

THE WORLD'S HARVEST.

The prospect as regards, particularly, the wheat crop of the present season, in Asia, Europe, and America, is seriously depressing. A *Times*, London, Special, last week, said:—

Monday's weekly report from Bombay by cable settles the fact that the Indian wheat crop is going to be no factor at all in the question of the world's food supply this year, and there is a sudden and anxious effort now being made to get at the facts upon which to base an estimate of what the world's crop will really be like. England and France both promise harvests considerably better than last year. As the fields and stacks now stand the yield of these two countries is expected to be 40,000,000 bushels in excess of last year. Spain also will be shown above the average, and Italy only a trifle under. Germany, east of the tenth parallel, is almost as good, perhaps the present weather will make her quite as good, as last year. But there the favorable picture abruptly stops. Indeed, this tenth parallel may be taken as fairly dividing the good from the bad. East of that line wheat crops have all gone to pieces. Two great exporting countries, Russia and Austro-Hungary, will this year find it difficult to feed themselves. Russia, which had big harvests the last two years, and forced the market to get rid of all its grain in order to float loans, the last of which was concluded the other day, now confronts a rather serious situation. Her big granaries, like those at Odessa, have never before been so empty of wheat, and the present crop in many large districts is a complete failure. The long drought, and then the cyclonic storms which destroyed the wheat and oat prospect in Russia, have done the same for wheat, rye and barley in Austro-Hungary, Roumania and Eastern Germany. In short, though crops west of the tenth parallel are quite definitely better than in 1888, this is more than balanced by the failure in the far more important grain fields east of that line. England, France and Italy must always buy so much grain that the question of exactly how much they need is not specially important, but the failure of big exporting countries is serious, considering the collapse of India and the very deficient crops of Australia. It is now estimated here by experts that the Eastern Hemisphere, as a whole, is worse off than it was a year ago at this time. There is, therefore, almost fearful interest in what the American crop will be like. The shortage over here will be so great that the market will be more at the mercy of the United States than ever before, and the next report from the Washington bureau is eagerly watched for, as an indication of how severe a squeeze may be expected.

And from great wheat growing districts of the United States come alike discouraging reports. The information is of interest to our readers as a revelation of the uncertainty which surrounds the farming interests of the west, and its climatic disturbances which render the usually most productive portions barren as sand hills, and as indicating the increased demand there will be for our own agricultural production. We quote from an American paper:—

The wheat crop of Dakota is 30,000,000 bushels short. The figures are large, but not in the least exaggerated. The total production for the territory, cannot, under the best possible conditions from now until harvest, which will begin in the north by the 25th, exceed 20,000,000 bushels, and to put it that high is a liberal estimate. The greatest detriment to a successful crop this year has been the exceedingly dry season, and only along the streams will there be any crops at all. In the spring the most terrific winds raged in this entire territory, and for weeks after the crop was sown the air was filled with flying particles of soil that should have been furnishing nutriment to the seed that was lying exposed and burning on the surface. Hundreds of acres were sown for the second time, and it would have been a very good thing for the country if the entire crop had been put in again when the winds were stilled. The grain was for the greater part injured so that no amount of nursing would bring it back, and it is altogether likely that outside of the valley of the Red River, all the grain sown will not fill 500 cars. Aside from this impoverishing of the people by the failure of the wheat, there is another danger which will be felt almost as severely, and that is the want of fodder for the stock. The oat crop is bad, and the meadows away from the river bottoms are as parched as the prairie. Not alone will this territory be the sufferer, but a trip through Montana reveals the same state of affairs. The range cattle will not find enough to live on until cold weather, and a prominent railroad official told a correspondent that all the extra cars of the Northern Pacific and Manitoba Road had been ordered to Montana to pull out the steers so soon as the lack of feed necessitated a reduction in numbers of the range stock.

Now is the time to buy your Winter dry goods, while the great Cheap Sale is going on at R. B. Porter & Co.'s.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

VERONA, HURON CO., MICH.,  
July 15, 1889.

