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NO SHORTAGE OF FOODSTUFFS LIKELY.

The department of agriculture issued the following statement on February 17:

The 1914 wheat crop of the United States was estimated to be 891,000,000 bushels. The estimated surplus carried over from the 1913 crop was about 76,000,000 bushels. There was, therefore, a total available supply of 967,000,000 bushels. As the normal annual per capita consumption of wheat in the United States is about 5.3 bushels, 520,000,000 bushels should meet our normal domestic requirements for food; in addition, 90,000,000 bushels are required annually for seeding. Six hundred and ten million bushels, therefore, should supply the normal domestic demand. This would leave a surplus of 357,000,000 bushels. Of this surplus, about 210,000,000 bushels were exported by January 30. This left 147,000,000 bushels, or 40,000,000 bushels more than our average annual exports for the past five years, for export between February 1 and the appearance of the new crop, or for carrying over into the next crop year. The amount is sufficient to permit the export of nearly 1,000,000 bushels a day until July 1, before which time the new crop will begin to be available. This is about the average recent exportation.

The large demand for our wheat arises from the fact that there was an estimated world's shortage of over 400,000,000 bushels outside of the United States, from the fact that the Russian exportable surplus of 100,000,000 bushels is not available generally, and from the fact that the belligerent nations are eager to secure food supplies. If it were not for these things, we should be discussing ways and means of disposing of our tremendous surplus of food products.

As has been stated, the new American crop will begin to appear before July. The Argentine crop is now coming on the market. It is estimated that from that source there will be available 100,000,000 bushels. A surplus of 75,000,000 bushels or more from India will be available in May and June. The increase in the fall-sown wheat acreage of the United States in 1914 was 11.1 per cent, or over 4,000,000 acres; in the Northern Hemisphere generally the acreage of winter wheat shows an increase of from 3 to 33 per cent.

But suppose a shortage in wheat should develop in the next three months, what would be the situation? There is a great surplus of other food crops in the United States, a number of which can be used as substitutes. Wheat does not constitute more than 12 per cent of the normal diet, about the same as poultry and eggs. Meat and dairy products constitute 48 per cent; vegetables, 11 per cent; fruits, nuts, sugar, fish and other items the remaining 19 per cent. There are larger supplies of corn and other grains, meat animals, dairy products, potatoes, and fruit at the opening of 1915 than for many years. The most important competing products are corn and potatoes. This is shown by the fact that while the normal consumption of wheat is 5.3 bushels, in Maine it is only 4.7 bushels and in Michigan, 5. In the wheat-growing states, where wheat is abundant, such as Minnesota, the average is 7.2, whereas in the South, where corn is much used, the average is 4 bushels. Normally about 3 per cent of the corn crop is consumed as food. Of our total crop about 80,000,000 bushels would be used for food, the remainder for other purposes. The remainder could be used for foods and substitutes used for animals. The potato production in the United States averages 3.8 bushels per capita. This year the available supply is 4.1 bushels. The average price of meat animals was 7 per cent cheaper in January than a year ago, butter 2 per cent lower, the price of chickens slightly lower, of potatoes 35 per cent lower, and of apples it was 37 per cent lower.

It would seem that the United States is not likely to be threatened with a shortage of foodstuffs.

California ought to be happy this year, with an exposition on and Americans with money to spend for travel looking that way because there's too much capping in looking that way because there's too much happening in Europe to make globe-trotting safe and inviting. Still west down that way next year. It will have swinging doors instead of turnstiles like the regulation exposition always has.

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IT IS AS SHERMAN SAID.

When General Sherman said that "war is hell" he spoke a grim truth that applies not only to his own time. The world has been regarding the devastation of Belgium and Poland as horrible in extreme, but it begins to appear that the devastations of the Russians in East Prussia are the worst the war has yet produced. Horror accumulates upon horror.

The Russians themselves have admitted that their defeated troops LAID WASTE the country as they retired. The Kaiser has stated that the destruction was beyond anything hitherto known, that the whole East Prussian country was utterly ravaged.

Now comes the word of two American correspondents who have personally seen and photographed "the most terrible and disgusting devastations known to war." At Goldap, they say, the Russians did not leave a house, store, hospital or church standing. In Lyck and all the surrounding towns there were similar excesses, every residence being plundered; and the women, it is positively stated, were not spared by the soldiers.

Thus the Germans have had brought home to them what Belgium has suffered at their hands, though they will not admit that the cases are parallel, since they insist that they destroyed only when assailed by the civilian population.

On the other side it can be said that Russia devastated the territory of a belligerent, while Germany in Belgium destroyed a country that was fighting for nothing but the right to be let alone. But in either case common humanity forbids that helpless women and children and the aged should be treated as belligerents.

Whatever the excuses, the world is getting on all sides a picture of just how bestially wicked war is. None has ever been fought without heartless excesses, without wanton destruction, without the degradation of women and the murder of children.

And yet war fanatics in this country and abroad will doubtless continue to affirm that war makes only for manly virtues.

May heaven long deprive us of such "manly virtues" as are developing in this war!

