

sown is nearly 28,000 acres less than last year the estimated aggregate yield is greater by more than 2,500,000 bushels. In some districts last year, and notably in a number of western counties, the crop was seriously damaged by excessive rains. This year the accounts from all localities are favourable, the vine being of only moderate length and extremely well podded. Another very noticeable feature in this year's reports is the small extent of injury that appears to have been brought by the pea-bug. It would be a grand thing for the farmers of Ontario were this pest entirely to disappear, as for feeding purposes peas possess qualities of the first order. It is superior to barley, oats or corn, and taking account of yield and market price it is a more profitable crop to grow than any one of those cereals. The area and produce of the crop for 1883 and 1884 were as follows:

	Acres.	Bushels.
1883	542,717	10,673,723
1884	570,574	13,253,986

Beans, although of the same family as peas, do not appear to have fared quite so well. The lengthened period of cool weather which followed the planting season of beans kept back a vigorous growth, and they are reported to be somewhat short in straw. The rains of the latter part of July, however, have made a decided improvement in the prospect, and with a continuance of favourable weather up to the ripening season a handsome yield may be looked for with confidence. The area in crop (which is chiefly confined to three or four counties of the Lake Erie group) is 24,877 acres, and the estimated yield is 552,953 bushels. Last year's crop was of nearly the same extent, but it was ruined by the September frosts.

The corn crop is not in a hopeful condition, it having suffered seriously from the planting of an inferior quality of seed—another consequence of last year's early frosts—and also from low temperature and the ravages of the cut-worm and wire-worm. Still a marked improvement was noticeable in the last days of July and there is yet a good chance for the maturing of a fairly good crop. It may be remembered that the promise of the crop on the 1st of August two years ago was very disheartening, but with a high average of temperature throughout August and September the corn picked up and matured in a way to astonish the farmers. So far as the season of 1884 closely resembles that of 1882, and a good corn crop is by no means to be despaired of. The area planted is 174,884 acres, being 39,404 acres less than was planted last year.

THE ROOT CROP.

The report on the state of the root crop is on the whole very encouraging. Potatoes have made a healthy and continuous growth, and the quality of early varieties is excellent. The Colorado beetle still remains in the field, but the judicious use of Paris Green suffices to keep its ravages in check. A new insect was recently reported as attacking the mangold wurtzels, but the reports to the Bureau show that so far it has done very little damage in the province. These roots, and carrots also, give promise of a good yield, having been planted early in the season. Turnips were sown in the period of drouth, and the reports concerning these valuable roots are not quite so favourable. They appear, however, to have been making favourable progress under the influence of the late July and early August rains. The acreages of the several crops for 1883 and 1884 are given as follows:

	1884.	1883.
Potatoes	168,862	166,523
Mangolds	18,341	17,219
Carrots	10,980	11,270
Turnips	104,108	83,429

HAY AND CLOVER.

The greatest injury caused by the June drought seems to have been sustained by hay and clover, which also suffered to some extent from the frosts in the last days of May. In the northern and north-eastern counties the crop is very light as compared with last year's, but elsewhere the farmers have no cause for serious complaint. The light crop, however, has one compensating advantage; the haying season was unusually favourable for the cutting, curing and housing of the crop, and the quality is first-class. The area in hay and clover this year is 2,193,369 acres and the total yield is estimated at 3,044,912 tons,—an average of 1.39 tons per acre. Last year's area was 2,350,969 acres and total yield was 4,115,435 tons,—an average of 1.75 tons per acre.

LIGHT FRUIT CROP.

Fruit trees are generally reported as healthy, but the crop is light. The May frosts did great damage all over the country, and in many districts the supply will no more than suffice for home consumption. The black-knot still continues to ravage plum and cherry trees, and pear trees are more or less affected by blight. The severe weather of last winter seems to have been attended with disastrous results, and large numbers of trees in the counties of Grey and Bruce are said to be dying, although it seems probable that this is due in part to the effect of a blight which struck orchard trees in that section last summer. The peach crop is almost a complete failure.

