

GRAIN CROPS SHORT, BUT WORTH FAR MORE

Government Final Estimate Shows Great Decline in Cereal Production.

PRICES MAKE FARMERS HAPPY.

They Will Get Half a Billion of Dollars More This Year than Last.

The government report shows a shortage of 785,087,000 bushels in total crops as compared with the crops of 1906, which were the largest ever raised in this country, and a shortage of 377,257,000 bushels as compared with the fields of 1905, which were also very large.

The chief shortage is in the corn crop, with 355,000,000 bushels, oats with 211,000,000 bushels and wheat with 101,000,000 bushels.

There is something of an offset to the low losses in the feeding grains in the increase of 6,431,000 tons of hay as compared to that of 1906, and of 8,645,888 tons as compared to the crop of 1905.

Prominent features of the final revision of its crop estimates for the year by the Department of Agriculture were the increases made in the reports of corn sowed to spring wheat, corn and oats. In each of these particulars as well as in the estimated weight of spring wheat and oats the official reports ran more or less counter to the general impressions of speculators. In a few instances, such as the weight of oats, the figures given were at variance with all the experience of the trade for the year to date.

Figures of the Report.

The report gave final estimates of average production and value of farm crops, showing winter wheat average to be 28,132,000, winter corn 409,442,000 bushels and value per bushel 92.2 cents. Spring wheat average was 17,079,000.

CROPS OF UNITED STATES FOR THREE YEARS.

	1907, bu.	1906, bu.	1905, bu.
Winter wheat	409,442,000	492,888,004	428,402,254
Spring wheat	224,645,000	242,372,908	204,516,555
Total wheat	634,087,000	735,260,912	632,918,809
Corn	2,592,320,000	2,927,416,091	2,707,382,548
Oats	754,443,000	954,904,522	953,246,177
Barley	31,593,000	33,374,833	27,816,973
Rye	133,317,000	178,916,143	130,061,000
Timothy	14,290,000	14,641,937	14,208,622
Alfalfa	25,284,000	25,576,146	28,477,758
Other	297,942,000	308,938,382	306,742,304
Total	5,137,906,000	5,923,890,235	5,515,189,259
Hay, tons	98,577,000	57,145,959	60,581,513

production 224,645,000 bushels and value 58 cents.

Corn average was 99,961,000, production 2,592,320,000 bushels and value 51.7 cents.

Oats average was 21,087,000, production 754,443,000 bushels and value 44.3 cents.

It was announced that the total value of the farm crops for 1907 was \$3,204,000,000, an increase of \$488,000,000 for 1906.

The farm value on Dec. 1 of the four crops already mentioned follows: Corn, \$1,800,440,000; winter wheat, \$361,247,000; spring wheat, \$198,280,000; oats, \$336,068,000.

The comparative prices for the grain crops for the past three years follow:

	1907.	1906.	1905.
Wheat	81.7	68.7	74.8
Corn	51.7	39.9	41.2
Oats	44.3	31.7	35.1
Barley	70.1	62.9	62.8
Timothy	44.3	41.5	42.8
Alfalfa	68.8	50.8	52.9
Flax	95.6	101.8	95.0
Potatoes	61.7	71.1	61.7
Hay	\$11.68	\$10.27	\$8.52

FARMING IN A DESERT.

There Are Colonizing Possibilities Even in Death Valley.

The craze of "homesteaking" which is so common here has its limit in the choice of Death Valley as a colonizing possibility. With the idea of transferring the most arid and most desolate portion of the great American desert into farm land, a number of tracts have been homesteaded, irrigation systems have been planned, and other preparations are now in progress for beginning the reclamation of Death Valley. A railroad is already built from Greenwater, at the eastern end of the valley, to the borax works owned by the celebrated "Borax" Smith of 20-mile town fame, and there is an automobile stage line through the valley.

Even enthusiasm do not claim that piping water from Telescope Peak across the Funeral range into the valley is also under consideration.

Labor Warns Civic Federation.

