

MISCELLANEOUS.

EUROPEAN CROPS.

Inquiry into European crop conditions indicates that the crop conditions are very grave.

Estimates of Europe's (including England) needs of wheat import range all the way from 300,000,000 to 400,000,000 bushels. Europe's wheat crops for 1895, 1894 and 1893 averaged 1,500,000,000 bushels. In 1891, the famine year, it was only 1,200,000,000. The impression is gaining ground that Europe's wheat crop this year is even less than in 1891.

But this is not the worst of it. Europe usually produces as much rye as she does wheat. It is the bread grain of the masses. The rye crop of the principal European countries has averaged above 1,300,000,000 annually for 1896, 1895, 1894 and 1893. This season the rye crop of these countries cannot much exceed 875,000,000 bushels.

Quite as bad is the potato prospect. Only about 1,850,000,000 bushels of potatoes will be harvested in these countries this year. Without regard to the United Kingdom or other European countries, there is a shortage of some million bushels of potatoes. The European shortage, compared with average, follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Wheat, bushels | 300,000,000 |
| Rye, bushels | 335,000,000 |
| Potatoes, bushels | 1,000,000,000 |

Total bushels1,625,000,000

J. W. Peck, owner of a fine farm in Moxee Valley, Yakima County, which is irrigated by artesian water, is preparing to make an artificial lake to cover about three-fourths of an acre, and it will afford sport in the fishing and swimming line during the summer and plenty of fun for skaters in the winter. The bathing features should be "out of sight," since the water for the pond will come from the artesian wells—and possess electrical properties. A bath in it would highly exhilarate the swimmer.

O. H. Holcomb, proprietor of one of Seattle's leading sale stables, figures out that over 2000 horses have already been taken up to Alaska since the rush commenced. The extraordinary demand of the few weeks past is now about over and probably very few more will go up until next spring. When asked what he thought would be done with the horses up there through the winter he said that most of them would starve to death or be shot, as feed was so high up there and hard to get that it would not be possible to winter them.

Experiments show that it takes 4 pounds and 11 ounces of barley to make 1 pound of pork. This makes barley worth 50 cents a bushel, at the present value of pork. Of wheat, 4 pounds and 6 ounces are required to make 1 pound of pork, making wheat worth 70 cents. Of corn, 4 pounds 8 ounces, making it worth 63 cents in pork, per bushel. It don't pay to feed wheat to hogs this year, but it pays more than 100 per cent to fatten them on corn.

Miss Rose M. Blalock, daughter of Dr. N. G. Blalock, of Walla Walla, has been chosen as the Goddess of Plenty to preside at the Spokane Fruit Fair. Arrangements for a reproduction of her beautiful features on souvenir buttons have been made.

Thomas Cooper, Western land commissioner of the Northern Pacific, said yesterday that the great success of Washington's wheat crop this year will create an active demand for wheat lands in Washington.

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