

# Corn is King of American Crops and Wheat Holds Second Place



IN THE DAYS OF THE HARVEST—A WHEAT FIELD IN NEBRASKA.



PRODUCTS OF THE PRAIRIE LAND.



IN NEBRASKA, WHERE CORN IS MORE THAN KING.

**W**HOSO shall rob the crown of any part of its just due, shall surely be adjudged guilty of treason to the king. And under that finding of the court what penalty may we not assess against the man who conspires to dethrone King Corn, and who, forthwith, hails Wheat as the heir-apparent to the crown?

In the October number of *Printers' Ink*, Philadelphia, comes now a writer who is devoid of care or caution in the handling of facts and figures. To quote him briefly: "Wheat is king. Last year it was corn. The wheat districts this year will have the most money, generally speaking."

Carelessly speaking, would have been a better expression. Wheat has never been the king of crops in this country, nor is it at all likely that it will ever be elevated to that proud position. Cotton was crowned king in an earlier day, when the plantations of the south were worked by slaves, but its kingdom faded into a dependent principality, when the first battery of corn planters crossed the Mississippi river, and invaded the fertile fields of the west.

**What is the Exact Yield?**

It is never possible to determine the exact yield of wheat or corn in any year but the best estimates obtainable, from government reports and other sources, place the yield of wheat in the United States for 1909, at approximately 724 million bushels. Its value is about 68 million dollars on the farm, or 700 million dollars on the Chicago market. On the first day of last August, crop prospects indicated a yield of three billion bushels of corn. Dry weather in August reduced the yield to approximately 2,750 million bushels, worth on the farm about 1,350 million dollars and on the Chicago market about 1,500 million dollars. In any normal year the corn crop of this country is worth twice as much as the wheat crop.

The Chicago board of trade is largely responsible for all this fuss over wheat and for much misapprehension as to the relative value of our two great cereal crops. Wheat lends itself readily to speculative deals. Owing to the fact that only a small per cent of the total yield is consumed on the farm and that the larger part of the crop finds its way into the

hands of the millers, the grain merchants and the exporters, it is easier to estimate the yield and to control its progress to market.

**Great Staple Crop.**

Corn is the great staple crop of the American farmer. It is food for man and beast. It is the raw product which the farmer manufactures into beef, pork and mutton. It is the basic element in the production of milk, butter, eggs and poultry. It is the foundation of bone, sinew and muscle in the fleet racer, the toppy roadster and the giant draft horse of commerce. It is the daily ration of the patient mule when he plods his weary way across a peaceful field; it is his mainstay and his inspiration when he gallops into battle with a monster-cannon trailing in his dusty wake.

Wheat is the favorite plaything of the speculator in futures. A clique of "bulls," by clever manipulation and misleading reports, may easily send the prices soaring on the board of trade. A strong coterie of "bears," by pushing a large amount of cash grain into the markets and by magnifying reports of increased production, may temporarily depress the price. The markets of the world at large, exert a strong influence upon the price in America, for this is an exporting country and wheat is a world's crop. It is grown in every land and ripens in almost every clime.

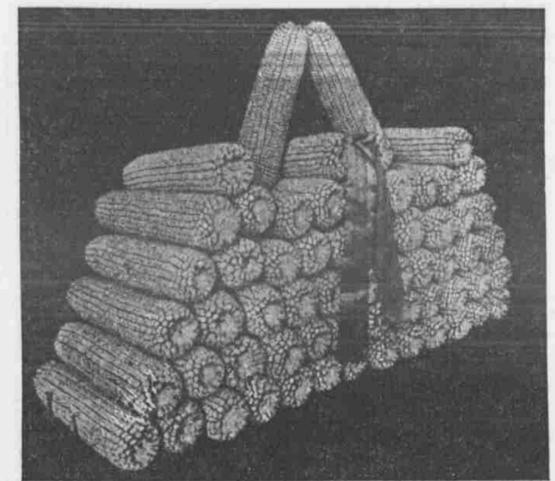
**The Harvester in All Lands.**

The sun never sets upon the harvest of the wheat. In some part of the world the self-harvester is gathering in the sheaves on every day of the year. The names of McCormick, Deering, Marsh, Osborne and others, have become household words in every foreign land. The American harvester has penetrated to almost every corner of the known world. It is reaped across the fields of Argentina by the sturdy little ponies of the pampas; it has lightened the labor of the peasant women of Europe; it is drawn by elephants in India, and by camels in the valley of the Nile. It has penetrated the bush lands of Australia, the wild steppes of Russia and the veldt of South Africa. It has crept into the orient and has made a strange, new trail across the plains of Abraham. Wherever

the harvester takes its toll of golden grain, the telegraph and the cable flash the estimates of probable yield to the market centers of the world. And the greatest of these is Liverpool. It is the nerve center of the world's wheat market, the final arbiter of price. When there is a shortage, and the price is high at Liverpool, there is a scraping of bins and a hurrying of wheat to tide-water from every quarter of the globe.

