A SUMMARY OF THE CROPS.

ONTARIO'S AGRICULTURAL YIELD SUFFERS FROM THE DROUTH.

The Rainfall and Temperature—None of the Returns Up to the Average—The Bulletin Issued by the Bureau of Statistics—The Roots Promise to be a Failure.

Secretary Blue of the Bureau of Industries yesterday issued a carefully prepared summary of the agricultural statistics of Ontario for this year, compiled from returns made by the farmers of the province under date of June 25, together with a digest of reports made on Aug. 12 by nearly 900 correspondents of the Bureau on the year's crops and harvest, and the yield of principal crops computed from their estimates.

The summer temperature and sunshine records of Ontario this year show considerably higher averages than those of the five years 1882-6, but the average of rainfall is considerably less. The mean temperature of May was 8° to 10° higher; of June, 1° to 2°; and of July 6°; while the highest temperature exceeds the highest in the five years by 7½°, the July record ranging from 90° in Simcoe to 100° in Hamilton. The sunshine for May was 40 hours and for July 41 hours in excess of the average of the past four years, and for June is was 30 hours less; for the stations from Toronto westward the July average of this year was 321 hours, against 261 hours for the four years. The rainfall of the three months in the west and southwest, centre and east and northeast districts was 4 inches less than the average of the five years 1882-6, but only 1½ inch less in the north and northwest district. In the latter the fall of July exceeded the average by nearly an inch, being 1½ inch more than in the eastern district and 2 inches more than in either of the others. The general effect of the long period of drouth was accentuated by the high temperature and clear sky which prevailed throughout the maturing stage of cereals.

Fall wheat has suffered from a succession of reverses extending all through the growing season. First came the severe night frosts and the cold dry weather of early spring, and then the extreme heat and drouth of summer, which continued up to the time of ripening. The effect was to cause the crop to grow thin on the ground, with short heads, and the grain under the usual size. Generally, however, the grain though small is reported to be plump and bright, with the exception of a few localities in central western Ontario, where it was shrunken by rust. In other localities the Hessian fly and the midge did some injury. Where threshing has been reported, the yield runs generally from 10 to 18 bushels per acre, the average being about 16 bushels, or 5 bushels less than the average of the past five years. The general yield will probably not exceed two-thirds of an average crop, the estimate being 14,435,505 bushels against 20,635,843 for the average. Many correspondents, however, console themselves with the reflection that after all fall wheat has been the best crop of the season, the heat and drouth having so seriously affected all the cereals. Spring wheat is almost a total failure in western Ontario, and only a few districts in the east report even a fair crop; the estimated yield is 4,500,000 less than the average of the five years 1882-6. The harvest came in unusually early, reaping beconing quite general in the southwestern counties during the first week in July, and in the northern and eastern districts about ten days later. The wheat was taken off in most cases without a drop of rain, and was therefore secured in excellent condition. The labor supply was generally ample, owing to good harvest weather and the increasing use of self-binders and other labor-saving implements.

Owing to the prolonged heat and drouth, barley was ready for cutting almost as soon as fall wheat. Some barley was cut as early as July 8, and from the middle to the end of the month harvesting was general. This early maturing had its effect on the berry, which is reported as rather small, and likely to prove two or three pounds lights in the bushel. Early sown came out best, both in plumpness and quality. The yield runs all the way from a half to a full crop, and the straw was short all over. In the extremes of Bruce in the west and the St. Lawrence counties in the east, cases of rust are reported; but elsewhere it does not appear to have done any harm. The redeeming feature of the crop is the splendid condition in which it was saved; for though lacking in size and weight, the sample is of a remarkably bright color; in fact it is many years since the barley crop of the province was saved so free from discoloration by rain. The estimated total yield is 17,436,322 bushels, being 2,136,000 bushels less than the average of the five years 1882-6, although the breadth in crop is 50,000 acres more.

Saving a few fields of late grain the oat harvest was finished throughout the province and by the end of the first week of August. From almost all the counties the reports are well agreed as to the injurious effects of the drouth. In the Lake Erie, Lake Huron and Georgian Bay counties, and in the Northern districts, early sown fields matured fairly well, but elsewhere the general complaint is that the grain ripened too fast, turning white with the extreme heat. As a result, the kernel is shrunken and light, while the yield of grain is small compared with the quantity of straw. In some places rust has injured the crop, and in others complaint is made of the ravages of the grasshoppers. The estimated yield of the province is only 30 bushels per acre, whereas the average yield of the past five years was 37 bushels. The total estimate is 8,000,000 less than the yield of last year, and 5,000,000 less than the average.

