

Prince Edward Island.

The month of July has been exceedingly dry, scarcely any rain. Since about the 10th the weather has been warm, and grain crops that were so backward at that date have come along well. Pastures at this date are about as short as ever they were in this country, and between want of grass and the terrible torments of the horn fly, cattle are losing flesh. The milk supply at the factories has fallen off till it is only about half of other years.

Haying is nearly done, and the crop was turned off much better than was expected a month ago. It has been saved in excellent condition and will have good feeding value. After-grass, on account of drought and absence of clover in the hay fields, will not yield much feed, but a day or two of rain would improve matters very much. Just now, the weather seems to be changing, and there have been slight local showers in some parts. The grain crop is coming on well, but harvest will be from two to three weeks later than last year. There will be very little grain cut before September. The wheat crop is very promising and so is the earlier oats, but later sown grain has suffered from drought. Clover has made a fine catch in all lands seeded down. A great deal of wild mustard (charlock) seed was brought here in clover seed from Ontario last spring, and farmers who did not attend to pulling the plants out of their grain will suffer from the effects of it in future. We noticed that wherever second quality of seed was used, it contained mustard seed. This ought to teach farmers to use only the best. There is beginning to be an agitation for Government inspection of seeds here, and we think that, if practicable, it would be a move in the right direction, as many farmers are careless about their seeds and look to cheapness rather than quality in them. Root crops and potatoes are doing well and promise a good yield.

The direct steamship, "Manchester Commerce," on the route between here and Manchester, took on her initial trip a large number of cattle and sheep to the British market. There was also shipped on her considerable cheese, butter and other produce. Prof. J. W. Robertson and Dr. Fletcher, of the Experimental Farm, will come to the Island this week and address four meetings. This will conclude our educational meetings along agricultural lines for the summer.

Our Provincial Exhibition, which is also a Maritime one, promises to be the best show ever held here. Educational features will be given greater prominence than ever, and questionable amusements we believe will be eliminated. Expert judges will explain their awards in the stock rings. The other Maritime shows are also working along these lines, and will be a great means of supplementing the teaching of the Farmers' Institutes. W. S.

August 7th, 1902.

Shefford County, Que.

Spring work began early in April in this section, and seeding about the 25th. Fine yet cool weather on May 1st saw grass well started and trees leafing out. May throughout was very cool and the unusual cold dip came on the 9th and 10th, and ruined all small fruits which were in blossom. Forest trees also suffered, especially beech and ash, and are only leafing out again since July 1st. Grass was also set back, but has come on since and hay will be a very good crop, but very late. The unusually wet, cold June has had a ruinous effect upon corn, which cannot possibly be more than a light crop. Grain in general is badly damaged on low land, especially oats; wheat is badly thinned out, but barley on high land is now heading out and looks fairly well. The excessive rain caused much late seeding, so that turnips are very much behind time. Early sown roots are very backward, but growing well of late. Potatoes on high land have stood the cold and wet the best of anything, and are looking fine, but also late, yet with favorable weather during the rest of the season there will be a large yield. Apples escaped the frost, as they were not in bloom, and now promise a very large yield. Tent caterpillars, cutworms, squash bugs and potato bugs have been either killed or checked so much with the cold and wet that the former have almost entirely disappeared. P. P. FOWLER.

Shefford Co., Que.

A South African Show.

The Canadian Department of Agriculture has been notified that the South African British and Colonial Industrial Exhibition will be held at Cape Town from November, 1903, to February, 1904, under the patronage of Lord Milner. Canada is asked to make a display, and it is almost certain that the invitation will be accepted. A direct steamship line from Canada to South Africa should be in operation by that time.

Good Crops in North Ontario.

The hay crop in this locality, which is an exceptionally good one, is pretty well advanced. A few more fine days will see it all garnered. Fall wheat has been but little sown, but what there is is a good average crop. Of spring wheat, oats and barley prospects of a good yield, while peas, and potatoes are give similar promise. Root crops and potatoes are looking fine, but, on account of the wet weather, the corn crop of 1902 will not be as good as last year. Pastures are keeping up well, and on the wild lands and in the woods wild grasses and white clovers are abundant, so that cattle and sheep are looking fine. Jas. McCutcheon, one of the enterprising farmers of

Indfield township, has recently purchased from Edwin Battie, Gore Bay, five pure-bred Shorthorn cattle. This is a step for which Mr. McCutcheon deserves great credit. CHAS. MOODY.

