

BIG GAIN IN WINTER WHEAT

Nebraska Farmers Show Less Confidence in Spring Cereals.

CHANGE ESTIMATED AT 600,000 ACRES

Department of Agriculture Furnishes Figures on Corn, Oats, Hay, Potatoes and Other Crops for the Season Just Past.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The statistician of the Department of Agriculture estimates the United States wheat crop of 1900 at 622,225,000 bushels, the area actually harvested being 42,496,385 acres and the average acre 12.29 bushels. The production of winter wheat was estimated at 350,925,029 bushels, and that of spring wheat at 172,299,996 bushels, of the area actually harvested being 26,235,857 acres in the former case and 16,259,488 acres in the latter. The winter wheat acreage, totally abandoned in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois, is finally placed at 3,522,787 acres, and the spring wheat acreage, totally abandoned in North Dakota and South Dakota, at 3,793,467 acres. The extraordinary rapid rate at which the winter wheat acreage in Nebraska is gaining upon the spring wheat acreage of that state has necessitated a special investigation of the relative extent to which the two varieties were grown during the last year. The result of the investigation is that while no change is called for in the total wheat figures of the state, 600,576 acres have been added to the winter wheat column at the expense of the spring variety.

Newly-Seedbed Area of Winter Wheat.

The newly-seedbed area of winter wheat is estimated at 20,252,564 acres. While this acreage is slightly greater than that sown in the fall of 1899, as estimated at the time, it is 600,454 acres less than the area that was actually sown, the discrepancy being due to that remarkably rapid development of winter wheat growing in Nebraska with which, as stated, the department reports had failed to keep pace. A comparison of the newly-seedbed acreage with that of the fall of 1899 shows that of the eleven states and territories that sowed 1,000,000 acres or upward of winter wheat one year ago are Pennsylvania, Missouri, Kansas, California and Oklahoma report an increase amounting to 971,704 acres and Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Texas and Tennessee a decrease of 1,780,191 acres. The average condition of the growing crop on December 15 was 57.1 per cent of the normal. There are many complaints of the Hesian fly. The lowest condition figures reported are from Ohio, Michigan, Kentucky and Tennessee—56, 50 and 57 respectively. The condition in Kansas, Oklahoma and many other states is above normal.

Estimated Production of Corn.

The production of corn in 1900 is estimated at 2,105,102,516 bushels; oats, 800,125,989 bushels; barley, 58,925,833 bushels; rye, 23,995,927 bushels; buckwheat, 9,566,996 bushels; potatoes, 210,928,877 bushels, and hay, 50,110,896 tons. The area from which these crops were gathered was as follows in acres: Corn, 83,220,872; oats, 27,364,705; barley, 2,194,282; rye, 1,191,326; buckwheat, 637,930; potatoes, 2,611,054, and hay, 39,132,890. The corn crop of 1900 was one of the four largest ever gathered, while the oat crop has been exceeded only once. On the other hand, the barley and rye crops are the smallest, with one exception, in acres since 1887. The buckwheat crop is the smallest since 1858, and the hay crop is the smallest, with one exception, since 1888.

HEREDITARY OFFICE IN CUBA

War Department Holds Against Claims for Certain Emoluments Connected with Meat Business.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The secretary of war has sustained the military authorities in Cuba in what is familiarly called the "slaughter house" case, without prejudice, however, to the full legal rights of the claimants, which are left to the future determination of the courts of Cuba. This case involves many important legal questions and bids fair to be a subject of litigation for years to come. This claim had its inception in a grant by the Spanish crown in 1783 to Don Castro Pueria of the privilege of holding in his family the office of chief of Havana. The male portion of the family having become extinct, the office, by permission of the Spanish crown, passed to Count O'Reilly, then husband of the daughter of the recently deceased chief. The last incumbent is the present Countess O'Reilly and Buena Vista, who is joined in the issue by Dr. Don Gustavo Gallet Dupless of Havana, who purchased an interest in the emoluments of the office in Havana in 1895. The principal emolument was a right to receive about \$1 in gold for each head of large cattle killed in Havana slaughter houses. The military government of Havana vacated this order in May 20, 1899, and this was affirmed, on appeal, by General Brooke in August. The case came up on appeal to the secretary of war and after several months consideration has just been decided against the claimants, so far as the United States is concerned.

