

Spring Wheat Yield.

As wheat threshing progresses it becomes more and more evident that the spring wheat yield will be larger than had been expected through all the northwest spring wheat country east of the mountains. In the mountains, and to the west of them through Idaho, Washington and Oregon, the rains have been plentiful and the crop prospects have been good the entire season. Some threshing has already been done in these North Pacific states with a heavy yield; so far as threshing has been done in Oregon the average appears to run somewhere between 20 and 25 bushels per acre. Some put the supposed average as high as 25 bushels, while others incline to the 20 bushel estimate. Harvesting is well along in Washington and Idaho, although little threshing has yet been done, but all accounts indicate that a large crop will be secured. Through the mountain district where wheat is raised to any extent in the valleys, reports are good and continue so until reaching a distance within one or two hundred miles of the Missouri river. For that distance west of the Missouri river the crop is poor and for 75 miles to a hundred at least, it is expected to yield one half a crop or say 8 bushels to the acre. Between the Missouri river and the James river there is also some poor grain in North Dakota. East of the James river toward the Red river the crop is spotted with some very good wheat, and sections of poor. The greater part of the Red river valley is fair to good. East of the Red river and south through Minnesota there is a spotted crop, but very much of good wheat extended down through the state from the northwest to the southeast corner with several counties in southwestern Minnesota that are quite light in yield. The southwest corner is not so good as last year, and there are several very large sections that have yielded less, but the state at large has probably produced more bushels of wheat than last year. The same is true of North Dakota, and many people are satisfied in their own minds that the yields of Minnesota and North Dakota will be enough larger than the yields of these states last year to make up for the deficiency in South Dakota, making the production in the three states as large as a year ago. There is one very noticeable condition of the spring wheat crop this year; it is comparatively free from weeds and foreign seeds. The straw is short but comparatively there are no weeds in it. The threshing machine brings out a large number of bushels for the quantity of straw put through it, so that in all places excepting in the very poor sections, the yield is larger than had been expected before threshing began. The quality of the grain also appears to average better than was generally supposed it would.

Leaving out the dry sections all the rest of North Dakota and Minnesota promise a yield of about 12 to 15 bushels per acre, although South Dakota still shows up very poor, there are many parts of it where the threshing machine exposes a larger yield than had generally been supposed possible.—Minneapolis Market Record, Aug. 8.

Feeding Wheat.

Scarf as you will, the feeding of wheat as a substitute for corn may prove an important factor of prices in this country, and if insufficiently resorted to will affect prices around the world. The quantity used for feeding stock will depend, of course, on the aggregate corn production. The corn crop of 1893 aggregated 1,600,000,000 bushels, out of which we exported 63,426,000 bushels. The crop of 1892 1,600,000,000 bushels, and we exported 44,850,000 bushels. The remainder of both crops was consumed at home. It is undoubtedly true that the crop of 1891, say 2,000,000,000 bushels, furnished a reserve which has since been consumed. A shortened production this year, as compared with the last two, might very easily

require as much wheat, as a substitute, as would equal our exportation, and such a result would easily produce the result on prices that we have referred to in the commencement of this article. Of course, the possibility is wholly speculative, and is only suggested by the persistent statement of a coming short crop of corn.—Toledo Market Report.

Irrigation of Wheat Fields.

A Stockton, Cal., paper says: In some parts of California wheat fields were irrigated to a limited extent during the dry season just past. While it may not be profitable as a general proposition to buy water at any great cost to irrigate wheat, yet where water is cheap and other conditions favorable the irrigation of wheat fields may be a profitable operation.

In the San Joaquin valley the past season the benefits and beauties of irrigation are being demonstrated by the Woodbridge system to the reversal of all old ideas on the subject. This part of California has been slow about adopting irrigation, but now that its value is being practically demonstrated the development must soon become rapid.

The idea that irrigation was good for anything in wheat culture has been unmercifully ridiculed, but those who laughed failed to laugh the fact out of existence. It is still a laughing matter, but those who now laugh are the farmers who have tried it.

The wheat on the land is almost leaping, and it startles those whose theories said it was useless and worse. It is bringing them wealth, and prejudice will not stand before an avalanche of dollars. Only a few miles out on the lower Sacramento road the good effects of the water can be seen where vegetation is rank, because the ground is moistened by the Woodbridge water at its extreme end in that direction.

