

# FARMING

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## Dollar Book for One Subscription.

The feature of this week's Premium Talk is the new book, "The Life of Christ." This handsome work, containing 75 full-page, half-tone illustrations, is given free to any subscriber sending one new yearly subscription to FARMING.

## The World's 1899 Wheat Supply

The United States Department of Agriculture has recently issued a bulletin in regard to the world's wheat supply for 1899. The bulletin is based chiefly upon estimates made by the Hungarian Minister of Agriculture, the well-known London grain-trade journal, *Beerbohm's Evening Corn Trade List* and by the *Bulletin des Halles*, published at Paris, France. As the measures in which the estimates are given are different the quantities are not strictly comparable, but they are as nearly so as they could be made without a knowledge of the average weight of the measure assumed for each country. The Hungarian and French estimates have in the bulletin been reduced to Winchester bushels and Beerbohms to bushels of sixty pounds, but as the former measure is smaller than the latter it follows that in any comparison the estimates figured on the smaller measure will appear larger than they otherwise would be.

The bulletin gives the estimates of the world's wheat crop for 1898 compiled by the United States Department of Agriculture by way of comparison with the estimates referred to for 1899, and setting aside minor differences and taking the countries which are included in all four of the estimates, we get for the world's supply the following totals :

	Millions of bushels.
Estimate Department of Agriculture, 1898.....	2,798
Estimate Beerbohm's Corn Trade List, 1899.....	2,393
Estimate Bulletin des Halles, 1899.....	2,489
Estimate Hungarian ministry, 1899.....	2,453 to 2,477

But some of these estimates for 1899 have not given the yield for some countries such as Japan and the Russian Trans-Caucasia. By adding the estimates for the countries left out in the above figures excepting Trans-Caucasia for 1898 to the figures for 1899 we get the following table :

	Millions of bushels.
Estimate of Department of Agriculture, 1898.....	2,867
Supplemented estimate of Beerbohm, 1899.....	2,540
Supplemented estimate of Bulletin des Halles, 1899.....	2,554
Supplemented estimate of Hungarian ministry, 1899.....	2,526

Comparing the estimates for 1899 with those of the same authorities for 1898, the reductions in the world's wheat crop appear to be as below :

	Millions of bushels.
According to Beerbohm.....	377
According to Bulletin des Halles.....	291
According to the Hungarian ministry.....	312

The Hungary Minister of Agriculture gives figures regarding the world's supply of other grains for 1899 as com-

pared with 1898, as follows : For rye, a deficit of 46,300,000 to 51,600,000 bushels ; for barley, a deficit of 94,500,000 bushels ; for oats, a deficit of 37,700,000 to 43,700,000 bushels, and for corn a surplus of 59,000,000 bushels.

In the crop circular for October issued by the U.S. department the following appears in regard to the American corn crop for 1899 :

"The average condition of corn on October 1 was 82.7, as compared with 85.2 last month, 82 on October 1, 1898, 77.1 at the corresponding date in 1897, and 81.9, the mean of the October averages for the last ten years. Of the 22 States having 1,000,000 acres or upwards in corn, 17 report some impairment of condition during September. Of the 5 reporting an improvement, Iowa, with an advance of 2 points, is the only one whose annual production exceeds its own requirements."

## Transvaal War and the Hay Trade

### Prices for Export Hay Advancing in Montreal.

Should the Transvaal war continue for some time it would not be surprising if prices for Canadian hay ran up to a pretty good figure. Already the influences of the war are beginning to be felt, and late reports from Montreal indicate a much better demand for hay for export. This, together with a good local inquiry, as will be seen from this week's market review, has caused prices at Montreal to advance 50c. to \$1 per ton during the past few days. The reported partial failure of the British hay and root crop would no doubt have caused a better export demand later on for hay from Canada, but now that war is on prices have advanced earlier than expected owing to the extra demand for the Transvaal.

The great drawback just now in shipping hay to England is the high rates for ocean freights. But still the hay continues to go forward, and if the demand keeps up it will take more than excessive freight rates to prevent business being done. Producers on this side will have to be content with a little lower prices to make up for the extra cost of transportation ; but if prices advance, as it is expected they will from present indications, enough extra will be paid to give our farmers good value for their hay over and above the extra freight charge.

It is estimated that the British Government will require at least 20,000 tons of hay for its military operations in Natal and the Transvaal, and it is altogether likely that Canada will be called upon to supply a large portion of this amount. A small cargo of Canadian hay has already been shipped to South Africa by way of Boston, and it is reported that vessels are on the way to Montreal to take out another cargo. While this is the position of affairs as regards the probable demand it will not do for our farmers to put too high a price on what they have to sell as it might tend to drive purchasers elsewhere. But with reasonable prices asked there is no reason why Canada should not supply a very large share of the fodder demand for the Transvaal war.