

# SHORT CROP IS SHOWN

Government Estimate Lower Than Expected by Experts in Grain.

## WHEAT CONDITION NOW 82.2

Winter Cereals Far Below Average for Ten Years, and High Prices May Continue.

The crop reporting board of the bureau of statistics of the United States Department of Agriculture estimates from the reports of correspondents and agents of the bureau that the average condition of winter wheat on April 1 was 82.2 per cent of a normal, against 91.3 on April 1, 1908, 89.9 on April 1, 1907, and 86.6, the average condition for the past ten years on April 1. The decline in condition from Dec. 1, 1908, to April 1, 1909, was 3.1 points, as compared with an average decline in the past ten years of 6 points. The average condition of rye on April 1 was 87.2 per cent of a normal, against 89.1 on April 1, 1908, and 89.2 the average condition for the past ten years on April 1. Comparisons for important winter wheat States follow:

State	Condition April 1, 1909	Condition April 1, 1908	Condition April 1, 1907	Condition April 1, 1906	Condition April 1, 1905	Condition April 1, 1904	Condition April 1, 1903	Condition April 1, 1902	Condition April 1, 1901	Condition April 1, 1900
Kansas	86	95	89	92	88	81	85	87	88	89
Indiana	68	90	81	65	86	90	89	89	89	89
Nebraska	86	93	80	89	89	89	89	89	89	89
Missouri	79	93	89	90	89	89	89	89	89	89
Illinois	60	92	89	72	89	89	89	89	89	89
Ohio	60	85	81	62	87	87	87	87	87	87
Pennsylvania	87	83	87	88	87	87	87	87	87	87
Oklahoma	83	94	87	89	87	87	87	87	87	87
California	93	88	92	92	89	89	89	89	89	89
Texas	66	95	80	90	89	89	89	89	89	89
Tennessee	93	95	84	87	87	87	87	87	87	87
Michigan	83	94	87	89	87	87	87	87	87	87
Virginia	75	90	81	74	87	87	87	87	87	87
North Carolina	97	90	83	96	87	87	87	87	87	87
Maryland	96	83	87	95	87	87	87	87	87	87
Kentucky	81	95	85	70	87	87	87	87	87	87
Washington	96	94	90	98	87	87	87	87	87	87
North Dakota	93	91	87	93	87	87	87	87	87	87
Oregon	97	97	88	92	87	87	87	87	87	87
New York	88	90	88	92	87	87	87	87	87	87
United States	82.2	91.3	86.6	85.3	87	87	87	87	87	87

Lower Than Expected. Government estimates of the winter wheat condition fell below the popular estimate, although some of the profes-

## THE TARIFF FIGHT.

Senator Elkins' Bitter Attack on New England Solons.

The framing of the new tariff bill is proving a subject of great difficulty to our national lawmakers. Apart from the widely divergent views of the members of both houses of legislation, there is a storm of criticism of the Payne bill pouring into Washington from every section of the country. Thousands of protests from the "ultimate consumer" against dress clothes, dress goods, women's gloves and hosiery and a variety of articles used in feeding, clothing and housing the people are reaching Congress by letters, petitions and complaints. These are having their effect upon the lawmakers and are putting them in a rather nervous condition.

While the tariff struggle in the House is causing deep anxiety, the Payne bill is also ruffling the placidity of the Senate. One noted feature of the discussion in that body was the flank attack made by Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, on his own party. Senator Elkins, who seldom addresses the Senate, took the floor and bitterly raked the New England senators—Aldrich, Hale and Lodge—members of the Finance Committee, which is in charge of the tariff bill. He said that the time had come when there ought to be a protest registered in the Senate against the disposition of New England senators to "crucify the South." New England, he asserted, was in favor of free trade in all products of the South which were raw material for New England, but was willing that the South should pay protection prices on all the products of New England manufacturers. He declared that he stood ready to protest against placing on the free list such articles as coal, iron and hides, products of the South, in order that New England might enjoy free raw materials. He charged that the three New England members of the Finance Committee were playing on the traditional tendencies of the Southern Democrats toward free trade in order to carry out the scheme of free raw materials for New England.

