

# EUROPE'S WHEAT SHORTAGE

## The Production of the Cereal in Austria-Hungary Reduced Many Millions of Bushels.

### BOHEMIA IS BUYING FROM US

Some Interesting Facts on the Subject Taken from the Official Report of George R. Ernst, Consul at Reichenberg, Austria.

George R. Ernst, Consul at Reichenberg, Austria, in a report to the Department of Agriculture, has furnished some interesting facts relative to wheat shortage in Austria-Hungary and the consequent importation of American grain. Mr. Ernst says:

"The Austro-Hungarian monarchy produces under normal conditions more than sufficient grain for its own use. The principal grain growing part is Hungary, while Austria, being chiefly an industrial and commercial state, is in this respect largely dependent upon its neighbor across the Leitha River.

"According to the circular issued by the Hungarian Government July 15, the wheat crop will amount to about 102,882,000 bushels, an estimate that is regarded by all authorities as being as nearly correct as possible. During the past five years the Hungarian wheat crop ranged from 139,628,000 to 157,998,000 bushels annually, of which from 44,092,000 to 47,767,000 bushels were exported to Austria in the form of grain or flour. Hungary would therefore retain from 95,534,000 to 110,231,000 bushels for its own use, and with a crop this year of only 102,882,000 bushels it will hardly be able to export any, even if we take into consideration a possible remnant of from 7,340,000 to 11,023,000 bushels remaining over from last year.

"On the other hand, according to estimates of The Neue Freie Presse, the crop of Austria will be about 32,350,000 bushels, while the requirements are about 84,510,000 bushels. The difference must therefore be imported from foreign countries.

"Similarly it is estimated that the wheat crop of Europe will be from about 1,286,028,000 to 1,322,722,000 bushels, against 1,469,747,000 to 1,506,490,000 bushels for the year 1896. America, India and Australia will be obliged to make good the European deficit.

"As a matter of fact, the United States has already made some satisfactory sales in Bohemia. This is the case with red winter wheat, which takes the place of Bohemian, while Hungarian wheat finds a good substitute in Kansas wheat.

"As an instance of sale, I learn that a cargo of 400 carloads of American wheat is to arrive in Hamburg on the 15th of this month (August), destined entirely for Bohemian markets. Again, on the first of this month, 36,700 bushels of red winter No. 2 and Kansas wheat were bought on the Vienna Produce Exchange for Bohemian cities and mills.

"The reason why at the present time American wheat is bought for Bohemia is to be sought for in the high freight rates of the Austrian railway companies. Today American wheat is sold as far south as Prague, being transported thither on the Elbe River. It is carried on this river as far as Tetschen-Bodenbach, and must then be moved by rail, which is a great impediment. Every rise of a few kreutzers, however, in the price of wheat opens another station toward the south to American wheat.

"The importation from America would perhaps be larger if American quotations were made out for instant delivery, and not as now for September-October delivery. As it is, commission merchants are very careful in regard to their purchases, deeming it possible that a change in the tendency of the market may ensue."

### SIMPLE TRUTHS SIMPLY TOLD.

#### V. R. Gandhi of India Disappoints Those Who Expected Something Mysterious.

Virchand R. Gandhi comes from India. In 1893 he was a delegate to the Parliament of Religions in Chicago. He grew to like Chicago. Later he journeyed to New York; he liked New York better. To him, it is the psychical centre of the western world. He will try to establish a university for soul culture here. He made a beginning yesterday afternoon in a small hall at 509 Fifth Avenue. He gave a sort of esoteric prospectus of his plans.

About thirty women and three men assembled there to listen to him. Some of the women were middle-aged, some were very young, all were fashionably dressed, and all wore serious faces—that is, at first; afterward the younger ones, lost the serious, soulful expression, and looked bored. They had expected to see a Mahatma, or, at least, a Fakir, and to hear about the fascinating mysteries of Oriental Theosophy, and they were disappointed.

They saw a dark-complexioned, slightly built young man, dressed in a long overcoat of some seal-brown Indian stuff. The coat came almost to his heels. He wore large trousers of the same material. Around his waist was a sash of orange-colored silk, a headcloth of that hue concealed his coal-black locks. He spoke slowly and in the simplest language. His theme was as simple as his words.

He told his hearers plain, commonplace truths, and showed them how they would be better and happier in a study of them. There were no rhetorical lyrotechnics, no deep subtleties into esoteric thought. And that is why the young women, who came to be amused, looked wearied, and left the room at the first opportunity. The others staid on and listened with deep attention to more simple things, simply expressed.

They were told that there was good in all things, and those things which had the most good were productive of the truest culture, the highest civilization. He was greatly struck with our social phenomena; there was much that he did not understand, however. But he believed there was much good there, and some sincerity and truth; only careful sifting was required. He wanted scholars to help him do this sifting. In his turn he would show them the mysteries of Indian religions and Indian philosophies, whose bases were not so very different from the teachings of the Bible.

#### FOREIGN PERSONAL NOTES.

Emil Blatz, the Milwaukee brewer, accompanied by his family, is in Berlin.

The ex-Empress Eugenie will spend a few days at Windsor Castle before starting for the Riviera.

The Prince and Princess of Wales have begun their usual Saturday to Monday parties at Sandringham.

Lord Dunraven is the first British yacht owner to secure a Board of Trade certificate as Extra Master. He has just passed a stiff examination, lasting five days.

The Prince of Wales will visit the Earl of Durham at Lambton Castle to-morrow, where Lady Randolph Churchill and the Duchess of Manchester are among the guests.

The storekeepers of London are in arms over the visit of the Prince of Wales, their best patron, to a large department store this week. The heir apparent carefully inspected the establishment and made numerous purchases.

The Queen, who is in excellent health, has already invited a succession of "dine and sleep" guests to Windsor, including the Duke and Duchess of Orleans. Her Majesty will also receive visits from all the members of the royal family now in England.

The Autumn has developed two fresh specimens of the "new woman" among the English aristocracy. Lady Gifford is personally hunting a pack of harriers regularly, while the Duchess of Bedford has established her reputation as a first-class shot, and in Bedfordshire knocks over high rocketing pheasants with the best shots among the men.

#### Report of Barnard's Treasurer.

Treasurer George A. Plimpton of Barnard College submitted his annual report on the present condition of the institution on Friday afternoon. The report says that on the present site there are buildings adequate for 700 students at least. Fiske Hall, recently presented by Mrs. Fiske in memory of her late husband, Josiah M. Fiske, completes the group of buildings, and provides a much-needed dormitory and additional lecture rooms. The Treasurer calls on the Trustees to make every effort to secure endowments that the Faculty may be composed of men of the soundest learning and broadest culture. By the connection with Columbia University, Barnard College offers great educational advantages, but endowments will be necessary to keep up its standard and to better it.