The significant feature of the banquet preceding the annual meeting of the National Civic Federation at New York was the warning contained in the speeches of Gompers and Mitchell, the labor leaders, that the proposed reduction in wages would be fought to a finish. Gompers wanted to know if the soil was less fertile, its treasures less valuable, or if laboring men had become less industrious, and held that every such reduction of wages to meet such conditions as now exist had only made matters worse. The reason he advanced was that when you reduce the laboring man's earning capacity you reduce his consuming power, and thereby intensify what was already bad enough. He therefore gave notice that in this instance the employers would not "have the plain sailing they had a few years ago." He said the American workman had come to the conclusion that he was not responsible for the financial breakdown and that he was not going to be the chief sufferer. Andrew Carnegie spoke a strong word for asset currency as the true remedy for the existing trouble. He did not think the central bank was necessary. When the federation met on Tuesday August Belmont resigned as president, and Seth Low, former Mayor of New York, was elected to the vacant office.

JEFF DAVIS' DEBUT.

Arkansas Senator Delivers Maiden Speech.

Breaking all traditions and precedents, United States Senator Jefferson Davis, of Arkansas, addressed his colleagues on "trust control of business" after nine days' service. Up to a few years ago it was an unwritten law that no Senator should address his fellows in a set speech unless he had served at least one term.

Then Senator Beveridge reduced the time limit of senatorial apprenticeship by speaking after three months' occupation of a Senate seat. Davis' purpose to establish a new record had been widely advertised and there was a large crowd to hear him.

In 1808 Davis was Attorney General of Arkansas and, while in this position, secured the Democratic nomination for Governor. Although bitterly opposed by practically every newspaper in the State he was elected by one of the largest majorities ever given in Arkansas. Three times he was elected Governor. He is of a restless, nervous temperament, devoted to his family, an enthusiastic lover of books and a keen student of men. He is of fine appearance, being over six feet tall. His daughter is his constant companion and biographer. Senator Davis is a nephew of the illustrious Southerner whose name he bears.

TWO NEW BATTLESHIPS.

Government New Building Largest in the World.

Coincident with the departure of the Atlantic fleet for the Pacific, there was laid down in the Fore River shipyard, at Quincy, Mass., the keel plates of the battleship North Dakota, which is expected to be far more powerful than the most effective ship now under the command of Rear Admiral Byrnes. The biggest vessel in the Pacific bound fleet is of 16,000 tonnage, but the North Dakota will be of 20,000 tons displacement; nearly 2,000 tons heavier than

the famous Dreadnought, of the British navy, and 25 per cent more effective in gun-fire than the latter. The North Dakota will be 510 feet long. It is already figured out that the launching will take place next October, or in ten months from the time of the laying of the keel. Although the ship is regarded as nearly 8 per cent finished. Long before the keel blocks were placed in position the ship was completely laid down in the mold-raft and over 50 per cent of all the plans in the construction of the ship were developed and approved.

The North Dakota is a sister ship of the Iowa, now being built at Newport News.

Could Cut Fares in Two.

According to newspaper declarations, the public service commission for New York City will, in its coming report to the Legislature, make some rather startling declarations and suggestions in regard to the railroad companies of the city. It is hinted, for instance, that the commission will declare that with proper capitalization, the railroads could carry passengers at less than half the fares now charged, and still make large profits.

In totaling up the business for the year ending June 30, it was found that the receipts of all the New York City companies amounted to \$66,093,776. The total operating expense for the year was \$37,013,082, leaving a balance of \$29,080,714.

Money is suffering from bad circulation. Pennsylvania miser who spent only 3 cents last year is dead. He just couldn't bear the increase in living expenses.

An Aurora (Ill.) physician has discovered that peanuts are a beauty diet. This ought to be a circus for some people.

An Eastern banker says, "We want more common sense." We want also more dollars, which are not so common now.

If prices of bread and meat keep on coming down, pretty soon the average man can afford to eat three meals a day.