An attempt was made by Senator Lodge to deprive Senator Elkins of the privilege of the floor by moving an executive session, but this was sidetracked, and Senator Elkins resumed

# THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



1609—Henry Hudson sailed from Holland in search of the Northwest passage.  
1774—The bill for closing the port of Boston received the royal assent.  
1775—New York Colonial Legislature held its last session.

1790—The New York Legislature passed a law for the gradual abolition of slavery in that State.

1804—A French cruiser blockaded the port of Charleston, S. C. All the territory ceded to the United States by the State of Georgia, north of the Mississippi territory and south of Tennessee, annexed to Mississippi by act of Congress.

1812—Congress passed an embargo law for ninety days. . . . Badajos, an important barrier fortress in southwestern Spain, surrendered to the French under Marshal Soult.

1829—A large section of Augusta, Ga., destroyed by fire.

1830—Survey made for laying out the city of Chicago.

1841—The foundations of the Mormon temple were laid at Nauvoo, Ill.

1850—More than 400 persons perished in the wreck of the steamer Royal Adelaide off Margate, England.

1852—Tremont Temple, Boston, destroyed by fire.  
1854—First treaty between the United States and Japan signed. . . . A combined force of Americans and English attacked and routed a Chinese imperial army of 10,000 at Shanghai.

1855—Bronze equestrian statue of Gen. Andrew Jackson unveiled in New Orleans. . . . Gore expedition left St. Louis to explore the headwaters of the Powder River in Montana. . . . The State prison at Nashville, Tenn., destroyed by fire. . . . The electric telegraph between London and Balachava completed.

1861—South Carolina convention ratified the Confederate constitution.  
1864—House of Representatives adopted resolutions declaring that France would not be allowed to form a monarchy in Mexico.

1868—Michigan voted against negro suffrage.  
1870—A bill re-admitting Texas to representation in Congress was approved.

1872—Earthquake at Antioch, resulting in the loss of 1,500 lives.  
1873—Nearly 500 lives lost in the wreck of the steamship Atlantic off the coast of Nova Scotia.

1875—Riots of striking coal miners in Pennsylvania.  
1881—Decennial census of the Dominion of Canada showed the population to be 4,324,810.

1882—Steamer Golden Gate burned near Memphis, with loss of twenty lives. . . . Jesse James, noted desperado, killed by the Ford brothers, at St. Joseph, Mo.  
1883—Ship of war Hawk burned at Port Discovery, Washington.

1884—House of Representatives passed a bill for the redemption of the silver trade dollar. . . . Rioters attacked and burned the court house in Cincinnati.  
1888—Four thousand persons killed by earthquake at Yunnan, China.

1892—Mormon temple at Salt Lake City completed.  
1894—President Cleveland vetoed the Bland silver bill.

1895—The Iowa Supreme Court sustained the construction of the mule tax of 1894.  
1900—Queen Victoria visited Ireland, landing at Queenstown. . . . The Kentucky court of appeals declared Beckham Governor.

1903—Statue to William E. Gladstone erected in Westminster Abbey.  
1904—Chicago voted for municipal ownership of street railways.

1908—The Czar dissolved the Finnish diet for expressed sympathy with the Terrorists. . . . The Fifth Avenue Hotel of New York closed its doors. . . . General suspension of bituminous coal mining occurred pending settlement of new scale.

## PRAIRIE DOGS TO BE POISONED.

Coated Wheat Is to Be Fed to Enemy of Farmers in the West.

Poisoned wheat is to be used as bait to kill off the prairie dogs, the stockmen's enemy, that now infest Arizona and New Mexico and have become a menace to the forest ranges there. On ranch lands prairie dogs have been destructive to wheat, grain, potatoes and sugar beets; while on grazing lands they destroy so much grass that the grazing capacity of the land is reduced to 75 per cent. Last spring a successful campaign was waged against the prairie dog and this year it will be conducted on a larger scale. The poison is prepared by coating the wheat with a preparation of strychnine, cyanide of potassium, anise oil and molasses.