The rye crop, of which there is but a small area grown, was perhaps not so seriously damaged by the drouth as other crops, from the fact that it was farther advanced before the effects of the long continued dry season began to be felt. The grain, however, is more or less shrunken, and the estimated yield does not reach one-half the average of the past five years.

Of no crop are more valuable reports given than of peas. A vigorous growth appears to have been made up to the forming of the pods, when the drouth began and resulted in their being imperfectly filled, although from many points a good yield is reported. Early sowing was the salvation of the crop. The straw is bright in color, and will likely be in great demand for fodder owing to the shortage of the other straws. A few cases of injury by the wire-worm have been mentioned, but the pea-bug is almost unheard of. The estimated yield is nearly the same as the average of the five years 1882-6, and 3,000,000 bushels less than last year.

Indian corn will be a short crop, with the exception of a few localities, in moist situations, or where the planting was done unusually early. In many fields no ears have formed at all, and the stalks are stunted and partly dried up. Fodder corn is also very light. Beans are almost everywhere a failure, owing to the excessive heat in the blossoming season.

The prospect of the potato crop can be fairly indicated, but the other roots have arrived at a critical period when everything depends upon rain. The drouth told severely upon potatoes, especially upon late planted fields, and the bug appeared in unusually large numbers. As a rule, the yield will be small; there will be few tubers in a hill, and these will doubtless be of smaller size than usual. The fly and the grasshopper injured the turnip in several counties, already thinned by the dry weather at the planting season. Early rains may yet make an average crop of turnips, mangel-wurzels and carrots, but otherwise these roots must be a decided failure.

Though the drouth has reduced the bulk of the hay crop, its effects have not been so serious as might have been expected. The weather during haying was of the most favorable character possible, and except that in some cases the crop may have been a trifle over-ripe, it has been housed in prime condition. As to the aggregate yield, it appears probable that owing to increased acreage the crop will be a little below the average. The clover seed crop will prove as nearly as possible a total failure, and much of this year's seeding will amount to nothing. Alsike withstood the spring frosts and summer drouth much better than red clover.

A Long-Headed Man.

De Garmo—"So you're all alone, eh?"

Basom—"Yes, the old lady and the girls have gone to the sea shore."

De Garmo—"Will they be there long?"

Basom—"I hope not. I have very encouraging reports as to the possibility of my becoming the father-in-law of a French marquis. There is nothing like having a good barber in the family."

DUELING IN FRANCE.

Everybody Learns How to Fence in a Harmless and Bloodless Manner.

Of late the taste for fencing has spread to an extraordinary degree here, says a Paris correspondent of London Life. Every lad of 18 is already a swordsman, and at 20 has a tolerable mastery of his weapon. I speak, of course, of young men belonging to the better classes. Frenchmen had always a natural liking for the rapier, but they seldom practiced it so assiduously as they do now. During the quiet, easy-going reign of Louis Phillipe fencing went almost completely out of fashion. Sixteen and seventeen years ago the duelists in Paris were confined to a little group of fiery spirits, who were looked upon with pronounced distrust by quiet people. Since then the political earthquake which has shaken the country has mixed society in such a singular way that quarrels and disputes more or less serious have become an every-day occurrence. And as the duel is the only tribunal to which men moving in French society can appeal without forfeiting the consideration of their equals the study of fencing has revived. Some people hold that it is a sign of restored military ardor, a thesis which can hardly be sustained, I venture to think. The young gentleman who spends two hours every day in the salle d'armes learns nothing there which would render an order to march with his knapsack on his back toward the frontier a whit less disagreeable. The only effect produced by the general passion for fencing which I can perceive is that the character of dueling has undergone a radical change. In former times hostile meetings were not so harmless as they have become. But every professor of the art at present inculcates a system of attack and defence which reduces to the lowest point the probabilities of serious injury. The swordsman who desires to escape a thrust avoids lunging, stretches out his arm to its full length, parries with the hand and wrist, makes a semblance of passes, and the instant that his weapon ceases to touch that of his opponent springs back with the agility of a roebuck. Such cautious tactics as these render serious wounds on either side next to impossible and minimize the danger of dueling. When the hand or wrist is scratched it immediately becomes so heavy from the loss of blood, however trifling, that the injured man is physically disabled from continuing the combat; the surgeon in attendance announces the fact with due solemnity, and then the seconds repair to the nearest inn to draw up the proces-verbal, in which honor is declared to have been amply satisfied. But if the combatants are to fight with the savage fury that characterized dueling here in former times, and if the new fencing hand is to come into play, those prudent tactics acquired in the fencing-rooms will prove a snare.

Consolation for the Bald.