Chief Spybeck, the Indian who drank a quart of blue paint, is carrying the "decorative interior" fad to an extreme.

With 1,200,000 divorce suits in ten years, the United States is plainly in need of a national "Stay-Married Association."

After a while it may dawn on the army recruiters that the average soldier doesn't look upon \$12 a month as any great graft.

Secretary Cortelyou is trying to impress us with the fact that stockings were made to be worn and not to hoard money in.

James J. Hill says the railroads need billions of dollars. From present prospects, it will be some time before they get 'em.

An Italian count-one American heiress married a trust out to be an ex-convent. Some of the other counts haven't yet been married.

Those people who will fail to notice the absence of "In God We Trust" from the new ten-dollar gold pieces will be largely in the majority.

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



1154—Henry II. crowned King of England.

1300—Columbus arrived a prisoner in Spain.

1562—Huguenots defeated at Dreux.

1695—Sir Edmund Andros, first royal governor of New England, arrived in Boston.

1773—Destruction of cargo of taxed tea in Boston harbor by citizens disguised as Indians, known as the "Boston Tea Party."

1775—British Parliament passed an act for confiscating all American vessels and impressing their crews into the British navy.

1780—United States Congress appointed Francis Dana minister to Russia.

1789—Bank of the United States began to discount.

1793—City of Toulon retaken by Napoleon from the British.

1803—The United States took possession of Louisiana.

1812—Bonaparte arrived at Paris from his Russian campaign.

1845—Battle of Moodus.

1848—Park theater, New York City, destroyed by fire. Louis Napoleon took the oath of allegiance and was proclaimed President of the French Republic. Asiatic cholera appeared among United States troops in Texas.

1851—J. M. W. Turner, eminent English landscape painter, died in obscure lodgings in London, under an assumed name.

1852—Pegu annexed to the Indian empire.

1859—First train crossed the Victoria bridge at Montreal.

1890—The passport system abolished in France by Napoleon III. South African Republic established. Paul Kruger president.

1901—Federals attempted to blockade the channel of Charleston harbor.

1903—Gen. Grant established his headquarters at Nashville.

1904—Gen. Hardee escaped from Savannah with 15,000 troops. President Lincoln called for 300,000 volunteers.

1905—Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution proclaimed.

1914—Italian parliament voted an amnesty to Garibaldi. Emigrant ship Cospatrick burned at sea, with loss of 465 lives.

1916—All awards made in payment of the Alabama claims, leaving surplus of about \$8,000,000.

1923—Cantilever bridge at Niagara Falls opened for traffic.

1884—World's industrial cotton exposition opened in New Orleans.

1885—House of Representatives passed the presidential succession bill.

1891—Violent earthquake in Sicily.

1894—War between China and Japan declared ended.

1907—William Terris, eminent English actor, assassinated.

1908—House of Representatives passed the currency bill.

1900—Marital law proclaimed in Cape Colony. Gen. Leonard Wood assumed office as governor general of Cuba.

1902—United States Senate passed Cuba reciprocity bill.

Home Consumption Nurses. Commissioner of Health Dixon of Pennsylvania has inaugurated a campaign against tuberculosis involving a house-to-house inspection and instruction by visiting nurses, who will go to the home of every person applying to the State Dispensary for treatment. It will be the duty of the visiting nurses to instruct the patient and the patient's family how to obtain the requisite amount of fresh air, the most desirable foods, and how to conduct themselves so as to avoid infection. Every member of a household in which a consumptive lives will be inspected, and where there is a sign of ill health the suspected person will be persuaded to adopt precautionary measures. In this way it is hoped the State will be able to check the spread of "the great white plague" by discovering hundreds of cases in the early stages when a cure is probable. The difficulty which has been experienced in sanitarium work heretofore is that cases are not reached until they are too far advanced to be susceptible of cure.

Big Profits in Cigars. President George J. Whelan of the United Cigar Stores Company, when on the stand in the government's suit against the American Tobacco Company, testified that the company had paid a 12 per cent dividend in 1905, 20 per cent in 1906 and 40 per cent in 1907.

