

## THE MOST PRODUCTIVE REGION.

Looking about the world and taking into consideration the productions of different countries for the year past, we are surprised to discover that more or less of failure of the wheat crop, which is the great food staple among the enlightened nations, has occurred everywhere. The last news we have, that is reliable, shows that even the expectations of a few weeks ago are disappointed among the countries of Europe, and that the yield in America falls even short of what was stated in early harvest. We may expect that returns will continue to diminish the world's supply and that the stocks of breadstuffs will be severely tested, by actual demand, before the harvest of 1882 can come to recruit them.

But it is not our purpose to discuss the question of supply and demand. That is the province of others, while we introduce, by the recital of these facts, a comparison between countries and sections that will show, what may seem to be a startling assumption, that the whole world over, no other region has equalled the production of wheat in the Columbian region. The claim made that the Pacific Northwest has extraordinary producing qualities, is not a vain one, but is borne out fully when such a year occurs, and crops throughout the world come short of the average.

California last year surprised the world by raising 17 bushels of wheat per acre and had a surplus of more millions than could be shipped, but this year her wheat growers will not realize over 8 bushels per acre. Throughout the states of the Union east of the Rocky Mountains, production seems to have fallen off one hundred million bushels below last year. So far as correct details are to be had, they show that former estimates of deficiency were below the facts. Minnesota was the one state that held up well and was turning out her usual harvest, but later reports from there have made the yield grow "small by degrees and beautifully less," until the reputation of that great state, and of the northwestern territory beyond there, for premiums in wheat production, is seriously compromised.

As near as can be ascertained, the total wheat yield of the eastern and middle portions of the United States falls short of equalling the harvest of 1880. It is a fearful thing to diminish

the crops of a country so tremendously, and in this case the seriousness of the loss is increased by the terrible drouth that has since harvest cut off the corn crops one fourth, besides doing great damage to all other growing crops. But California has lost more severely in percentage than the states to the eastward, as her most sanguine minds do not estimate the yield of 1881 of over one half that of the preceding year. While this is so, we see the Columbia river region entering the world's markets with far increased supplies, and are receiving statements of actual productions from different directions that are simply wonderful.

Here in western Oregon, we know that there is a good average yield. Only in case of poor cultivation is there complaint of poor crops, though it is asserted that fall sown wheat in some instances has produced less than was expected, owing to some climatic exigencies that affected the growing plant at a critical point of growth in spring, but did not affect later sown grain. We know many farmers who averaged twenty bushels to 25 bushels to the acre, and that summer-fallowed went 30 to 50 bushels to the acre, while the average of production will not fall much if any short of what has been considered more prosperous years. But the newer fields of eastern Oregon and Washington come to the front with enormous yields that must astonish the older world. Dr. Blalock, of Walla Walla, farms thousands of acres and his crop on summer-fallowed land this year was 1,000 acres, on which the lowest estimate we have heard has been 43 bushels per acre, some portions going considerably over 50 bushels. Besides this, the doctor had as much land sown on stubble, which averaged 25 bushels to the acre. Lately a responsible farmer living near Walla Walla certified, and his employees and others endorsed the statement, that he took seventy bushels per acre off a field of thirty acres, a test that covered enough ground to be considered very remarkable. Farmers in that region grow wheat they call "volunteer crops," where they sow the stubble land with wheat and harrow it in, without plowing. This slipshod and shiftless method can hardly be called cultivation, and yet they have harvested 20 to 25 bushels per acre off from land thus slight-

ingly treated. Prospect Farm, in Umatilla county, Or., that belongs to citizens of Portland, turned off about twenty-five bushels to the acre on two thousand acres. All the reports from Eastern Oregon and the different sections of Eastern Washington—from Walla Walla and Columbia, Cowlitz, south of Snake river, Palouse and Spokane regions, north of Snake river and Klickitat and Yakima near the Cascade mountains—all speak of a good yield and great surplus for export.

This, too, in a year when all the world has short crops and diminished harvests. The satisfaction one feels in the supremacy of his own region is natural. We have chosen our homes in the far north-west, on the waters of the great western sea, and having come thus far to seek a place to remain permanently, we naturally rejoice to see our choice and judgment vindicated by satisfactory results. Certainly these crop reports that show the Pacific north-west has produced abundantly in a year when production elsewhere was deficient to a very remarkable degree, are eminently satisfactory. We do not need or desire to rejoice over the want of agricultural success in other countries, when we recite their misfortunes, and comparison with the productions in Oregon and Washington is not in any sense unkind, for we have a right to rejoice and make facts known that will show the superior inducements these states offer for settlement and development. Our neighbors are apt to throw the shadow of their greatness over us and keep us out of sight. They adopt our products and send them to the world's best markets as their own. They buy us and sell us in various ways, and the time has fully come when we must assert ourselves and decline to be patronized or overlooked. From henceforth the Columbia river will be known unmistakably abroad for the excellence of its leading staples. The salmon of this river leads the first of all countries for its quality. Our wool is already sought after by manufacturers who know its value. Our breadstuffs excel in quality and value those of any other region, including our neighbor, the Golden State, to the south of us. Then are not all the articles we offer the world that possess essential value above the average, but others are only partially developed and need not be