Those excellent people who do not like allusions to be made to the baldness of themselves or of their friends will feel consoled by reading a report of a lecture on the subject of baldness, delivered by Dr. Jackson of New York, which is summarised in The Standard.

Old age Dr. Jackson regards as the least frequent cause of baldness. The morning tub is far from beneficial to the hair. The head gets wet too often, and is not dried sufficiently, so that in time this continual sousing, which supplies so agreeable a stimulant to the rest of the system, actually rots the hair and leads to baldness in 35 per cent. of those who practice it. Dr. Eaton found in the audiences attendant upon churches and operas in Boston—theology and music being the two grooves in which intellectual life in that city runs—that from forty to fifty per cent. of the men were bald. On the other hand, "in cheap museums"—where tall men and fat women form the staple objects on exhibition—and at prize fights the proportion of bald men was only from twelve to twenty per cent. of the company. Great scholars and thinkers are often bald. Shakspeare—if the bust at Stratford-on-Avon and the Droeshout portrait prefixed to the first folio are to be taken as evidence—was both fat and bald. Julius Cæsar, a hard living, hard fighting, hard thinking man, was, like so many of the Roman emperors, bald. Chaucer had a kindness towards bald men. Aristophanes, the greatest master of Greek comedy, was bald; so was Socrates, if tradition and his busts do not lie; and we all know that Æschylus was popularly supposed to have been killed by an eagle trying to crack a tortoise on his bare crown. It is, therefore, clear that the bald men have plenty of great people to keep them company. The Coming Man is to be quite bald, and the ladies are to like him all the better for it. The hair scalp is a remnant of feline animality, which is to be shuffled off, just as Darwin tells us we have shed the piline pelt which was the clothing of that ancestral ape over whose pithecoid propensities the world has had so much to say. The balder the man is, the more advanced his stage of evolution.

Emperor William's Mail.

From The London Daily News.

As usual, Emperor William received a large mail at Gastein, the letters from the members of his family alone being very numerous. It is related that immediately on his arrival he found on his table a letter addressed in very large characters, which proved to be from his 5-year-old great-grandson William. An inclosure by his mother assured the emperor that no one had dictated or even looked at the letter, the first production of the writer. "I fully believe it," the emperor smilingly said, "for if she had seen it she would not have allowed it to be sent. In six lines my great-grandson makes nine demands."

Who is Gallagher?

From The Chicago Tribune.

It's sounding upon every side,
The dumb might even hear
Its echoing tumult, loud and wide,
From far away and near!
From young and old, from rich and poor,
From all, from high and low,
Goes up a call on Gallagher—
A call to "Let 'er go!"

What mystery that on every hand
Should such demand arise,
That there should come from all the land
The same appealing cries
To Gallagher! It's marvellous,
And what we want to know
Is, who is Mr. Gallagher—
Why don't he let 'er go!

What is the horror of his deed,
What the appalling fact,
How is it that he doesn't heed
The clamor o'er his act?
What manner of excuse has he
To make for doing so;
Who's she, and who is Gallagher—
Why won't he let 'er go!

Is bloody murder being done?
Or is it not as bad
As that? Is it some piece of fun
That Gallagher has had.
And likes so well he will not cease
Nor e'en abate, although
It's time? O, who is Gallagher?
Why can't he let 'er go!

Or is it an abduction case?
Is some fair creature dragged
Away at an alarming pace?
Has retribution lagged?
Has he a hansom or a hack?
Are his pusticers slow,
And won't he bring the maiden back,
Nor ever let 'er go!

And was the outrage coldly planned?
And is the maiden fair?
And has he got her by the hand
Or got her by the hair?
Is he a money-making rogue
Or disappointed beau?
Oh, who on earth is Gallagher?
Why won't he let 'er go!

Will nothing make the wicked scamp
His persecution cease.
Be he a gentleman or tramp?
And where are the police?
Is this a mediæval age
When any daring foe
May steal a maid? Shan't Gallagher
Be forced to let 'er go!

Or is it some stern parent's whim
His daughter to confine
Where walls are thick and light is dim,
And does the beauty pine
For one who swore eternal love,
But hasn't any show?
What ails old father Gallagher,
Why can't he let 'er go!

Has he a bulldog in the yard
Sharp at the set of sun,
And are his daughter's windows barred,
And has he got a gun?
Would argument avail with him,
Or would he answer "No!"
What sort of man is Gallagher,
Why don't he let 'er go?

And still it sounds on every side!
The dumb might even hear
The echoing tumult loud and wide,
And far away and near;
Still comes the cry to Gallagher,
And still we want to know
What is it. Who is Gallagher!
Why don't he let 'er go!

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(Signed) JOHN SENNOTT."
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