Big Order for Wheat. A Greek giving the name of Liberis has created a sensation in Baltimore grain circles by giving the exporting firm of Gill & Fisher an order to buy 1,500,000 bushels of wheat for shipment to Athens. While giving no credentials or evidence of his ability to pay, he referred to a prominent New York house. It is said that if the order is filled it will take five steamers to carry the grain.

A rough estimate of the census of Cuba, now being tabulated, places the population of the island at 2,628,282.

The geological survey is planning to establish an experiment station in Pittsburg for the study of mine disasters with a view to abating the dangers of underground explosions.

At the annual meeting in London of the Imperial Bank of Persia Sir Lepel Henry Griffin read a calligraph from the manager of the bank at Teheran, saying that a display of troops has been made in the Persian capital, but that the situation is quiet. The exile of the late Premier Masir El Mulk and two princes has been canceled.

KENTUCKY'S TOBACCO WAR.

Night Riders Inflict an Aggregate Loss of Nearly \$1,000,000.

The last exploit of the Kentucky tobacco night riders in seizing the city of Hopkinsville, destroying \$200,000 worth of property and seriously wounding two men, has aroused an intensity of interest throughout the State and far beyond its borders. These riders are the most conspicuous feature of the war that is being waged by the tobacco growers of Kentucky against the American Tobacco Company. By reducing the competition in the buying of tobacco to practically nothing the company forced down the price of leaf tobacco until the growers say they can not realize enough to pay for raising it. The tobacco crop is a mainstay in many parts of Kentucky, and thousands depend on it for their daily bread. The growers determined to force the price up.

The plan proposed in the beginning, and which is still being followed, was to form a combination of the growers to oppose the combination of the manufacturers and by withholding the tobacco make the tobacco trust come to terms. Many associations of growers have been formed in the different tobacco raising regions of Kentucky. But some of the growers did not come into the association ranks and others grew weary of waiting and sold their crops. The more violent men in the associations have resorted to the measures that gave rise to the night riders, and by destroying the property of the tobacco company and the growers who are not allied with them have sought to carry through their plan by force and terror.

The Hopkinsville raid was the second time in twelve months that the night riders seized and terrorized a city. On December 1, 1906, they entered Princeton, Ky., a town of several thousand inhabitants, about thirty miles north of Hopkinsville, took possession of the police and fire departments, the water works, the telephone and telegraph offices and with the town shut off from the rest of the world dynamited and set fire to the Steger & Dollar and the John C. Orr tobacco factories, which were allied with the trust.

The first appearance of the night riders was in November, 1906, when they destroyed some tobacco barns and small factories in Todd County, with a loss of about \$10,000. The first raid came on the night of November 11, 1906, when masked bands entered the towns of Eddyville and Kuttawa, situated close together in Lyon and Caldwell Counties, and destroyed the plants of the American Snuff Company and M. C. Rice, with \$20,000 loss.

Besides these there have been many smaller raids and visits to individual growers. Tobacco barns have been burned, growers who refused to pool their tobacco have been taken from their homes and whipped, houses have been fired into and the occupants wounded. The aggregate losses by these raids amount to nearly \$1,000,000.

TO LIMIT IMMIGRATION.

Japanese and American Officials Outline Plan at Tokio.

There is reason to believe that the entire question of emigration of the Japanese to America has been satisfactorily settled, at least for the present, after a series of conferences between United States Ambassador O'Brien and Minister of Foreign Affairs Hayashi in Tokio.

It is understood that at their last meeting, the representatives of the Japanese government outlined a plan by which it is agreed to limit emigration to students and commercial men having means of support, and entirely to prevent Japanese laborers from going to America. This arrangement will entail the closest supervision on the part of the Japanese authorities. As the agreement is verbal, Ambassador O'Brien accepted it provisionally, but maintained that any violation of its terms would seriously embarrass a friendly government. It is said that Foreign Minister Hayashi will exercise absolute control.