## Births in America Decreasing.

According to figures compiled by the Census Bureau, the birth rate in this country has fallen off, decidedly. In 1790 the average family in this country consisted of 5.8 persons and in 1900 it was only 4.6 persons. The ratio of children to women since 1790 has been cut in half, the number being in 1900 one child to each woman over 16 years old, the same as the ratio in Great Britain at that time. In France it was 2.8, and in Germany 1.1.

## CENSUS SHOWS RACE SUICIDE.

Average Family in the United States Has Decreased.

The size of the average family in the United States has decreased from 5.8 persons in 1790, the date of the first census taken in this country, to 4.6 in the same area in 1900, according to a volume now being published by the census bureau. Of especial interest from a sociological point of view are those statistics in the book which deal with family life. In 1790 families composed of no more than three persons represented but one-fourth of the entire number of families, while in 1900 families of similar size made up nearly 40 per cent of all the families. Families composed of six or more persons represented in 1790 more than one-half, but in 1900 scarcely more than one-fourth of the families enumerated. On the basis of the proportion shown in 1790 there would have been in continental United States in 1900, 39,500,000 children, whereas there were less than 24,000,000.

The number of children under 16 years of age to each white family was 2.8 in 1790, as compared with 1.5 in 1900. The ratio in 1790 of two children under 16 years of age to each white female 16 years of age and over declined to one in 1900. Of 3,171,000 white persons enumerated in 1790, approximately 2,000,000 survived thirty-years later, 11,500 in 1880, while in 1900 there were twenty-three persons who reported their ages as 110 years and over, so that at the census of 1900 it is possible that there were still living persons enumerated in the first census, taken 110 years before.

In 1790 the Smiths led all the rest, there being 33,245 of this ubiquitous family in the country, while other families followed in the sequence given: Brown, Davis, Jones, Johnson, Clark, Williams, Miller and Wilson. These names represented about 4 per cent of the total white population of 1790.

## RUSSIA'S RAILWAY BUILDER DEAD; ONCE LABORER IN UNITED STATES

Prince Michael Hilkoff, whose death has been reported from St. Petersburg, had a romantic life story. Successively a dissatisfied young man on his father's estates, a poorly paid laborer in a Philadelphia machine shop, an employee of a contractor who was building a railway in South America, the manager of an Argentine railway, a student in an English locomotive building shop and engine driver and locomotive superintendent in Russia during his earlier years, he rose to be the czar's minister of public works and railways, a high office he held for eleven years. To his energy and skill is ascribed much of the success of Russia in building the great Trans-Siberian railway and in sending more than 300,000 troops across the 6,677 miles of this line within ninety days, together with enormous quantities of provisions and army supplies, during the Russo-Japanese war.

"I am a good bit of a Yankee myself," was Prince Hilkoff's greeting to the members of the World's Columbian Exposition committee on transportation when meeting them in western Siberia on their trip around the world. "Here is further proof, if you want it," he added, with a smile, raising his hand up to the tuft of iron-gray beard that grew on his chin ("Uncle Sam" fashion). This tuft he wore from early manhood to old age. He was a Yankee in more than appearance; for many years he had studied closely the wonderful development of the United States and had striven to adopt methods in use in this country to the railway problems of Russia.

## LABOR

A clockmakers' union was recently organized at San Francisco, Cal.

Work is being done in the matter of unionizing the brewers in El Paso, Texas.

The Gas Workers' Union at Sacramento, Cal., has made an application to become affiliated with the State Federation of Labor.

The San Francisco (Cal.) Journeymen Stone Cutters' Union has under consideration a proposition to establish a sick benefit fund.

A union of hard solderers of New York has been organized. The name adopted is the Independent International Union of Hard Solderers.