**Not So with Corn.**

It is not so with corn. The United States is the great corn producing country of the world. Two-thirds of the world's supply is grown in this country; one-half of the total is produced in ten of the great



THE GREAT STAPLE CROP OF THE AMERICAN FARM.

states of that section commonly called "The Corn Belt."

To set it forth in figures: The world's production of corn in 1908 was 3,333 million bushels, and of this amount 2,938 million bushels were grown in the United States. The yield in the ten states mentioned above was estimated at a grand total of 1,907 million bushels, or considerably more than one-half of the world's crop. On the other hand, the world's yield of wheat for 1908 is given at 415 million bushels, and of

this amount the United States produced about one-fifth, or 84 million bushels. Corn stands at the head of the list of all crops of the world in quantity, but yields first place to wheat in money value. The oats crop of the world for 1908 was 3,230 million bushels, and of this amount the United States produced 507 million bushels, worth on the farm, about 230 million dollars.

These figures show the acreage and estimated yield of our four great crops for 1909:

Crop	Acres	Bushels
Corn	100,000,000	2,700,000,000
Wheat	45,000,000	724,000,000
Oats	32,000,000	3,230,000,000
Cotton	11,000,000	11,000,000

A bale of cotton weighs about 500 pounds, and the price is now about 14 1/2 cents a pound on the New York Cotton exchange. This is the highest price since the season of 1903. The lowest price in recent years was 5 1/2 cents a pound, in 1894. The United States is the greatest cotton producing country of the world and the farm value of the crop this year will be about 770 million dollars. India stands next to this country in the production of cotton. Its crop of 1908 was 3,623,000 bales from 13,250,000 acres.

But we have wandered far afield from our aliphond friend of *Printers' Ink*. After making a fairly accurate statement in reference to the wheat yield of several states, he rambles on in this blind fashion: "As for corn, these are the leading states—"

State	Pct. 1909	Pct. 1908
North Dakota	22	28
Minnesota	21	27
South Dakota	20	26
California	10	10
Indiana	8	8
Oregon	3	3

In the hands of some people (to slightly change an ancient axiom) figures are almost as dangerous as edged tools. Doubtless this writer has confused the percentage of gain or loss in the condition of the growing crop, as reported monthly by the Department of Agriculture, with the figures for the estimated yield by states. Of the six states named above, only one, Indiana, is really a great corn producer. Indiana's crop this year is estimated at 173 million bushels. Illinois leads with an estimated yield of 383 million bushels, Iowa comes next

with 297 million bushels, Nebraska follows with 213 million bushels and Missouri brings in a harvest of 207 million bushels. Texas was parched by a drouth this year and only produced 115 million bushels, as against 201 million bushels in 1908. So much for the six leading corn states.

**Oregon Not Much on Corn.**

And Oregon, land of red apples and timber frauds! Why refer to its most inconspicuous product? Its total corn crop is less than one-half million bushels. Several counties in Nebraska produce more than that in an off season. California produces less than 2 million bushels of corn and North Dakota limps in with a paltry 5 million bushels. The whole state of Oregon does not produce as much corn as one farm in Missouri. David Rankin's 3,000-acre farm near Tarkio, has produced 1 million bushels of corn in a single season, and only a little patch of 10,000 acres was in corn at that. There is no telling what he might do if he put it all in corn and got up real early in the morning. He grows more corn every year than Oregon, Idaho, Nevada, Montana and Wyoming combined. Wouldn't a Missouri farmer laugh right out loud if he happened to read that story in *Printers' Ink*?

Kansas is another of the great corn producing states. Its yield, last year and this, approximated 156 million bushels. And yet Kansas is best known as the greatest winter wheat producing state in the union. Winter wheat has advertised Kansas to the world at large. From the time of its seeding until the last field is harvested the Kansas wheat crop is closely watched by the big operators of every grain exchange in the world. Every spring the "crop killers" go out from the Chicago Board of Trade and ruin the crop in Kansas. Every fall the crop comes rolling in, showing a gradual increase in quantity and a marked improvement in quality. All this serves to advertise Kansas as a wheat state, but the corn crop, one year with another, is worth more in money than the wheat and all the other cereal crops of the state combined. So much for the speculator and the publicity which he sets afloat.

