

general drought, beginning early in August and protracted into September. The beetle has injured the crop extensively in New York, and occasionally in all the other States of this section, except Maine. In Indiana, Pennsylvania, the crop is rotting badly in the ground; Elk had almost a failure in the yield, with excellent quality; Lycoming, a like deficiency in yield with very poor quality; Cambria, a large growth of vines, but not more than 75 or 80 bushels per acre; Sullivan, small and immature potatoes, the vines having died prematurely. In Armstrong, early potatoes were extra good, but late, few and small. In New York the average condition is reduced to 65. New Jersey returns 73; Pennsylvania 68; Vermont and Maryland, 83. In Frederick, Maryland, potatoes sold one year ago as low as 20 cents per bushel; now the price is 70 cents, and advancing. In Virginia the later crop was, to a considerable extent, killed in the germ by early drought. Dinwiddie reports that not 10 per cent. of the late planted came up; the condition in the State averages 88. In the remaining section south of the Potomac and the Ohio, in which the Irish potato is a minor crop, the average condition is not much, if any, below 100. Local extremes of high and low condition are included in this general average. In Beaufort, N. C., the late crop is almost a failure from rotting; in Arkansas, Garland reports a complete failure, but Izard an abundant crop. In Gibson, Tennessee the crop is almost a failure; and in Montgomery, "used up by drought and the bugs;" but the State averages 100.

North of the Ohio, returns confirm the indications in the September reports of a comparatively poor crop in both yield and quality. In addition to the reductions by unfavorable weather, and by the beetle, previously reported, damages from blight are noted in Franklin, Ohio, and Fond du Lac, Wis.: from rotting in Chippewa, Mich., and Grant, Brown, and Clark, Wis. In Henry, Ohio, the price is 70 cents per bushel, against 20 cents last year; in Delta, Mich., a first-rate crop sells at 50 cents per bushel, wholesale: in Noble, Indiana, a crop less than 25 per cent. of an average, at \$1.25 per bushel. The average condition in Michigan is 45; Ohio, Illinois, and Wisconsin, 83; Indiana, 89. West of the Mississippi the condition is higher, but the promise is somewhat below an average crop. In the latter part of the season grasshoppers have been the most general cause of reduction in the States and Territories between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains. The lowest condition in this section is 81, in Kansas; the highest 96, in Minnesota. Rot is reported in Almakee, Marion, and Lee,

Iowa, and in Greene, Missouri, "the early potatoes are all rotting at one end."

On the Pacific slope, California reports a condition 7 per cent. above average, or higher than that of any other State in the Union. Oregon falls to 94. In Utah the crop has been extensively damaged by early frosts.

The entire returns, with their various local specifications concerning actual or prospective yield and quality, point to a short crop, with great variations in quality, and with high prices. The average of condition for the entire country is 77.

THE PEA CROP.

Acreage.—The States indicating an increase in acreage, compared with last year, are Oregon, 2 per cent.; Virginia, Arkansas, and Kentucky, 3; Florida, Texas, and California, 4; Michigan and Minnesota, 8; Nebraska, 16; Ohio reports a decrease of 14 per cent.; Mississippi and Louisiana, 10; Alabama, 9; Wisconsin and Iowa, 7. In the remaining States the variations from the acreage of the previous year are slight.

Condition.—In Connecticut, Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Minnesota, and Nebraska, the condition averages 100; in California, 101; the remaining States, below 100. The lowest is in Louisiana, 81; the next in order of the ascent are Mississippi, 84; Alabama, 85; Georgia, 86; Florida, 89; Pennsylvania, 91; Illinois and Iowa, 93; New York, Texas, and Wisconsin, 95. A general and protracted drought was the main cause of reduction in the Gulf States.

BEANS.

The only States in which the condition does not fall below 100 are, New Jersey, Delaware, and Oregon, 100; California, 103; Vermont, 104; and South Carolina, 107. Grasshoppers were very destructive to the crop in the section visited by them. Rust is reported in Androscoggin, Maine, excessive wet weather in Guthrie and Marion, Iowa, and drought in some other localities. The States returning the lowest averages are Nebraska, 65; Alabama, 76; Iowa, 79; Minnesota, 81; Maryland and Illinois, 84; Rhode Island, 87; Connecticut, 90; New York, 91. The other States range between 92, in New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, and 99 in Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, and Wisconsin.

FATTENING CATTLE.

The numbers of fattening cattle are apparently somewhat less than last year, though the difference is small. Maine and Vermont, most of the Southern States, and especially the States of the Missouri Valley, return increasing numbers; while the returns from the Middle

and Central Western States are uniformly below 100. Their condition is very generally higher than the returns of condition last year, the principal exceptions being in New York, New Jersey and New England.

THE CHEESE FACTORY SYSTEM IN AMERICA.

When once the success of the system was asserted, the growth was quite rapid, and in 1866 there were more than 500 cheese "factories" in operation in the State of New York. Cheese-making, once monopolised by the rich counties of central New York, has since then spread to other parts of the State, and the factory system is now adopted in some degree in Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, and other Western States; Pennsylvania, Vermont, Massachusetts, Maine, and Canada, and has even spread to England and Russia. In 1873 Canada manufactured 20,000,000 lb. of cheese by the American method. The scheme of Mr. Jesse Williams—whom our readers will remember as the founder of the system in 1851, to secure uniformity in the production of two dairies, has reproduced itself in several thousand factories, employing an estimated capital of 25,000,000 dollars, and producing each year 150,000,000 dollars' worth of the manufactured article. The receipts at New York from the interior amounted in 1863 to 281,318 boxes of cheese, in 1874 to 2,204,493 boxes. The exports from New York in 1853, were 38,577,357 lb., in 1874 they were 96,834,691 lb. This return will give some idea of the rapid growth of the industry, and of its great importance to the commerce of the country. A committee of the New York Butter and Cheese Exchange estimates the annual product of butter in the country at 1,440,000,000 lb., of which 53,333,333 lb. are exported. These statistics of the trade derive their chief interest from the fact that the enormous business they represent has grown up from the earnest efforts of a single man to make in large quantities a good article, which he was already making in small quantities. If he had resorted to trickery and deception, he might have achieved a temporary success, but he could never have laid the foundation of such a great industry with any other corner-stone than that of honesty. Prof. Wickson gives a very full and readable description of the process of making butter and cheese, but of these we can only say that they have been the subject of study by chemists and practical dairymen of the highest culture, and that, although the latter know how to make good cheese, neither they nor the chemists understand precisely how it is done.