Algoma Co.

Ottawa Notes.

(Special.)

SILAGE EXPERIMENTS.

There have been many silo tests at the Central Experimental Farm. Among the crops that have been dealt with are clover (cut and uncut), corn, corn and clover mixed. Last week a silo was filled with oats and barley sown in equal quantities, and another with oats and peas in the proportion of two to one, respectively. Prof. Shutt, Chemist, is making analyses, which are yet incomplete. In the course of a few weeks it will be ascertained which composition contain the best feeding content. The officials say that when converting barley and oats and oats and peas into ensilage it is better to cut the grain when green—in the milk stage. The fodder now stored in the silos will be fed immediately, and other experiments will be commenced.

CATTLE-FEEDING.

The extreme heat recently has had a marked effect on the steer-fattening experiment. Mr. Grisdale observes that the stock fed indoors suffer more than those outdoors, which, he says, is a well-known state of affairs among stock-raisers. When a beast is fed heavily on grain rations and develops to a heavy weight, the warm weather will cause much loss, while those on grass will suffer little from the depressing effect of heat. The different lots on grass are each making about fifty pounds a month. Three lots are in the pasture and two in stalls. The third lot in stalls were slaughtered last March, when each head weighed thirteen hundred pounds. The mates of those steers which were fed on light rations, to-day weigh only 1,100 pounds, although they are six months older than the lot butchered in March.

The benefit of heavy feeding has already been demonstrated well on the farm, but the experiments are being carried on to obtain further and more extensive data. Professor Grisdale is looking for steers now to be experimented with next winter, when he will repeat in part some of the feeding investigations.

Two lots of steers, each fifteen months old, are feeding, and the progress shows that the lighter ones are gaining on the others. In one case the beasts weigh nine hundred pounds each and in the other six hundred and fifty. The latter are on grass. As well as feeding experiments as to rations, there will be conducted next winter some tests in loose vs. tied cattle. These results will undoubtedly be important and interesting to farmers. Steers will also be fed in crowded stalls and roomy ones.

Dr. Jas. Fletcher, Entomologist and Botanist for the Dominion Experimental Farms, is acting-director at the Central Experimental Farm during the absence of Dr. Wm. Saunders, who is on his official visit to the branch farms in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.

AMONG THE COWS.

The milch cows number twenty-one, made up of nine Ayrshires, six Guernseys and six Shorthorns. They have all been milking since about the first of January, and the average daily yield of milk is about: Ayrshires, twenty-five; Guernseys, twenty; and the Shorthorns, twenty pounds. One Shorthorn yielded a sample which tested three per cent. fat and an Ayrshire the same. The Guernseys gave samples which tested six per cent. fat. From the foregoing it will be seen that it is possible for cows fed on precisely the same ration to give milk that will test twice the amount of butter-fat of others.

PIG-FEEDING TRIAL.

One hundred and twenty pigs, of all ages and breeds, are to be found in the pens. A large number are under an important feeding test. Five groups, of six pigs each, are being fed in the pens, and five groups are being fed out in the yard. The experiment will show the merits of the two methods, both of which are in common use among breeders. Only of which are included in this experiment. The cross-bred stock are included in this experiment. The ration to the lot in the pen is exactly the same as to the pigs in the yard—green pasture and barley meal. The former is cut in the fields and drawn in for the pigs in the pens, and the others are fed in the yard. When the pigs attain a weight of about one hundred and eighty pounds, they will be sent to the Geo. Matthews slaughtering house, Hull, Que., to be slaughtered, and the results of the experiment will be published through the press. The experiment was commenced about two weeks ago. The pigs on the farm in this experiment consist of Berkshires, Yorkshires, Large Blacks, and Tamworths. They are being used for breeding purposes and the young stock is being sold to the farmers. No new stock has been brought to the farm recently, all attention being given to the different breeds on hand.

SHEEP-BREEDING EXPERIMENT.

There is a stony field on the west half of the farm and thirty-eight head of sheep are being pastured on it this summer. The officials consider that this is the best way of utilizing this piece of land. Two different breeds are kept—Leicester and Shropshires—but rams of these breeds will be crossed with grade sheep this fall for the purpose of ascertaining which cross is the most suitable for the Ottawa Valley and district.

