

CROPS IN ONTARIO

Fall Wheat Wintered Well—Frost Affects Fruits—
Spring Sowing

Fall wheat has wintered well notwithstanding the light protection of snow, and the early spring wheat was also favorable, there being comparatively little heaving or other injury from frost. There was an unusually rapid growth in the latter part of April and the first few days of May, which gave a good head to the plant, but subsequent cold weather has acted as a check. Taken all together, however, the present outlook for the crop is most promising, except on late sown fields or on low or poorly drained land. Only a comparatively small acreage has been plowed up or resown with barley or other spring grain, states a bulletin of Ontario's department of agriculture. Much less injury than usual from insects is reported.

In the western half of the province, in the northern districts, and in most of the Lake Ontario counties, clover has done well, especially in the case of the younger fields. In the more eastern part of the province, however, much of the crop has been more or less killed out during the winter and spring, although even there some good fields are also reported. Several correspondents point out that late pasturing was responsible for some of the poor fields of both clover and alfalfa.

Alfalfa and Vegetation.

Reports regarding alfalfa are not quite so enthusiastic as usual, as both winter and spring conditions were trying to this crop, and many of the fields are somewhat patchy. As in the case of fall wheat and clover, alfalfa has done best on well drained land.

Unusually warm weather in the latter half of April and the early part of May caused growth in the field, orchard, and forest to go ahead with a rush, and vegetation was estimated to be from a week to two weeks ahead of the normal. Cool weather with night frosts coming in about the 8th of May, however, gave an almost complete check to growth from that date to time of reporting; and while orchards seem to be more forward than usual, pastures are now only about ordinary. In most cases cattle are on the grass and are getting a good bite. Very timely rains were falling as our later correspondents wrote.

In the first week of May orchards gave promise of a large yield. The trees were covered with fruit buds—many in full bloom—and small fruits were also blossoming profusely. Between the 7th and 11th of May, however, a series of severe night frosts occurred, the effects of which are variously described. A careful sifting of the reports shows that early strawberries were badly nipped, but that the later varieties happily escaped.

Fruit and Fodder Supplies.

Some bush fruits, such as currants, were also caught in some of the more advanced sections. In the fruit lands along the lake shores—more especially in the Niagara district—fruit trees sustained comparatively little harm from the frosts, but some of the orchards farther inland were injured to some extent.

Of the orchard trees apples have suffered the least and plums and cherries the most, but in no case as seriously as was at first expected. To sum up, the injury from the severe frosts of May has turned out to be much less general than was feared at the time of the frosts, and a good yield of all classes of fruit may still be had should favorable conditions prevail. The presence of the tent caterpillar in unusually large numbers is complained of by many correspondents in the eastern half of the province.

Farmers are in a better situation as to fodder supplies than for many years. In most localities there is a sufficiency of hay, and in many quarters a plentiful supply. There is also a sufficiency of oats on hand in most cases, although this and other grains are now fed more freely than formerly to live stock. Wheat is somewhat scarcer, but there is enough for all requirements on the average farm. The only deficiency appears to be in the quantity of straw on hand.

Spring sowing was well advanced when correspondents reported, and in many quarters, all spring grains had been got in. While there are complaints of some of the stiffer clay soils being hard to work, and remaining somewhat lumpy, most of the reports speak of the condition of the seed bed as being from fair to excellent. All the spring grains made a good catch as a rule; but several correspondents stated that more rain was necessary in order to ensure the best results.

Thoro'd, Ont., has been chosen as the location of Messrs. Pilkington Brothers, Limited, the well-known British glass manufacturers. Canadian plant. This firm's headquarters are at St. Helens, England.

LEASES MODIFIED FOR CANADA

United States Shoe Machinery Company Refers to
Canadian Combine Case

The Canadian leases of the United Shoe Machinery Company have been modified to meet what is believed by that concern to be the intention of the board appointed in October, 1912, to investigate the corporation's activities in the Dominion. President Winslow in his annual report just published says:—"On October 18th, 1912, the board appointed under the provisions of the combines investigation act made to the minister of labor at Ottawa its report of an investigation of the United Shoe Machinery Company of Canada. In general, the report was in the highest degree commendatory of the company's service and methods. As a result of the finding, we have endeavored so to modify our Canadian leases as to meet what we believe to be the intention of the board, while retaining so far as practicable the advantages of continuity in operation."

Troubles in the United States.

The company is having legal trouble, too, in the United States, and its officers have urged the speedy trial of the criminal suit against them, but the department of justice has preferred to delay the trial of the criminal suit until after the equity suit entered three months later shall have been disposed.

Mr. Winslow gives some interesting details of his company's business. On March 1st, 1913, the company had on lease in the United States 98,516 machines, increase of 1,495 machines over preceding year. Machines turned out have not increased in proportion of former years, because the company has suspended the system by which it formerly gave every shoe manufacturer option of either buying outright machines in its general department or leasing them at a nominal rental. Shoe manufacturers no longer have the option of leasing the general department machines, but have to buy them outright. As one result, operating expenses at the Beverly factory have decreased. Since it has been unnecessary to make and deliver so many general department machines, increase in operatives has not kept pace with normal increase in company's business. Under present conditions they can no longer equip small factories with new and up-to-date machines of the general department from which no adequate direct pecuniary return is to be expected, but thanks to a machinery equipment in most factories which up to the present time has enabled them to keep abreast of the demands of trade, the output of shoes has steadily increased and the revenue of the company has increased accordingly.

During the fiscal year of 1912-13, the company placed on the market 30 new types of machines.

Have Many Branch Companies.

"When machinery can be brought in duty free from Europe," says Mr. Winslow, "there will no longer be the slightest excuse for any one to say that American shoe manufacturers cannot equip their factories without patronizing the United Shoe Machinery Company, and it will then be obvious that whatever advantage we enjoy is due to the superiority of our machines and service.

"The business of our English, French and German companies is constantly increasing. At Leicester, England, we employ over 2,000 men—and the average rate of wage paid in the English factory is much less than the average rate paid at Beverly, which is the highest paid to any considerable number of workers in any one place in the world. It would be regrettable if economic conditions, arising from placing shoes and shoe machinery on the free list, should compel an increase in the work done in European factories at the expense of work done at home; but it is hard to see how small manufacturers, either of shoes or shoe machinery, who have kept up competition in the United States can cope with manufacturers abroad who hire labor far more cheaply.

Wide Distribution of Stock.

"The company is distributing among its lessees of Good-year machines common stock purchased in the open market from the fund created by setting aside a percentage of the amounts received from such lessees during the period of three years beginning with January 1st, 1910. Lessees among whom stock is being distributed is about 1,100; shares purchased was 32,975; average price was \$52.53 per share."

Stock of the corporation is more widely distributed than at any previous time. There are 8,366 individual stockholders, of whom 3,777 are holders of common stock only and 3,014 are holders of preferred stock only, while 1,575 are holders of both preferred and common stock.