California Fruit Crop.

In Riverside county the orange and lemon trees on the mesa are looking splendid at the present time. The cool weather for the past couple of months has held them back somewhat, but they are putting out a vigorous growth at present.

The San Jacinto apricot growers are now on the grounds raising this immense crop of fruit. The yield is the largest ever known there, and the fruit is fine; the work will extend over several weeks. The fruit is nearly a month later than usual, owing to the cool backward spring weather.

Reports from Redlands say two or three varieties of plums are ripe and in the market. Raisin grapes promise a good crop. Apricots are rapidly disappearing, and it can be said the season is practically over. The season has been propitious for drying, and Redlands turns out not only a large crop but one above the average in quality. The peach season is in its infancy, and a few days more the harvest will be in full force.

Condition in Dried Fruit

Remarkable as was the opening of the Mediterranean dried fruit market last fall, it is held that the present year is likely to see an even more remarkable opening in another direction.

Last year the peculiarity was the exceptionally low range of values at which the market opened on both currants and raisins. On the former, instead of prices ranging at the usual figure of 16 to 18s per cwt f.o.b., they opened at 12s, and from that figure gradually moved down to 7s per cwt f.o.b.

This unusually low level of prices led to free importation, so much so in fact that there are still holders of currants in Canada who have occasion to mourn the fact that they went in so deep.

With raisins the experience was rather different. Prices on them also ruled 2 to 4s f.o.b. below their usual level, but despite this fact

loss of the fruit came across the Atlantic than usual. The result was that after the influence of the arrivals of the first importations in Canada and the United States had passed away, values commenced to appreciate and have continued to do so ever since last fall under steadily diminishing supplies. At present the market is absolutely bare of Danish goods at Montreal, and California raisins have had to take their place as full figures.

There is danger that this exceptional condition would lead to the market opening out too high. Buyers having no stock on hand might be induced to pay speculatively high prices, which they would be unable to realize later on, and before values could settle down to a reasonable level, some dealers would be so involved that they would have to be satisfied with taking sharp losses.

Though nothing that could be much depended upon was to hand in the shape of advices from primary sources, there was indications that dealers in Dania had pretty high ideas of what fruit should be worth. These talked of 17 to 19s f.o.b. at Dania, which was fully 1s above what prices usually open at.

Under the circumstances we would strongly advise caution in the matter of dried fruit.—Grocer.

Some Indications of Better Trade.

Of course there is not much to be expected of trade in mid summer, and general business has for a month past been on a low plane, but there were indications of an improvement as July drew to a close; in some lines there was a better demand for commodities, and in some cases better prices were made. Stocks have been gradually reduced during the past year of depression, and some manufacturers have found it necessary to resume operations to be ready to meet the current and prospective demand. This is especially true of those branches of trade producing iron goods, or goods of which iron and steel are a chief component part. The coal miners' strike reduced the production of coal so much that many iron furnaces had to go out of blast, and while the railroad troubles greatly restricted the transportation of pig iron, yet surplus stocks were cut down so that many furnaces have been encouraged to resume operations, and manufacturers of finished articles of hardware and agricultural machinery have got over their timidity, at least in a partial degree, and although business cannot be said to be in a healthful condition, there is more confidence that goods will be required for the fall trade, and there is a disposition to be prepared to meet the demand that is expected. Although the tariff bill is still an uncertainty, it is believed that it cannot much longer be allowed to depress business. Men have become tired of doing nothing, and are employing their capital even if profits are not satisfactory, under the conviction that the chances are favorable for better things in the future. There is much to be done before there can be said to be a general improvement in business, but that the worst is over, and that the country is far from being ruined is evident, and is a cause for encouragement. Many factories are obtaining increased orders to justify them in enlarged production, and others will doubtless gradually fall in line. Of course this gives employment to much labor, and to that extent there is a gain in consumption.

As yet there is no such enlargement in business as to make a boom in anything, and the most that can be said is that there are encouraging features, and if tariff legislation was satisfactorily settled, steady progress in business would doubtless result.—Cincinnati Prices Current, August 2.

American olives, says the Mark Lane Express, are akin to Yankee wolverine nutmegs. They are simply "faked" plums. The plums are bought green, sold to the large packing houses of the country, and appear on the table of the American as the best imported olives.