

WHEN THE WHEAT CROP IS FAILURE

United States Can Never Suffer the Experience of Russia in the Days of the Famine.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE RUSS

Thanks to a good climate, fertile soil and splendid transportation facilities, the great country of the United States has never been visited with a wheat famine.

The crop may fail in Kansas, but be good in Nebraska, Iowa, the Dakotas and other localities. And the railroads and the machinery of grain selling and buying soon equalizes the oversupply and the undersupply.

But in other lands, where civilization lags behind, there have been some very serious famines because of the failure of the grain crop. One of these was the great Russian famine of 1912. In this year some of the best and most fertile districts in the empire had a failure of crops. The famine was due largely to unfavorable weather, but the crude agricultural methods of the peasants were even more the fault for the dreadful situation which prevailed.

There were a few oases in the vast barren region, these being on large estates where the progressive land owners had used up-to-date machinery such as is used in this country and the most advanced methods of cultivating the soil. The famine began in June and reports came from the stricken districts to St. Petersburg, but because of the lack of those very news and telegraph facilities which makes the United States impervious to famine, these reports were discredited by officials and no action taken to relieve the 36,000,000 people in the stricken district.

When the government finally awoke to the condition it took autocratic measures to deal with the famine, but the area was so great and the railroad facilities so inadequate that the millions suffered intensely.

The peasants disposed of their cows and horses at any prices in order to obtain the means of prolonging life. In some cases horses were killed and eaten.

HAS LONG BEEN A LEADER IN GRAIN TRADE.



Nathan Merriam

HE'S THERE WHEN IT COMES TO GRAIN TRADING.



E. R. Thresher

Soldier-Artists Active at Front

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)

PARIS, Feb. 16.—Many soldier-artists continue to pursue their art at the front. Music, as well as painting and sculpture, is being cultivated. M. Gheusi, director of the Opera Comique, has found no decrease in the number of scores which reach him from all quarters, even from the trenches. But there is this difference, that whereas the civilian revels in martial themes the soldier-musician sounds the pastoral note and seeks inspiration from nature in its country aspects. Some

of the latter contributions are of no mean order and there is notably one score—an opera in three acts—which bears the hall marks of a masterpiece. The production of this work will prove anything but costly as there are only two scenes, the sea and a mountain pinnacle, and these characters.

M. Gheusi was so struck by the dignity and masterly technique of the score that he suspected the anonymous author of being possibly one of the luminaries of

his profession who by this subterfuge wished to test the merit of his work on its face value and to compete on equal terms with his less known rivals. Accordingly an assembly of musical Olympians was convened to hear a recital of the work, but none of them could recognize the style of any of their contemporaries. All agreed that a new masterpiece had been created for the glory of French music.

• None of the works submitted at present

will be definitely judged before peace is declared.

Diverse Farm Enterprises.

In most cases where studies of the profits in farming have been made, particularly in our oldest agricultural districts, such studies indicate that the most successful farms are those which have from two to four major sources of income, i. e., they have a well-balanced and diversified business. In certain instances it may pay better to have only one enterprise, but usually when one crop pays much better than all others

the production of it increases rapidly and soon the price falls to the point where other crops or products are equally as profitable. Diversified farming is often confused with farming where there is a little of everything and not much of anything. Either extreme lessens the chances of success. When the price of certain crops is very low then live stock becomes desirable. However, if the returns of an animal are poor, cash crops, even at a low price, are essential. A well-balanced business insures against losses and provides a much better utilization of the labor and equipment.—Oil City Derrick.

E. R. Thresher

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