Secretary May Recover.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—Secretary Hay has recovered from his indisposition and was again at his desk at the State department today. This being diplomatic day he had many callers, the Chinese minister being the first. Neither the secretary nor the minister had any late advices from Peking. Senator Lodge of Massachusetts called to present Mr. Meyer, new ambassador to Italy. Lord Pauncefote arrived shortly after Mr. Lodge's departure and had a brief conference with Mr. Hay. The ambassador has heard nothing whatever concerning the course of the British government on the Hay-Pauncefote treaty, nor is there likely to be any development at London before the papers have reached there some time next week.

Division of Insular Affairs.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—In accordance with an order issued by the War department today the division of customs and insular affairs of the office of secretary of war, created in December 1898, will hereafter be known as the "division of insular affairs," and will have charge of matters pertaining to the civil affairs connected with the government of Cuba and the Philippine islands, as distinguished from matters of a purely military character.

Michigan Bank Ordered Closed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The First National bank of White Pigeon, Mich., was closed tonight by order of the comptroller of the currency upon receipt of a telegram from National Bank Examiner J. W. Selden that the board of directors of the bank had passed a resolution requesting the comptroller to take charge. Examiner Selden has been appointed receiver.

War Revenue Bill in Senate.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—Senator Allison, who is the second member on the Finance committee in point of seniority, said today that the house bill amending the war revenue law would be taken up by that committee immediately after the reconvening of congress. He also stated that no hearings would be granted by the committee.

Frye Denies Story.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—A. E. Frye, the superintendent of education of Cuba, has telegraphed the War department a sweeping denial of the published story to the effect that he issued a circular or proclamation in Havana advising the Cubans to proceed to drive the Americans out of the island.

BILLY PATTERSON IS STRUCK

Superintendent Receives First Blow That Falls in Scranton Street Car Strike.

IMPORTED MEN PERSUADED NOT TO WORK

Local Dealers Refuse to Sell Provisions to Men Who Have Taken Strikers' Places, While Letter Carriers Hire Buses.

SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 27.—The first blow struck in the street car strike was received this evening by William Patterson, the superintendent of the Scranton Railway company. Teamsters blocked the car he was running and breaker boys and street urchins pelted it with potatoes. When the trolley car reached strike headquarters the strikers boarded it and attempted to take off the crew. Some men pulled Superintendent Patterson from the car and he was struck on the head with a flat or club that knocked off his hat and caused him to reel. Two strikers, Edward and Joseph Penley, rushed the superintendent into a saloon, protecting him from the crowd with great difficulty. The other strikers helped three police officers to disperse the crowd and also assisted the company officials to take the stalled car to the barn. Eleven cars were moved today, but not more than six at one time. As yet no one but a single passenger was carried. Twenty-three of the fifty-three men who came from New York last night returned today. Only eleven reached the company's office. The others are scattered about the city. Provisions for the imported men arrived today from Philadelphia. The local business men refused to sell the company any supplies. The letter carriers have hired buses at their own expense and will not ride in the cars until the strike is over. Two men from Williamsport, one from Sunbury, and one from Binghamton were turned back by the strikers today. The company secured six men last night from St. Louis, who refused to listen to the strikers' entreaties.

SENSATIONAL ARMY REFORM

British War Office Begins by Demanding Resignation of Major General Colville.

LONDON, Dec. 27.—The War office has begun the promised reform of the army in a sensational manner. It has demanded the resignation of Major General Sir Henry Colville, commanding an infantry brigade at Gibraltar, and recently commanding the Ninth division of the South Africa field force. General Colville refuses to resign and is now on his way to England. The news all the more startling as a question of General Colville's responsibility for the yearlong disaster at Lindlay last May was fully investigated by the authorities when General Colville returned from South Africa last summer. After the inquiry General Colville was reinstated in his command at Gibraltar in September last. The attitude of the War office indicates that a new regime in Pall Mall will reverse the decisions of Lord Lansdowne and Lord Wolseley in regard to some of the recent commands of the "Older" He is Colville, like General Methuen, has always been a social personage in London and a prominent club man. He has had a most distinguished military career, has been repeatedly mentioned in dispatches and is familiarly known as "Older." He is also a well known author, and on the occasion of his marriage created a stir by going on his honeymoon in a balloon.