MESSENGERS. EDITORS.—During my stay in the little town of Martin in Wisconsin, I had the opportunity of examining a roller mill and creamery. I shall not undertake to describe the mill at length as one must be seen to be understood. And the best description I could give would be a very imperfect one so I shall only say that this mill was what is called a hundred barrel mill, that is a mill supposed to grind a hundred barrels of flour a day. It is forty by fifty feet and four stories high and has ten sets of rollers for wheat, the rollers being twenty inches long and six inches in diameter. So it will be seen that it is not the weight of the rollers but the friction that does the grinding. The wheat has to pass through all these sets of rollers before it is properly pulverized, it is then carried by elevators up into the separators in the loft above where it is separated

into three different qualities of flour besides the shorts and bran. The shorts and bran are carried back and go through the rollers again and another quality of flour is taken off. The flour in this mill is not packed in barrels but put up in fifty lb. paper bags and sold according to the quality from a dollar and ten cents to a dollar and forty cents per bag. No grists are ground here, the wheat is exchanged and so many pounds of flour and so many pounds of bran given for a bushel of wheat according to the quality. Besides the rollers for flour there is a somewhat larger set for corn and feed of different kinds; these would grind 25 bushels of corn per hour.

A creamery, as is well known, is a factory for making butter out of sweet milk. And the following description may give your readers some idea of what it is like. The milk is brought to the factory in cans holding 1 I should judge about four pails full each. It is then poured into a larger vessel and weighed and tested. It is tested by taking out of each vessel a small glass tube 7 or 8 inches long full of the milk, and these tubes are placed in a case and the cream allowed to rise on them; by the depth of the cream the quality of the milk is known, so that people who might be dishonest enough to water or skim their milk know better than to try it as they would surely be detected. After the milk is weighed it is poured into a large wooden cistern which holds five or six hundred gallons from which it passes into vessels called bowls much the shape of an onion and holding about thirty lbs. each where it is heated to about eight degrees of temperature. These bowls are made of steel and are fastened to a spindle about two feet long; this is fastened to the bottom of the bowl. These bowls sit in a basin of the same shape and the spindle passes down through a hole in the bottom of the basin and fits in a socket in a pinion which goes round and so carries the bowl round at an inconceivable rate of speed. These bowls have necks about 3 inches across and about 4 inches high and are surrounded by rims called separators, the lower one fitting snugly down on the top of the basin and the other fitting tight down on that. The separators have each a spout and the lower carries off the skim milk and the upper one the cream. Now as the milk is whirled round the cream rises to the top and passes off through a slot in the top of the neck of the bowl into the upper rim which has a gutter inside that receives the cream and passes it into the spout while the skim milk passes through a hole lower down in the neck into the lower rim which likewise receives it and passes through a trough to a large cistern in another room into which there is a jet of cold water running; here it is cooled down to about sixty degrees and allowed to stand till it just begins to sour in order to give the butter a grain. It is then drawn off in vessels and colored and poured into the churn which is about seven feet long and about three feet square and revolves horizontally. The churn holds about 400 gallons but is never filled full as it would not churn. It takes about half an hour to churn. After the butter has come the buttermilk is drawn off and a first and second washing of cold water let on. The butter is then taken out and piled on a circular table which goes round and the butter is carried under rollers with ridges on them; these squeeze the milk out and as the butter passes round a man standing ready pulls it up and it is kept passing round till the salt which is put in at the rate of an ounce to a pound of butter is thoroughly mixed through it. It is then put into firkins and put into a cool room over night, then poured on the table again when it undergoes a second mixing and then packed in firkins for sale. The milk men receive half a cent per lb. for their milk and all the skim milk back.

Yours, etc.,

G. S.

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THEIR PROPER DUTY.

A contemporary presents a subject of interest in the language we quote below. The position taken by Mr. Morley is, we must admit, the proper position:—

What is the proper relation of a member of Parliament to his constituents? Does he represent them as a simple agent bound to be guided by the opinions and wishes of the majority so far as he knows those opinions and wishes, quite irrespective of his own personal convictions? Or is his position analogous to that of the professional adviser whose clearly understood duty is to do his best for his clients according to his own professional judgment and skill, without reference, and if need be, even in opposition to the views of those whose interests are, for the time being, in his keeping? This old and vexed question is constantly recurring in one shape or another, under representative institutions. The agitation of which the Jesuits' Estates Bill is the occasion rather than the cause seems likely to bring it forward in many Ontario constituencies. A recent event in England gives us an opportunity to know the stand taken by one of the clearest thinkers in the British Commons. Mr John Morley was recently pressed by many of his Newcastle constituents to vote for Parliamentary Eight Hour Bill, on pain of forfeiting the next election in case of refusal. His answer was unequivocal and manly. He had considered the proposal carefully, he told them, and discussed it with men in the ranks of labour and men not in the ranks of labour, and his opposition was unchanged and not likely to change. "I will rather," he said, "give up the honour I prize more than any honour that has ever befallen me, I will rather give up the honour of representing Newcastle, than I will give way on this point. If I hear sound arguments, I may change my views; but I do not expect to hear them, and although I will give way to arguments, no form of menace, however delicately veiled, will effect me." Would not any other answer have been derogatory to the high position of a member of Parliament, whose professional duty is to make a study of politics and legislation? If such a representative is a mere mouthpiece of the elector, if no credit is to be given or latitude allowed

for his professional knowledge, the veriest school-boy, or even an automaton could fill the position. Of course the sovereign people have the right of rejecting the man who will not pledge himself in all cases to do their behests, but in pushing that right to the extreme they would most surely render it impossible to secure the services of any competent representative who is honest and self-respecting.