Free Hospital Opened.

On July 6th there was formally opened near Gravenhurst, Ont., the first free hospital for the treatment of consumption in Canada, and the second on the continent. The building has been erected at a cost of \$20,000, one-half of which was contributed by Mr. W. J. Gage and the other half by the estate of the late H. A. Massey. It is designed to meet the needs of sufferers who have not the means to pay for treatment. The only conditions necessary to gain admission are: that the applicant is in the early stages of the disease and is without money or, at least, has very little.

The Muskoka Cottage Sanitarium, which has been in operation five years, has done much to convince the people that this dreaded disease may be cured. During that time it has sent away 600 patients either entirely cured or with the disease sufficiently arrested that they could resume work. Another 25 per cent. has been much improved, and only 10 per cent. have died or been classed as hopeless. The new hospital is without any endowment and its trustees rely entirely upon the large-heartedness of the people for its maintenance. A special train conveyed nearly five hundred sympathizers to the opening, among which were many of Toronto's most prominent citizens.

Crops in Joliette County, P. Q.

The "pea bean" grown here is the little white bean which we dry for winter use—the common shell bean. I planted one acre and they look splendid, though many other farmers had theirs frozen.

We had a great deal of cold rain in the early summer and all crops were looking very poor, barring potatoes, which right along have been very good. The soil here is rather sandy, so we can, as a rule, stand lots of rain, but of course the cold we have no use for. All grain and corn was very poor until last week's fine hot days, when everything went ahead and is now quite promising. The hay, too, has suddenly made a spurt and what two weeks ago promised to be very poor is now good, and probably a good average crop is assured.

We have lots of cattle about here; all have their large or small herd, with which to supply the factories. Butter is what we make most of here. No cheese has been made for some years.

Your paper comes regularly and is always looked forward to, and much good and information is gleaned from each number. With best wishes, believe me, Joliette Co., Que.

COLIN S. NOAD.

The Draft Horse Coming to the Front.

Grain and vegetables look well, but the apple crop will be exceedingly light, and, from what I can learn, the same extends for the most part through King's County and the Annapolis valley.

The all-purpose horse still holds a prominent position, though the Clydesdale and Percheron are coming to the front together with the trotter. The all-purpose and draft horse, I think, will be the best for the country.

Fruit, small and large, coupled with stock-raising, will probably give most promising result to the farmers of this district.

Agricultural schools and experimental farms are giving much practical information to the farmers, and also help to elevate his calling, the first among occupations and the basis of all others, for none could exist without it. Let the legislators continue to extend their aid to these and all institutions that are properly helping to advance the agricultural interests of our proud Dominion. Canada is destined to occupy no mean position in the make-up of the great British Empire. I. S.

King's Co., N. S.

Crops at the London Asylum Farm.

A representative of the "Farmer's Advocate" recently enjoyed the pleasure of being shown over the Asylum Farm, London, Ont., managed by Mr. Wm. Muirloch. Of the 129 acres under cultivation, 40 are devoted to corn, 30 to potatoes, 10 to mangels, and most of the balance to oats. In spite of the extremely wet season, everything on the farm gives promise of an unusually heavy yield. The oats, of which two bushels per acre of a variety called Sunshine were sown, measured over five feet in height, and that, too, over a considerable area. This crop was remarkable in that scarcely any were lodged. The corn, potato and mangel crops were equally good, the former excelling in some respects anything seen this season. A herd of 50 large dairy cows are kept at this institution, and during the past year over \$5,000 worth of pork was sold. From what could be seen, it was evident that the system of soil cultivation pursued was well adapted to the conditions. The soil appeared to contain a high percentage of humus, and that phosphorus was present in sufficient quantity was evidenced by the strength of oat straw and the color and height of the corn. A three-year rotation—oats, clover and corn and roots—is followed. Altogether the management is to be commended.

Japan Wants a Canadian Exhibit.

Hon. Sydney Fisher, Canadian Minister of Agriculture, expects to start for Japan about Sept. 1st, in order to personally superintend arrangements for a Canadian exhibit at Osaka Exhibition there in 1903. The Japanese Government place at the disposal of Canada 3,600 square feet in the main building or 7,000 square feet for a separate building. It is probable that the latter privilege will be accepted.