

condition at the date of reporting seemed to indicate.

"Cut-worms" have been quite generally troublesome, and especially so in Maryland; grasshoppers, which destroyed much of the first planting in Texas, but left in season for a second planting, are injuring the crop in some sections in California, and chinch-bugs are threatening extensive injury to it in Missouri and Kansas.

COTTON.

The total area in cotton in 1872, as estimated by the Department from the most accurate information attainable, was 8,500,000 acres. The returns for this year indicated an increase of about 12 per cent. The breadth planted was quite enough to tax to the utmost all available labor under the most favorable circumstances. But throughout the cotton States, for a period varying from twenty-five to thirty-five days, according to locality, and ending between the 20th and 30th of June, the weather was wet beyond precedent. Furthermore, for reasons reported in June, the crop was generally from two to four weeks late. The large area planted, the lateness of the crop, and the almost incessant rains, for weeks preventing work and stimulating the growth of grass and weeds, have combined to produce a demand for labor which it is impossible to meet. A few reporters complain of the unreliability or laziness of the freedmen, but the majority of those who refer to the subject give them credit for doing better this season than heretofore, and place the difficulty on the ground of a demand for work which the laborers in this section, even with their best efforts, are too few to meet. In consequence of this excess of rain and lack of labor, weeds and grass have been overshadowing the cotton-plant in every State and in almost every county reported. The area that, for this reason, has been either abandoned outright or plowed up and planted in corn, will probably nearly equal the excess over last year's acreage. The reports, with few exceptions, are despondent in tone and picture a somewhat gloomy prospect. But they doubtless are not fully exempt from the common tendency to exaggerate the bad effects upon crops of unpropitious weather prevailing in the present, and to underrate the future chances of recuperation from those effects.

OATS.

The prospective yield of oats during June declined in all the New England and Middle States, Maryland, Virginia, Mississippi, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. The condition of the crop was enhanced in all the other States, especially in the South. That is, the prospects have declined in those States,

which produced 227,994,000 bushels of the estimated total yield of 1872, which was 271,747,000. The drought prevailing in the Eastern States is sufficient to account for the great decline in that quarter. Insect enemies and stormy weather are alleged as causes of some decline in the Northwestern States.

POTATOES.

An increased acreage in potatoes is noted in Vermont, Connecticut, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Oregon. The acreage remains the same as last year in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, North Carolina, Mississippi, Indiana, and Minnesota. The remaining States showed a decreased acreage. The maximum acreage is found in Nebraska, 121; and the minimum in Delaware, 85. The potato-bug extended its ravages in the Eastern States, while in many points in the West its injuries were quite severe. Fear of this insect in many cases induced the cultivation of smaller crops. A condition above average is reported in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Missouri. In Wisconsin the condition was full average, and in all the other States below. The maximum, 111, is found in Georgia; the minimum, 36, in Delaware.

SWEET-POTATOES.

An increased acreage in sweet-potatoes is reported in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, West Virginia, Michigan, Iowa, and Kansas; in South Carolina the acreage remains the same as last year, and there is a decrease in all the other States, no crops being reported in New England, New York, Wisconsin and Minnesota. The condition of the crop was full average or above in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas and Tennessee; it was below average in all the other States. The maximum, 108, was in Florida; the minimum, 76, was in New Jersey.

SUGAR-CANE.

An increased acreage was planted in Georgia, Florida, Alabama and Mississippi, and a decreased acreage in Texas and Louisiana. The increase in Alabama amounted to 15 per cent. The crop was above average in Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, and below average in the other States. The growth of sugar-cane is reported in 75 counties, of which 1 was in South Carolina, 19 in Georgia, 10 in Alabama, 7 in Mississippi, 10 in Louisiana, and 16 in Texas.

BARLEY.

Winter-barley during June improved in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri, and California; it

declined in Texas, Ohio, and Kansas. Spring-barley improved in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Ohio, Michigan, and Wisconsin; it declined in Maine, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, California, and Oregon.

RYE.

Winter-rye improved during June in Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Mississippi, Texas, Arkansas, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, and Iowa. It remained stationary in Georgia, and declined in all the other States reported. Spring-rye is average or above in Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Oregon. In all the other States it is below average; the minimum, 70, is in California, and the maximum, 110, is in Nebraska.

GRASS AND PASTURES.

Owing to the drought, which prevailed in June throughout the New England and Middle States, and in portions of Ohio, Michigan, and California, pastures and clover are below average in all those States; and timothy in all, except Vermont, 101; Connecticut, 102; and Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York, 100. In all the other States pastures are above average, and clover is average or above in all except Mississippi, 95; Illinois, 92; Wisconsin, 83; and Minnesota, 88. Florida, Louisiana, and Texas do not report clover, and these States, together with South Carolina and Mississippi, do not report timothy, which is above average in all the remaining States.

SORGHUM.

The cultivation of this crop is on the decline. The only exception noticed is in Texas, where, in De Witt County, "the sorghum-crop is increasing and is really a profitable crop."

BEANS.

In Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Delaware, Mississippi, and Michigan, the acreage in beans is reported the same as last year. The States in which it is increased are Maine, New York, Maryland, Alabama, West Virginia, and Ohio, 102; Connecticut and Texas, 101; Georgia, 103; Florida, 113; Arkansas and Oregon, 105; Minnesota, 107; Kansas, 111; Nebraska, 109. In the remaining States the range is between 90 in Vermont and 99 in South Carolina and Wisconsin. In condition, Rhode Island and Michigan are average; South Carolina, 102; Georgia, 105; Florida, 118; Alabama, 107; Mississippi, Tennessee, and Oregon, 106; Arkansas, 103. The condition in the remaining States ranges between 80 in Delaware and 99 in North Carolina and Wisconsin.