A good many persons are inquiring nowadays of the newspapers about the use of flags of other countries by merchant vessels and warships. One authority on such subjects asserts that international law and agreements between nations have disposed of that subject, as believed, definitely, and it has only been recently that any question has been raised as to the correctness of the theory underlying the law and international stipulations. Not only may merchant vessels display a belligerent or neutral flag to escape capture or attack but it has also been regarded as legitimate in international law for even battleships to fly either belligerent or neutral flags as a ruse either to escape or to draw near enough for sudden attack; but it is required that battleships in such cases display their own flag before firing a shot. What changes may be recorded as a result of the European war relative to use of flags is problematical, but the usage has heretofore been as stated and no nation engaged in war has ever before objected to uses of flags in that manner.

If the Germans have captured all the prisoners they say they have and the Russians have as many captives as Petrograd reports, then the war correspondents must be keeping up that alleged war over on the Eastern front.

The value of all the gold produced in the United States from 1792 to January 1, 1914, is estimated by the United States Geological Survey at \$3,549,799,400; the value of the silver at \$1,709,517,600.

If the allies persist in starving Germany into submission what, in the meantime, will become of the 1,000,000 prisoners that the Germans claim to have in their custody?

Clean-up day in North Salem next Friday. The women are back of the movement and that means there will be something doing on that occasion.

Two years from today there will be a new president in the white house—if Wilson fails to convince a majority of the voters that he has made good.

Congress quit at noon today. One thing the members never filibuster against a motion to adjourn for the session.

Seems as if those Russians are at least persistent in their determination not to stay licked.

Sawmill Near Eugene Resumes Cutting Again

Eugene, Or., March 4.—The reopening of the Coast Range Lumber Company's mill at Mabel and the reemployment of 200 men this month was announced by H. T. Gatzke, manager of that plant, who was in Eugene yesterday on his way home from Portland. He also announced new orders obtained by this mill, one of which, he says, totals 1,250,000 feet of lumber to local brokers. The lumber situation appears to be better, he says.

The big plant at Mabel, on the Mahaw River, 20 miles from Eugene, was closed down on the first of the year, with the announcement that it would not reopen until the lumber market materially improved. The planing mill was not stopped, but 200 men were taken out of the mill and out of the

huber. These will be able to return to work about March 15, in the belief of Mr. Gatzke.

While the mill has been closed, extensive improvements have been made. The Fischer Lumber Company, with a mill at Matcola, on the Mohaw River, only a few miles from the Mabel mill, this week obtained the contract to furnish 210,000 feet of lumber for the Salt Lake baseball park, to be constructed at once for the new league team.

STATE NEWS

Marshfield Record: Cal Wright has a bale of cotton from Dixie, but he didn't buy it under the agitation for all hands to do so. It was sent to him from Savannah, Georgia, by his son, Hense, and is a miniature sample of a 14,000 bale cargo his steamer is loading at that port for Bremen, Germany. Hense writes that the X-Ray is put on each bale to forestall the smuggling in it of copper for the Teutons.

Medford Mail-Tribune: The army of the never-work will have to execute a wide flank movement, or make a counter drive through Medford in the future or go to work. This is the policy likely to be adopted at the meeting of the city council tomorrow night. Spring is here, and the annual agitation for a clean-up is on, so the city fathers will let the vandals do the cleaning up. All transients after 24 hours will be put to work sweeping the streets and alleys.

Springfield News: The recent passage of a town ordinance requiring that dogs be kept off the streets on account of the possible danger of rabies, reminded Thurman Riggs of a man whose dog had received from his mother. When the dog is applied to the wound, it clings firmly to the flesh until it is saturated with the poison, and then it drops off. If placed in sweet milk the stings can be used again. A couple of Riggs once rode 20 hours to reach Medford after he had been bitten by a mad dog. The stings were applied five times before all the poison was removed.

Man of Grief

I now am bent and old and gray, and I have come a doleful way. A son of sorrow I have been, since first I reached this world of sin. Year after year, and then re-peat, all kinds of troubles dogged my feet; they nagged me when I wished to sleep and made me walk the floor and weep. I had all troubles man can find—and most of them were in my mind. When I would number all the cares which gave me worry and gray hairs, I can't remember one so bad that it should bother any lad. And often, looking back, I say, "I wonder why I wasn't gay, when I had youth and strength and health, and all I lacked on earth was wealth? I wonder why I didn't yip with gladness ere I lost my grip? My whole life long I've called and whined of cares lived but in my mind. The griefs that kept me going wrong were things that never came along. The cares that furrowed cheek, and bow low back, such like hope-sent plimmons now. And now that it's late, almost, I see that trouble is a ghost, a scorpion on a crooked stick, to scare the geese whose hearts are sick."



MY MOTHER.

That clearing daily publication, The Congressional Record, soberly prints whatever is sent in, and sometimes slips over something worth while. Congressman Humphrey of Washington rose in his place on the floor of the house the other day and asked unanimous consent to include in some remarks he was making "a piece" written by Tom Dillon of Seattle. Since nobody knew what he was talking about and everybody stinks gets unanimous consent anyway, his request was allowed. When it appeared in the Record it proved to be a prayer to "My Mother." We gladly assume unanimous consent to reproduce it and thus it runs:

"For the body you gave me, the bone and the sinew, the heart and the brain that are yours, my mother, I thank you. I thank you for the light in my eyes, the blood in my veins, for my speech, for my life, for my being. All that I am is from you who bore me.

"For all the love that you gave me, unmeasured from the beginning, my mother, I thank you. I thank you for the hand that led me, the voice that directed me, the lap that rested me. All that I am is by you, who nursed me.

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