**Nebraska Fourth in Wheat.**

Nebraska stands fourth in the list of wheat producing states, with a total yield of 213 million bushels, and Missouri brings in a harvest of 207 million bushels. Texas was parched by a drouth this year and only produced 115 million bushels, as against 201 million bushels in 1908. So much for the six leading corn states.

Nebraska produced this year more than Kansas and twenty other states and territories; more than Texas, Oklahoma and seventeen other states and territories. That's doing fairly well with the handicap of a dry spell in August.

These comparisons might be carried along indefinitely, but we don't want to tire you, or to further annoy that thoughtless one who scribbled, idly and aimlessly, for *Printers' Ink*. In all this controversy we have only one passing concern. Let's keep the record straight. J. T. DUNLAP.

# China Wages Unrelenting Warfare on the Curse of Opium Habit

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**S**UPPOSE that President Taft and our national congress should send out an edict tomorrow that every man and woman in the employ of the government must give up the drinking of liquor or be dismissed from office, and that no new appointment should be made to any one who had contracted the liquor habit or who would not sign the pledge. Let this edict relate not only to Washington, but to every postoffice and custom house, and let its effect be so extended as to include every state official, even to the county clerks, sheriffs, and their subordinate employes.

Let another edict provide that all must show government permits before a glass of whiskey, wine or other liquor will be sold to them, and so that every saloonkeeper be subject to fine and imprisonment if he breaks this law. Let the edict summarily shut nine-tenths of the saloons, and provide for the absolute destruction of all within the course of ten years. Let there be laws forbidding the distilling of liquors and their importation; and, in short, the inauguration of a scheme of government restriction which would entirely wipe out the manufacture, selling and drinking of anything intoxicating within the space of ten years.

It would be a good, big contract, would it not?

Well, that is just what China is trying to do as to blotting opium and the opium traffic from the face of its country.

**The Anti-Opium Edicts.**

We have had crusades against liquor, but they have been mostly begun by the

women and carried out with the opposition, rather than the assistance of the government officials. This crusade of China begins at the top. Three years ago the great empress dowager and the chief board of the empire at Peking sent out edicts cutting down the size of the opium farms, shutting up the opium dens and requiring all dealers in opium to take out licenses. The government commanded all farmers to reduce their opium fields by 10 per cent every year, and provided that no opium at all should be cultivated after the end of ten years. It required that the merchants decrease their opium sales 20 per cent every year, and close out their whole business in the space of five years. It ordered that all public opium dens should be summarily closed, and that the retail opium shops should gradually be abolished. At the same time it inaugurated dispensaries, where free medicines might be had to take away the opium craving, and encouraged the establishment of opium hospitals for those who had contracted the habit.

In the same edicts it was provided that all users of opium should be registered; that they should be examined by the police, and the habitual users should be allowed only a given quantity of the drug, at certain fixed periods. These allowances were to be gradually reduced so that at the end of five years all persons under sixty years of age would be free from the habit. All users of opium were required to wear badges, so that every one would know an opium fiend as he walked through the streets.

All government officials, including princes, dukes, viceroys and generals under sixty had six months to give up the habit or to tender their resignations; and all teachers and scholars were required to stop

opium smoking within the space of one year. As to the officers of the army and navy, they were commanded to abandon the habit at once.

This is what China is trying to do. The above proclamations have been followed by others, and today the prince regent and the guard council are doing all they can to have these laws put into force. They are prosecuting their infringement and they have inaugurated such a reign of terror as would create a revolution in the United States and turn our people and government upside down.

**Officials Made to Stop Smoking.**

It makes one laugh to think what would happen if Uncle Sam should cut off every congressman's toddy, should prohibit cold tea in the restaurant of the senate and not allow the clerks of the government to take a friendly tipple together. That is what is going on here. I am told that no less than 2,500 officials, more or less prominent connected with the government service in Peking either have broken or are endeavoring to break off the use of opium. Some of these are habitual smokers who have tried so hard to quit that they have died in the attempt. Take, for instance, Wen Hai. He was one of the highest scholars of the empire, and was connected with the grand secretariat. To hold his job he signed a declaration that he was not an opium smoker, and then stopped using the drug. He died a few months ago. Tsai Chang, another noted official, was cashiered for smoking. He is ill in consequence, and it is said will no recover. Chi Chang, the acting governor of the province of Anhwei, died the other day for the same reason, and there are many other old smokers who are said to be ill.