Ladies should not miss the great bargains that are being offered at R. B. Porter & Co.'s.

Jack the Ripper.

LONDON, July 19.—It has been learned that the early morning rumors of the capture and confession of the Whitechapel murderer had some basis. An Englishman, described as of fine military bearing, fair complexion and six feet in height, was arrested to-day as the murderer and he confessed at the station house he had murdered the latest victim with a common knife. No weapons were found on him and his actions indicate his story was simply the imaginings of an insane person.

Latest.—The man taken into custody by the police this morning confessed to the murder of all the women whose bodies were found in and about Whitechapel district. He gave the names of the victims and the dates upon which he killed them as well as all the ghastly and indecent details connected with the crimes. The police believe he is a lunatic; possibly the story he tells is true and he is the murderer.

Very Latest.—The man arrested on suspicion of being the Whitechapel murderer is not "Jack the Ripper." The police to-night say he is only a drunken lunatic and attach no importance to his confession.

STILL ANOTHER VICTIM.

LONDON, July 20.—Towards midnight the life of another woman was attempted close by Castle Alley. A woman and man were seen to approach a dark portion of the thoroughfare near the Old Gate East station. The pair did not remain long on the corner before the woman was heard to cry, "No, I won't." The remark was addressed to a dark man of medium height, with a slouch hat and of foreign appearance. The man seized her, dragged her a short distance, flung her upon the curbstone, and produced a dagger. Screams of "Jack the Ripper" and of "murder" attracted crowds of men and women from all directions. Among the first arrivals at the scene were several members of the Vigilance Association, which has assumed work. Before the man had time to get far he was seized and a dreadful struggle ensued. He had a long knife in his hand, and it was some time before he could be deprived of it. Eventually it was taken from him. Even then his fight for liberty was of a most determined nature. In the midst of the fray the woman crawled away. Police whistles were heard in all directions. A great number of officials, both of the City and Metropolitan force, appeared on the scene. When the police reached the spot, the man was cut and bleeding profusely from the wounds inflicted by the crowd, who had raised the cry of "lynch him" and were throwing all kinds of missiles at the prisoner. Under a strong escort of police he was got to the police station, where he was charged. In reply he said: "The woman robbed me." When asked why he drew the dagger, he replied that he had done so in self-defence. He said he was a sailor, and gave a Scotch name, adding that he had arrived from South Shields a week ago. When asked where he was on the morning of the 17th inst., he could not say. He did not know where he had stopped while in London. A small knife was found in this possession together with his seaman's discharge papers.

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China's Johnstown.

The news comes from China that a fearful flood has swept several villages away and drowned fully 600 people. Disasters equally great are not of infrequent occurrence in China. Every few months the news of some such catastrophe comes across the Pacific. People read the scanty reports in the newspapers and think no more about it. Human life is cheap in China; what does it matter if a few thousand more or less are swept away, when so many hundred millions remain? This is the way most people reason, perhaps unconsciously. But the dreadful disaster in our own country, still fresh in the people's memory, ought to arouse for the afflicted Chinamen a larger measure of sympathy than their former floods and famines have brought from Americans. "A man's a man for a' that," whether his skin be white, black or yellow.

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Railroads and Debt in Australia.

It may be safely said that nowhere known much of the seven colonies of New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania, South Australia, New Zealand. They spread over a vast area of territory, 3,552,000 square miles, and have a population of 3,552,000. The extent of their railway system is some indication of the progress they have made. In 1888, they had 10,000 miles of road in operation, and on most of the lines the earnings exceeded the running expenses, giving a fair percentage on the capital invested. As no handsome prizes are induced in complete without mortgage, and rising in a country can be said to be prospering, it is not surprising that Australia cannot show a large debt. In fact, at the end of one, it is stated, of \$800,000,000, as well as one, it is stated, of \$800,000,000.

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A curious feature in ornithology is reported from Eckington, Yorkshire, England, where a hen has hatched two chickens from one egg, both chickens being of different color, one state except that they are joined together on one side of the membrane of the wing. Beyond this they walk about and feed in the usual manner.