Experts on Transportation to Testify.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The industrial commission is arranging for a list of witnesses who will testify from January 4 to 19 on the subject of transportation. The testimony will be on the relations of employer and employee and between the railroad companies and the public. Henry C. Adams, statistician of the interstate commerce commission, is expected to talk on taxation for transportation companies. Frank Parsons of Boston will speak of monopolies of transportation. There will be representatives of street railway commissions, of the Longshoremen's union, of the Lake Seaman's union. There also will be representatives of the operators in the anthracite coal regions, who probably will speak concerning the recent strike among the miners.

Hall Hopeful About Army Bill.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—Representative Hall, chairman of the house committee on military affairs, apparently does not share the fear expressed in some quarters that the army reorganization will fail at this session of congress and a makeshift temporarily continuing the present provisional army will have to be resorted to. He was at the White House today in conference with the president and Senator Allison regarding some Iowa appointments and stated his perfect confidence in the speedy enactment of the army bill. "I have canvassed the situation in the senate," said he, "and I believe that the differences between the two houses upon the measure will be adjusted within a week after the bill goes to conference."

Tariff Struggle in Germany.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The vast industrial forces of Germany are organizing for a tremendous struggle with the agrarian and commercial interests, according to a report to the State department from United States Consul Schumann at Mainz. He says that the manufacturing interests of Germany surely will demand the passage of a protective tariff during the present session of the Reichstag. Three of the strongest industrial societies of Germany recently convened to organize a national industrial council. The imperial government apparently was in sympathy with the movement and while the efforts so far have failed they are not to be abandoned.

Winnipeg Entertaining Soldiers.

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, Dec. 27.—Thousands of citizens stood in the chilly blasts two hours today awaiting the arrival of soldiers from South Africa. The welcome at the railroad station was most enthusiastic. An immense procession was formed to Holy Trinity church, where Archbishop MacRay conducted brief services. Luncheon followed at the drill hall, during which the mayor, Sir Charles Tupper, Hon. Hugh John McDonald, Chief Justice Killam and others delivered addresses. Tonight a grand ball and concert will be held.

Russian Consul at Bombay.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 27.—To occupy the post of first Russian consul at Bombay the government has appointed M. Kiemi, who for many years in the Foreign office served in Central Asia and latterly secretary of the Russian political agent at Bokhara. Russia secured the right of consular representation at Bombay after long and difficult negotiations. The British government being slow to admit that the commercial interests of Russia justified the departure. The real objection, naturally, was fear that the consulate would serve for political instead of commercial purposes.

Turk Makes No Payment.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Wednesday, Dec. 28.—It is the general belief that the Crampe contract for the construction of a cruiser for Turkey was signed without the first payment being made. This view is supported by the fact that the porte has formally promised to pay nothing to the Americans before paying the Krupp and the Germans have not yet received anything.

Increased Immigration to America.

CHRISTIANIA, Dec. 27.—More than 6,000 persons, four-fifths of whom went to the United States, emigrated from Christiania during the last twelve months, as against 3,300 in 1899.

Russian Church for New York.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 27.—The Holy synod has ordered that all the churches in its jurisdiction take up collections to build an orthodox Russian church in New York City.

Boer Force Repulsed.

CAPETOWN, Dec. 27.—A small party of Boers attacked Burgersdorp on December 24. They were repulsed after heavy fighting. The Boers are active and skirmishes in several places have been reported.

Southern Educational Association.

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 27.—The delegates to the Southern Educational association, which held its opening session here today, were slow in assembling. When the association was called to order there were about 600 delegates present, representing every part of the south. After prayer by

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Chinese Court Takes Exception to Two of New's Stipulations.

WANTS FORTS LEFT AND GUARDS OUSTED

Disapproves Reducing Defences and Allowing Many of Legations' Protectors to Remain—Ching Learns Ruler's Views.