TREATIES OF LATIN NATIONS.

Central America Peace Conference Closing in Washington.

The Central American peace conference, which has been in session in Washington for some time, has practically concluded its labors and it is known that the delegates are ready to sign seven treaties. The most important step toward the preservation of peace in Central America consisted in the agreement of the treaty establishing a permanent court. The other treaties will be:

One of extradition, one for the establishment of a Central American pedagogical institution and for the establishment of an international Central American bureau similar to the bureau of American republics at Washington; a financial convention, a treaty for the establishment of better communication between the countries, and a general treaty of peace and amity.

Brownville Case in Court.

The right of President Roosevelt to discharge "without honor" the negro soldiers who were on duty at Brownville, Texas, at the time of the famous riot in that city will be tested in the Supreme Court of the United States. To this end an action investigating the validity of the President's order has been begun in behalf of Oscar W. Reid, one of the discharged men. In the United States Court for the Southern District of New York, with the purpose of carrying it to the highest tribunal as speedily as practicable.

Surgery for Insanity.

Dr. N. M. Ovesubly of Baltimore has created something of a stir in medical circles by asserting that dementia praecox, or precocious insanity, had been cured in recent cases by the use of the knife to relieve the thyroid gland of an excess of certain chemicals in the blood and the secretions. Out of five cases so treated, all but one are said to have recovered, whereas the disease has generally been regarded as incurable. Dr. Spirita of the Jefferson Medical College, however, says that the theory on which Ovesubly operated has not been proved.

COMMERCIAL FINANCIAL

CHICAGO.

An improving tone appears in business circles, although actual recovery in activity is not looked for before a return to normal banking conditions is effected.

Seasonable weather brought a heavier movement in the leading retail lines, and the absorption of necessities and Christmas goods advanced to gratifying proportions, dealings generally reflecting a better disposition among buyers.

Wholesale branches mainly enter upon the usual quiet attending the close of the year, but there was a fair aggregate of demands for immediate delivery and satisfactory mail orders were received for spring merchandise. Mercantile collections show more promptness at western points, although extensions are not infrequently asked, particularly where the shortage of currency yet remains severe.

Defaults in this district again include none of special significance, and the number this month thus far is less than a year ago. Requests for accommodation in January increases and current settlements at the banks involve some renewals, but the financial exhibit required of borrowers discloses little disturbing weakness among manufacturers and distributors, and this creates a more confident feeling as a basis for future financing.

Money remains quoted at 7 per cent minimum on local loans required for forwarding of foodstuffs, but higher rates are made for commercial paper bought by outside banks. Augmentation of gold reserves and note circulation strengthens the situation and permits an expanding shipment of currency to the interior.

There is no decline in outputs of rails, wire and footwear, and there is better inquiry for pig iron, although some consumers hold for lower cost.

Failures reported in the Chicago district number 23, against 18 last week and 25 a year ago. Those with liabilities over \$5,000 number 5, against 7 last week and 1 in 1906.—Dun's Review of Trade.

NEW YORK.

Holiday buying has had the center of the stage, and retail business has felt very perceptibly the influence of the fair weather of the season. While much more marked than some time ago, however, the volume of retail buying as a whole is not up to expectations, and is certainly well below a year ago at this date. Sentiment as to the outlook for trade next year is very mixed.

Conditions in financial circles are still slowly but quite surely approaching normal. From the country at large there is reported a continued easing up of the situation as regards cash payments, and several cities are practically on a cash basis.

A very favorable feature in the present period of recession is the tendency toward enlargement of our export trade. This is most notable in the grain trade. Business failures for the week ending Dec. 19 number 298, against 284 last week, 227 in the like week of 1906, 235 in 1905, 249 in 1904 and 243 in 1903. Canadian failures for the week number 40, as against 50 last week and 26 in this week a year ago.—Bradstreet's Commercial Report.

THE MARKETS.