Many pastors in Brooklyn, N. Y., have promised to help the grocery clerks in their movement for a shorter workday and Sunday closing.

A dispute has occurred in a section of employes in the lace trade in Nottingham, England, which, it is feared, may lead to an extended strike.

Sixteen hundred men employed in the collieries at Aberaman, Wales, are locked out.

Among nut and bolt workers in Pennsylvania the returns of the chief factory inspector show the fatal accident rate during ten years to have been 5.4 per 1,000 and in miscellaneous steel and iron work 4.3 per 1,000.

A cooperative company has been organized by workmen of Brooklyn, N. Y. The name of the company is the Brooklyn Mechanics' Co-operative Company, and the announced object "to start operations for mutual benefit."

# MANY TOWNS SWEEP BY TERRIFIC STORM

Wabash, Ind., Massillon and Toledo, Ohio, Struck by Tornado and Lives and Property Lost.

## MANY HOUSES ARE IN RUINS

Northern Mississippi Visited by Gale Which Causes Death of at Least Nine Persons in One Place.

Death and destruction were wrought by tornadoes which swept the Mississippi Valley States, the States in the great lake region, and the lower portion of Canada Monday, Monday night, and early Tuesday.

The storm struck northern Mississippi Monday night in a tornado that attained a velocity estimated at from seventy-five to 100 miles an hour. Nine persons are reported killed, fifteen were injured, some of them fatally, and thousands of dollars' worth of damage done to buildings and crops.

## Great Losses in Tennessee.

This tornado, passing north into Tennessee and Kentucky, caused heavy damage to buildings, wrecking a school house at Buntyn, Tenn., and imperiling the lives of 300 children. Meager reports as to fatalities come from these sections, owing to the wrecking of telegraph wires, but several deaths are reported, not verified.

Passing into Indiana and Ohio Tuesday the cyclone destroyed factories and other large buildings in its pathway. At Massillon, Ohio, the high wind, tearing the roof from a foundry, menaced the lives of 400 employes, killing one. At Wabash, Ind., the havoc was widespread, the loss being estimated at from \$100,000 to \$200,000. Two dozen dwellings were demolished, while their inmates fled for their lives. A woman, with her children, was pinned under the wreckage of her home, which caught fire, and she will die from burns. The city's electric service was wrecked and the town was in darkness throughout Tuesday night. The wind was followed by a cloudburst, and many bridges are washed away. Many families are homeless. Fifteen are injured, two fatally, in Toledo.

## Northern Indiana Suffers.

In northern Indiana the storm late Tuesday night killed one man at Albion. Two hundred houses were destroyed in small villages.

At Cleveland the fishing tug George Floyd with seven men aboard and the sandsucker Mary II, with a crew of nine men are missing, while the barge Norman Kelley, with a crew of four persons, three men and a woman, near Sandusky, was rescued after a desperate struggle as a result of a fierce wind storm which raged on Lake Erie.

In Michigan a boy was killed by the flying roof of a house at Brighton, two boys were drowned in a small boat in the Detroit River, and three fishermen were drowned by the capsizing of their boat near Wyandotte. Lightning killed a child at Ionia and set fire to thousands of dollars' worth of farm houses and barns. A child was probably fatally injured in Detroit by flying debris.

At Jennings, Mich., three young men were killed by being caught under a wall that was blown down by the wind. The damage to roofs, chimneys, plate glass, etc., probably will reach \$75,000 in Detroit.

## Wisconsin Is Wind Swept.

A terrific wind storm swept Wisconsin Wednesday. Many boats were reported overdue at various ports along Lake Michigan and at Milwaukee, while the northern Michigan copper country reports from five inches to two and a half feet of snow.

Southern Canada was a heavy sufferer from the storm, incomplete and unverified reports showing that the loss in small towns will reach the hundred thousands. Six persons were injured and one young child fatally hurt and property loss of \$75,000 entailed at New London, Ont.