PEKIN, Dec. 27.—Li Hung Chang and Prince Ching, the Chinese peace commissioners, have heard from the emperor, Kwang Lu. Prince Ching called on the former for consultation, remaining over an hour. The court objects strenuously to reducing the forts and also to allowing permanent legation guards, which it seems to think, could be made sufficiently large at any time it was desired to menace the court itself. After the conference it was decided to hold further communication with the court before seeing the ministers. The British have increased their garrison at Yang Tsun by 100 men, with horses and three guns. A flying column of 1,600 cavalry will scour the country between Tien Tain and Yang Tsun in obedience to Field Marshal von Waldersee's orders to be on the alert, in view of the fact that the emperor has an engagement with 3,500 Chinese troops. Colonel Tullock's regiment will remain to destroy the towas he recently held. This action is taken, owing to the fact that it has been discovered that a number of Boxers unquestionably made them their headquarters. The British authorities say they do not expect serious trouble from the Boxers, mainly because they lack arms. Fortunately, the Chinese government feared to trust them with arms, lest a rebellion against the dynasty be undertaken. Otherwise the danger might have been serious. British soldiers have been found dead outside the Temple of Heaven, with bullets in their heads. The murders are believed to have been done by Chinese. A detachment of the Sixth United States cavalry, Ninth infantry and Fifth artillery will leave tomorrow to investigate the reported burning of native Christians by Boxers, as reported by Rev. Mr. Kelly, the Presbyterian missionary. The expedition will be commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Wint of the Sixth cavalry.

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Leading Actor in Dreyfus Drama Does Not Care to Be Included in General Amnesty.

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Over a Century Old.

MONTROSE, Pa., Dec. 27.—Michael Maloney, a farmer of Lenox township, is dead at his home at the age of 107 years. Mr. Maloney was a native of Ireland.

Edmond Morison Wimpey.

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Miss Marriott.

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Savings Banks Meet All Demands.

BOSTON, Dec. 27.—The effect of the embarrassment of the Old Town bank, for which a receiver was appointed yesterday, on the city today. Throngs of depositors were seen at the bank, many of whom would be demanded in all cases were promptly complied with. By noon the crowds that had gathered in the morning had dispersed and the bank was operating as usual. The demands in all cases were promptly complied with. By noon the crowds that had gathered in the morning had dispersed and the bank was operating as usual.

Meet Going on Winter Cruise.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—The United States torpedo boat, Ericsson, sailed from Hampton Roads today. It will be one of the torpedo boats in the fleet on the winter cruise in the tropics. The flagship Kearsarge and the Massachusetts sailed from Hampton Roads Saturday for Pensacola and the rendezvous will be made somewhere in the Gulf.

Arrested for Alleged Kidnaping.

CHICAGO, Dec. 27.—The United States marshal, J. C. Beach, formerly of this city and now of Chicago, is in jail here charged with trying to kidnap a young girl. Beach made the attempt yesterday and the arrest was made until today. He was placed under a \$500 bond to await trial. It is said the girl was taken to Chicago and is now being held there. Beach has lived in Chicago since which time Beach has lived in Chicago.

CAPITAL CRIME IN MISSOURI

Legislature of Missouri to Be Asked to Attach Death Penalty to Kidnaping.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 27.—At a meeting of the prosecuting officers of the state of Missouri, held here today, a resolution was adopted to recommend to the state legislature the passage of a law making kidnaping a capital crime. It is also recommended that the stripping of women on the streets be made a felony. These suggestions, with several others, will be taken to the next general assembly by the legislative committee, consisting of thirty prosecuting attorneys from different parts of the state. The kidnaping law was brought forcibly to the mind of the attorneys by the recent abduction of young Cudaby at Omaha. The recent St. Louis street railway strike afforded the suggestion for the recommendation concerning the stripping of women. Nine women were attacked on the streets and six of them were almost denuded. The attorneys also prepared a resolution recommending the enactment of a law providing for compulsory arbitration of all differences between corporations and employees, with penalties for non-compliance. Lower street railway strike also brought about the resolution. During the trouble sixteen persons lost their lives and thousands of dollars' worth of property was destroyed.

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