28,800,000 bushels, into Holland about 4,000,000 bushels, Italy 8,000,000 bushels, Norway and Sweden about 12,000,000 bushels, and Belgium probably 2,500,000 bushels, an aggregate of 59,300,000 bushels. Almost all of these importations have been received from Russia, and the prohibition of exports of rye from that country will be severely felt.

The prohibition placed upon these shipments, however necessary it may be for Russia, cannot but affect seriously other countries in Europe, while at the same time it will be of great benefit to the United States. In 1890 Germany imported 876,214,400 kilos. of rye, of which 58 per cent. were produced in Russia.

While it is impossible to supply this deficiency wholly with rye the production of wheat and corn in this country is relied upon to supply the demand. Wheat is too dear a food product for the great mass of the European

population, and though they have shown a dislike for American corn, necessity will now force its use. With the exception of Great Britain and Ireland, its use in Europe heretofore has been confined mainly to the feeding of cattle. As a food product for the people it is cheaper and just as serviceable as rye, and it is believed that they will begin to use it as such just as readily as our foreign population has done. If its consumption by the people can be once established increased exportation is assured.—*Bradstreet's.*

### Foreign Crop Deficiencies.

W. E. Bear, in writing to *Bradstreet's* says: "Since I wrote last the expectations of yield in nearly all European countries, including England, have been reduced by disastrous weather, so that the chances are that my estimate of the European deficiency, although greater than any other person's estimate so far as I have seen, will be below the mark. I should now advance the deficiency to 40,000,000 quarters (320,000,000 bushels) instead of my original 281,000,000 bushels, because I allowed for 40,000,000 bushels of exports from Russia and for greater crops in western Europe than are likely to be realized. I was anxious not to overestimate the deficiency, and the bad weather has made my calculation moderate.

Commenting on the above, *Bradstreet's* says: "In the opinion that Russia will yet have to be thrown out of account as to furnishing rye or wheat for export, the writer of the letter already quoted is, so far as we have learned, offset by Mr. Beerbohm's estimate of a probable Russian wheat export of 64,000,000 bu. and by another of a still greater quantity."

### Toronto Dry Goods Trade.

The dry goods trade may now be said to be fully opened out. There is a fair number of merchants both from the east and west of Toronto, causing the wholesale trade to be busier than it has been at the same season of the year for many years. Stocks of both imported and Canadian manufacture seem to be well forward in every warehouse in the city and the present consensus of opinion is that the fall of 1891 will be the most prosperous that Toronto has seen. Novelties in dress goods in Canadian, English and German manufacture are being shown in great variety, and already we hear of many repeat orders being placed. Prices, while low, are being firmly maintained, and we hear of little or no cutting being done by the regular trade. Payments for the month of August so far have been very fair. Bankers as well as merchants seem to be well satisfied. This has only to continue for a couple of months and the dry goods trade will be in the best position that it has attained to since Toronto became the leading distributing point in the province.—*Toronto Empire.*

A Chicago telegram says:—The report that crops were seriously damaged by the frosts of Saturday night in Minnesota and Dakota is not verified. The damage to wheat and corn is said to be light. While the weather bulletins are conflicting and advices on the board of trade fail to agree, the United States weather bureau pronounces the frost to have been light and damage to crops small.