Chicago—Cattle, common to prime, \$4.00 to \$6.30; hogs, prime heavy, \$4.00 to \$4.85; sheep, fair to choice, \$3.00 to \$4.25; wheat, No. 2, 97c to 99c; corn, No. 2, 57c to 58c; oats, standard, 47c to 48c; rye, No. 2, 70c to 80c; hay, timothy, \$11.00 to \$18.00; prairie, \$9.00 to \$12.50; butter, choice creamery, 24c to 26c; eggs, fresh, 22c to 27c; potatoes, per bushel, 45c to 57c.

Indianapolis—Cattle, shipping, \$3.00 to \$4.00; hogs, good to choice, heavy, \$4.00 to \$4.25; sheep, common to prime, \$3.00 to \$4.25; wheat, No. 2, 95c to 97c; corn, No. 2 white, 53c to 55c; oats, No. 2 white, 40c to 52c.

St. Louis—Cattle, \$4.50 to \$5.85; hogs, \$4.00 to \$4.85; sheep, \$3.00 to \$5.00; wheat, No. 2, \$1.01 to \$1.02; corn, No. 2, 53c to 54c; oats, No. 2, 48c to 49c; rye, No. 2, 75c to 79c.

Cincinnati—Cattle, \$4.00 to \$5.10; hogs, \$4.00 to \$4.80; sheep, \$3.00 to \$4.25; wheat, No. 2, 96c to \$1.01; corn, No. 2 mixed, 55c to 57c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 47c to 48c; rye, No. 2, 81c to 84c.

Detroit—Cattle, \$4.00 to \$5.50; hogs, \$4.00 to \$4.80; sheep, \$2.50 to \$4.75; wheat, No. 2, \$1.01 to \$1.03; corn, No. 3 yellow, 60c to 61c; oats, No. 3 white, 53c to 54c; rye, No. 2, 80c to 82c.

Milwaukee—Wheat, No. 2 northern, \$1.07 to \$1.09; corn, No. 3, 57c to 59c; oats, standard, 51c to 52c; rye, No. 1, 80c to 81c; barley, No. 2, 96c to 97c; pork, mess, \$12.52.

Buffalo—Cattle, choice shipping steers, \$4.00 to \$5.90; hogs, fair to choice, \$3.50 to \$4.60; sheep, common to good mixed, \$4.00 to \$5.50; lambs, fair to choice, \$5.00 to \$7.25.

New York—Cattle, \$4.00 to \$5.80; hogs, \$3.50 to \$5.25; sheep, \$3.00 to \$4.75; wheat, No. 2 red, \$1.03 to 1.04; corn, No. 2, 64c to 65c; oats, natural white, 57c to 58c; butter, creamery, 25c to 30c; eggs, western, 27c to 31c.

Toledo—Wheat, No. 2 mixed, \$1.00 to \$1.02; corn, No. 2 mixed, 53c to 54c; rye, No. 2, 70c to 80c; clover seed, prime, \$10.00.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEVITIES.

Thomas W. Lawson has been elected president of the Bay State Gas Company of Delaware.

The chief of staff of the army has recommended the construction of officers' quarters at the army war college in Washington at an expense of \$100,000.

It is reported that Heinrich Conrad of the Metropolitan opera house in New York has had trouble with the directors of the company and will retire at the end of the present season.

Fire in a stable in East Ninth street, New York City, spread to an adjoining building, causing the death of one man and injury to another man and a woman who were overcome by smoke. Nine horses in the stable are supposed to have been burned.

Dr. William F. Roos of Boston issued a statement that he found in the body of William Farnsworth Baker, the Boston young man who died under suspicious circumstances in Bagota, N. J., more than enough arsenic to kill several strong healthy men. It was also stated that the embalming fluid used in preparing the body for burial contained no arsenic.

TAFT SPEAKS IN BOSTON.

Secretary of War Defends Administration Against Critics.

The Merchants and Manufacturers Association of Boston gave a dinner the other night at which Secretary of War Taft was the guest of honor. Here the Secretary delivered the reply to Roosevelt administration to its critics on Wall street. Mr. Taft