At Buffalo, N. Y., the gale reached a velocity of seventy-five miles an hour. Four persons, badly injured by flying bricks and debris, are in hospitals, and several ships have been beached, while a dredge was sunk. One man was crushed to death by a falling cornice.

The wind reached a velocity of sixty-eight miles per hour in Pittsburg. It is estimated that damage done throughout the city will be in excess of \$100,000. About thirty persons were hurt, and two of them are so badly injured that they may die.

An airship owned by the Eagle Aeroplane Company of Pittsburg was about ready for flight when the gale struck the tent it was kept in and blew both tent and airship away, demolishing both.

## Woman Admits Theft; Ends Life.

Leaving a confession of the theft of \$3,000 worth of silks and laces taken from a dry goods house in San Bernardino, Cal., where she was employed, Mrs. Clarence Allen committed suicide by taking carbolic acid.

## 15,000 Bushels of Wheat Burned.

Fire supposed to have been of incendiary origin destroyed the flour mill of J. A. Hinds & Co., in Rochester, N. Y., together with 15,000 bushels of wheat. The total loss is \$100,000.

# COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

CHICAGO.

Aside from the few labor troubles, which are responding to mediatory efforts for settlement, the business conditions generally indicate seasonable advance. April payments through the banks reflect an enlarged use of money and the record breaking total of clearings for March testifies to substantial recovery in the leading activities, although some branches of production have not yet completely reduced their idle capacity. March permits for exclusively commercial structures and extensions were fifty-three in number and \$2,316,500 in value, and compare with fifty in number and \$517,450 in value for March, 1908. Other investment of capital is seen to be exceptionally large in real estate transactions, bonds and stocks, local securities showing increase in aggregate sales of 150 per cent over this time last year. Local deposits continue at the highest level, but country withdrawals are unusually small, considering the spreading of farm work and expenditures for spring planting and improvements throughout the interior.

Failures reported in the Chicago district number 21, against 34 last week, 16 in 1903 and 13 in 1907. Those with liabilities over \$5,000 number 4, against 9 last week, 3 in 1908 and 3 in 1907.—Dun's Review of Trade.

## NEW YORK.

Trade and crop reports are irregular and business the country over is still quiet as a whole. There are, however, evidences of a growth in optimistic feeling, partly due, no doubt, to more spring-like weather conditions. Current demand at wholesale is of a between-seasons character and jobbing distribution is confined largely to filling in orders, but there is reported in several markets a disposition to take hold more freely for next fall.

Exports from leading industries are not materially different from last week. Wage reductions are more numerous, but strikes are not frequent. In iron and steel there is more business reported, but evidently at the expense of prices. Pig iron is dull and lower.

A strike and lockout has been averted in the anthracite coal trade, and the usual spring reduction in prices is announced. Bituminous coal is still dull and weak. The shoe and leather trades are quiet, with little business yet booked for the fall season in shoes.

Business failures for the week ending with April 1 were, in the United States, 204, against 228 last week, 247 in the like week of 1908, 137 in 1907, 151 in 1906, and 170 in 1905. Canadian failures for the week number 23, which compares with 35 last week and 32 in 1908.—Bradstreet's.

# MARKETS OF THE WEEK

Chicago—Cattle, common to prime, \$4.00 to \$7.25; hogs, prime heavy, \$4.50 to \$7.15; sheep, fair to choice, \$3.00 to \$6.75; wheat, No. 2, \$1.25 to \$1.27; corn, No. 2, 64c to 66c; oats, standard, 51c to 52c; rye, No. 2, 79c to 80c; hay, timothy, \$8.00 to \$13.50; prairie, \$8.00 to \$11.50; butter, choice creamery, 25c to 26c; eggs, fresh, 10c to 20c; potatoes, per bushel, 85c to 95c.

Indianapolis—Cattle, shipping, \$3.00 to \$6.50; hogs, good to choice heavy, \$3.00 to \$7.25; sheep, good to choice, \$2.50 to \$6.15; wheat, No. 2, \$1.29 to \$1.30; corn, No. 2 white, 63c to 65c; oats, No. 2 white, 51c to 52c.