LIVE STOCK OF ALL KINDS

are thriving this year, in spite of the drought of June. We notice that for the first time the Bureau has this year collected the area of pasture land in the province, and in connection with live stock this is a most important fact in agricultural economy. The total breadth of pasture is 2,794,986 acres, or about one-eighth of the total area of farm land. Concerning the tables of live stock presented below, it is only necessary to remark that the decrease in the number of working horses this year appears to be the result of greater exactness in the form of the schedule calling for returns. Last year there was reason to believe—as we observe by a note to the table of horses—that breeding mares were in many cases returned under the two heads of "breeding mares" and "working horses," and so were counted twice. This year's schedule was prepared with a view to prevent a repetition of this mistake, and hence the apparent falling off in the number of working horses. The totals of each class in the province, for the years 1883 and 1884 are as follows:

HORSES.			
	1884.	1883.	
Working horses	503,474	349,552	
Breeding mares	93,910	87,350	
Unbroken horses	138,569	122,201	
Totals	535,953	560,133	
CATTLE.			
Working oxen	16,793	17,071	
Milch cows	710,519	630,437	
Store cattle over 2 years	384,453	321,471	
Young and other cattle	813,905	789,075	
Totals	1,925,670	1,818,054	
SHEEP.			
Coarse woolled:			
over 1 year	994,608	1,043,080	
under 1 year	595,996	580,085	
Fine woolled:			
over 1 year	176,341	150,291	
under 1 year	123,788	95,328	
Totals	1,890,733	1,868,784	
PIGS.			
Over 1 year	257,711	245,386	
Under 1 year	658,447	660,731	
Totals	916,158	906,717	
POULTRY.			
Turkeys	445,532	355,635	
Geese	540,130	491,093	
Other fowls	5,251,944	5,000,616	

The wool clip of the two years, classified as coarse and fine, is given as follows:

1884		1883	
fleeces.	lbs.	fleeces.	lbs.
Coarse wool..	1,008,916	5,597,643	1,063,333
Fine wool....	179,770	921,275	152,773
	1,188,716	6,518,918	1,216,106
			6,608,418

The returns of dairy butter made in the province are obviously far below the actual product, the reason being that many farmers were unable for lack of knowledge to supply this information. Possibly they may be led in future to keep an account of their

BUTTER PRODUCE,

and in itself that will be a good thing. According to the table the quantity made in 1883 was 32,844,269 lbs., while for the previous year the quantity was 34,335,538 lbs, but for each year the actual product was fifty per cent. more.

Another important subject dealt with in the Report is that of

FARM AND DOMESTIC WAGES.

Heretofore there was a general complaint among farmers of the difficulty of procuring labourers for the working season, and especially for the period of haying and harvesting. But the introduction of self-binding reapers has wrought a great change in this respect, as fewer men are required in the harvest fields to do a given amount of work. A large number of these labour-saving implements are now in use in all the old-settled parts of the province, and they are evidently giving good satisfaction. Domestic servants are now apparently the only class in request, but these gravitate to the towns and cities and it is often a difficult matter to get them into the farm house for "love or money." The average rate of wages paid in the province for the two years is given as follows:

	1884.	1883.
Farm hands—		
per year with board	\$167.00	\$173.00
per year with board	257.00	264.00
per month with board	19.44	20.37
per month without board	29.11	30.21
Domestic servants per week	1.51	1.52

The fall in wages is not very striking, but it is enough to show a downward tendency. The table of the market prices of farm products, on the other hand, shows an increase as compared with last year. The average prices compiled from reports of the principal markets of the province, for the first half of 1883 and 1884 respectively, are as follows:

	1884.	1883.
Fall wheat per bushel	\$1.04	\$0.99
Spring wheat do	1.06	1.01
Barley do	.58	.59
Oats do	.37	.42
Peas do	.76	.73
Rye do	.61	.61
Corn do	.73	.50
Beans do	1.37	1.55

Meats, on the other hand, have declined about ten per cent. while the rent of farm land remains stationary—being \$2.75 per acre for each year.

Information of this sort we regard as possessing great interest and value to the farmers of the province. It seems more than anything else to show what progress we are making, and to prove what a magnificent farming country is this Ontario of ours. We wish that it were better appreciated; but it is unfortunately too true that while our public journals devote columns to puffing the North-West and the Western States, they often begrudge a beggarly paragraph to recording the capabilities of their own province.

An English gardener advises trapping ants with bones upon which some meat has been left, and dipping occasionally in hot water. For "slugs and wire worms" he uses pieces of potato or carrot.