According to the new laws, which are



OUT-OF-DOOR OPIUM GROUP UNDER THE WALLS OF MANKING.

more or less evaded, the smoking of opium means immediate dismissal. Government detectives or censors have been instructed to shadow the officials, and those who claim to have broken off the habit are rigidly watched. Just the other day a private secretary of one of the cabinet ministers was found to have several ounces of opium on his person, and a request for his dismissal was promptly sent forth. In one of the papers this morning I see a dispatch stating that Prince Chung, one of the imperial opium commissioners, has just denounced twenty high officials who have lied as to their use of the drug, and that he demands their dismissal. Last October two of the imperial princes were ordered to resign their posts that they might give their entire time to the eradication of their craving for the drug, and at the same time, as an act of mercy, three months of extension were allowed to certain civil and military officials who had not obeyed the imperial edicts.

The crusade is being extended even to the ladies of the palace. They have been warned that they must stop smoking, and certain of these dames, who have been secretly selling opium to their friends, have been told that if they continue they will be imprisoned.

**Among the Viceroys.**

The work of suppressing the evil among the clerks outside Peking has been delegated to the viceroys and governors. There are twenty-two provinces in China, and the work in each of these is going on rapidly, or the reverse, according to the energy of the governor. In Szechwan, a state in the far west bordering on Tibet, one of the new district officials invited all of his subordinates to a dinner. He feasted them well, but, as they were about to leave, he closed the door, saying that he intended to keep all with him under lock and key for the next three days to learn whether they were free from the opium habit. He knew those who were not would show nervousness; and in this way he could learn how to enforce the new laws.

It is believed that many of the viceroys are still secretly smoking; and the anti-opium commissioners have asked the prince regent to call a meeting at the capital of all the viceroys, governors and generals of the army who have reported that

it is still going on, but the public smoking has become unpopular and dangerous, and the chief opium used is now behind closed doors. In Shanghai all the dens in the native town have been shut, and fully half of those in the foreign concessions wiped out. The foreigners propose to clean out the evil in their part of the city by 1910. In Wuchang the shutting up of the dens has considerably diminished the arrests for crime, and one of the policemen says this is largely because he does not know where to go to look for criminals.

**Closing the Dens.**

In Foochow there were 320 dens at the time the edict was issued. They were all closed on the first of the fourth month of the year following and are still shut. The same is true of Ichang, although the shops for the sale of opium are still open. Kashing, which for years was one of the worst opium smoking places in the province of Chekiang, has abolished its opium shops, and the day of the closing the opium pipes were burned in public and the people rejoiced. The same is true of many other cities, in not a few of which the opium dealers have since secretly resumed business.

**A Mighty Crusade.**

Outside the officials a mighty crusade has been going on over China to stop the use of opium among the people. Indeed, there are so many different movements that it hardly knows where to begin. Every province has its anti-opium societies. These meet regularly; they print and distribute anti-opium literature and send out men to lecture upon the opium evil. There is one society in Canton which has distributed millions of pamphlets showing the terrible fate of the opium user. Pictures of the

man before and after he has become the slave of the drug are published, and the horrors of the practice are vividly painted. Many of the societies require their members to wear a badge and sign the pledge, and many of them offer rewards for the detection of opium smokers and of the illegal selling of opium.

In some of the provinces the most rigid laws have been enacted against the users of the drug. In Kiangsu no habitual smoker under 50 can appear in court as a plaintiff. He cannot institute a suit and can have no protection from the law as long as he continues to disobey them. In Canton there is a temple which has been given over to the anti-opium crusade, anti-opium pictures being pasted upon its walls. In Yunnan opium lectures are everywhere given, and a large number of refugees have been created to take in confirmed smokers and cure them. Hundreds of opium pipes and lamps are nailed to the walls of the government buildings and the victory is rapidly reducing the area of the opium farms.

At the capital of Fukien province there have been eight burnings of opium and opium fixtures during which 1,238 ounces were destroyed and the following items burned: Pipes, 4,437; pipe bowls, 4,437; lamps, 3,237; boxes, 2,471; vessels for opium cooking, 500. About 5,000 needles used for morphine injections were all given up and broken. In that province it is absolutely necessary to have a certificate to buy opium, and the same person can only get his supply once a month, the allowance being fixed by the opium commissioners.

I find a general belief among the Chinese

(Continued on Page Four.)



LADIES OF THE PALACE ARE WARNED TO STOP SMOKING



TYPICAL REFORMERS—ALL HIGH OFFICIALS MUST GIVE UP THE HABIT.