St. Louis—Cattle, \$4.00 to \$7.10; hogs, \$4.00 to \$7.10; sheep, \$3.00 to \$6.50; wheat, No. 2, \$1.35 to \$1.40; corn, No. 2, 85c to 87c; oats, No. 2, 53c to 54c; rye, No. 2, 79c to 80c.

Cincinnati—Cattle, \$4.00 to \$6.25; hogs, \$4.00 to \$7.25; sheep, \$3.00 to \$5.75; wheat, No. 2, \$1.31 to \$1.32; corn, No. 2 mixed, 67c to 68c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 54c to 55c; rye, No. 2, 82c to 84c.

Detroit—Cattle, \$4.00 to \$5.50; hogs, \$4.00 to \$7.00; sheep, \$2.50 to \$5.50; wheat, No. 2, \$1.28 to \$1.30; corn, No. 3 yellow, 67c to 68c; oats, No. 3 white, 58c to 57c; rye, No. 2, 81c to 82c.

Milwaukee—Wheat, No. 2 northern, \$1.15 to \$1.17; corn, No. 3, 65c to 67c; oats, standard, 53c to 54c; rye, No. 1, 79c to 80c; barley, No. 1, 64c to 65c; pork, mess, \$16.50.

Buffalo—Cattle, choice shipping steers, \$4.00 to \$7.35; hogs, fair to choice, \$4.00 to \$7.20; sheep, common to good mixed, \$4.00 to \$4.75; lambs, fair to choice, \$5.00 to \$8.50.

New York—Cattle, \$4.00 to \$6.65; hogs, \$3.50 to \$7.20; sheep, \$3.00 to \$4.75; wheat, No. 2, red, \$1.27 to \$1.28; corn, No. 2, 74c to 75c; oats, natural white, 57c to 59c; butter, creamery, 25c to 26c; eggs, western, 17c to 21c.

Toledo—Wheat, No. 2 mixed, \$1.27 to \$1.29; corn, No. 2 mixed, 66c to 68c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 54c to 55c; rye, No. 2, 83c to 85c; clover seed, \$5.45.

For the first time in fifteen years the Hamburg-American Steamship line has failed to declare an annual dividend. The depreciation in the company's earnings it is stated, is due to the depression in the ocean-carrying trade felt in all parts of the world, but in addition the directors refer to the deadly competition forced on the German line by the two giant floating palaces of the English line, the Lusitania and Mauritania. They say that the construction of these boats has precipitated an era of the most overburdened expense.



THE DISASTER AT THE WINDSOR STATION.

Six persons were killed and several seriously injured when a locomotive attached to a Boston and Maine train crashed through the walls of the women's waiting room at the Windsor station at Montreal. The train, which was made up of a locomotive, a baggage car and three passenger coaches, had few passengers. When passing Highland station, a few miles from Montreal, a plug blew out of the engine, and the engineer was thrown

from his cab. The fireman tried to stop the train, but the brakes would not work. Arriving at the Windsor station, the train plunged through several barriers and a brick wall, landing in the women's waiting room and crashing through the floor. The fireman was pinned beneath the wreck and instantly killed. A man at work in the room below the waiting room also was killed. Another victim was a girl who was sitting in the station

his speech long enough to call the New England senators "alert, adroit, like tigers, dominating the Senate." He sharply criticized the unfair treatment accorded the South in the make-up of the Finance Committee, it being entirely ignored while New England had three representatives on the committee.

## TRADE AND INDUSTRY.

Figures compiled at Reading, Pa., show that there is sufficient anthracite coal on the surface to supply the trade for the next eight months in the event of a coal strike.

The published tariff rate of a railroad on an interstate shipment must be collected by the railroad, according to a decision in the district court at Marshalltown, Iowa, by Judge J. M. Parker.</