

Manitoba Government Crop Report.

The midsummer crop bulletin of the provincial department of agriculture was issued Saturday. The estimated total yield of wheat is 21,284,274 bushels, the average being estimated at 16.49 bushels per acre. Manitoba's production of all kinds of cereals will be nearly forty million bushels. All departments of agriculture are reported to be in a satisfactory condition.

The information contained in the bulletin as to the condition of the crops and live stock, the probable yield per acre of the various kinds of grain and the quantities of land broken for the first time this season, etc., is summarized from returns received from the regular correspondents of the department made under date of August 15. The province is divided into districts as follows. The Northwestern district comprises the municipalities of Shell River, Boulton, Russell, Slive, Creek, Rossburn, Ellice, Birtle, Shoal Lake, Strathclair, Harrison, Clan William, Archie, Minnola, Hamiota, Blanchard, Saskatchewan, Odanah, Dauphin, Gilbert Plains.

The Southwestern—Wallace, Woodworth, Daly, Elton, Cornwallis, Whitehead, Sifton, Pipestone, Glenwood, Oakland, Arthur, Winchester, Morton, Turtle Mountain, Cameron, White-water and Riverside.

The North Central—Rosedale, Langdowne, Westbourne, North Cypress, North Norfolk, Langford, Portage la Prairie, St. Francois Xavier, Woodlands, St. Laurent, Posen and Ochre River.

The South Central—South Cypress, South Norfolk, Dufferin, Morris, Montcalm, Rhineland, Stanley, Pembina, Lorne, Louise, Argyle and the west half of Macdonald.

The Eastern—Gimli, Rockwood, St. Andrews, St. Clements, St. Pauls, Springfield, Kildonan, St. Boniface, Assinibola, Tache, Richot, De Salaberry, Hanover, La Broquerie, Franklin, Rosser and the east half of Macdonald.

WHEAT.

Area under crop.		Yield per acre.		Total yield.
District.	Acres.	Acres.	Bush.	Bush.
N. W. ...	90,000	17.7		1,593,000
S. W. ...	554,626	13.9		7,709,301
N. C. ...	240,181	18.		4,323,258
S. C. ...	320,000	18.5		5,920,000
Eastern ...	80,075	20.2		1,738,715
Prov. ...	1,290,882	16.49		21,284,274

OATS.

Area under crop.		Yield per acre.		Total yield.
District.	Acres.	Acres.	Bush.	Bush.
N. W. ...	88,947	30.5		2,102,670
S. W. ...	169,925	18.8		3,194,590
N. C. ...	73,656	30.5		2,246,508
S. C. ...	105,100	30.4		3,195,040
Eastern ...	50,520	35.2		1,778,304
Province ...	468,141	26.78		12,517,112

BARLEY.

Area under crop.		Yield per acre.		Total yield.
District.	Acres.	Acres.	Bush.	Bush.
N. W. ...	13,770	24.		330,480
S. W. ...	32,856	18.		591,408
N. C. ...	37,740	24.		905,760
S. C. ...	44,000	25.		1,100,000
Eastern ...	24,900	28.8		717,120
Province ...	153,266	23.8		3,644,768

FLAX, RYE AND PEAS.

Area in crop.		Average yield.		Total yield.
	Acres.	Acres.	Bush.	Bush.
Flax ...	20,658	15		309,795
Rye ...	2,975	18.5		55,037
Peas ...	1,660	23		38,287

HAY.

Approximate yield per acre.		Cultivated	
Hay.		Grasses.	
Tons.		Tons.	
Northwestern ...	2.		1.5
Southwestern ...	1.5		1.5
North Central ...	1.5		1.1
South Central ...	1.4		1.6
Eastern ...	1.7		1.4
Average ...	1.6		1.4

From the above it will be seen that the past season has not been a favorable one for the fodder crops—the average yield for the province being three-tenths of a ton per acre less than last year, both native and cultivated grasses. This is due, doubtless, to the remarkably dry weather experienced during the month of May, and to the fact that June also was much drier than usual. Reports from different localities show the greatest variation—some stating the yield as high as four tons and some as low as one-half ton per acre. As was the case last year the yield of the native grasses is heavier than that of the cultivated varieties.

LIVE STOCK.

In most parts of the province horses are reported as being rather thin, the reason given being the lightness of last year's oats. Other stock is everywhere reported to be in good condition and in excellent health. No disease has been prevalent, though individual cases of the usual diseases to which stock is subject have been reported. Sheep and pigs are reported doing well and free from disease.

PASTURES.

The majority of reports agree in stating that pastures are in good condition, but from all districts except the eastern and the eastern part of the north central come occasional complaints that they are drying up and badly in need of rain. On the whole the grazing lands of the province are in fair average condition for the season of the year.

BREAKING AND FALLOWING.

Breaking		Fallowing	
District.	Acres.	District.	Acres.
Northwestern ...	9,810		29,700
Southwestern ...	42,380		241,150
North Central ...	15,000		51,750
South Central ...	15,200		51,400
Eastern ...	6,400		12,960
Province ...	88,790		392,960

HARVEST HANDS.

A circular card was sent out by the department to each correspondent asking the number of extra men required to take off the harvest. The answers received indicate that over 4,000 men are required in harvest and threshing. Our agent in the east was notified and the harvest excursions are bringing in a number of men, which it is hoped will be sufficient to take off the crops and get through threshing in good time.

CROP PROSPECTS.

Although the first part of the season was dry and retarded the growth of the crops in most districts, yet it will be seen from the tabulated statement herewith that the crop, on the whole, is a fair average one.

Last season correspondents mentioned some damage by an insect boring at the base of the stems of the wheat plant, causing it to turn white, and producing an empty head. This is reported to a greater extent again this season—the damage being stated in some cases to be as much as one-fifth of the entire crop. If the insect

referred to be the wheat-stem-fly, the remedy is very simple, as will be seen from the following paragraph from the Dominion Experimental farm report for 1896.

"Remedies—As nearly all the larvae (of the wheat-stem saw-fly) pass the winter in the base of the straw. It is quite evident that the most practical remedy will be found in treating the stubble, so as to destroy them or the pupae before the flies emerge. This may be done either by plowing deeply after harvest, or by burning over, which for another reason also will certainly be a most useful practice in Manitoba, for in that province, on account of the usual plan of growing wheat for several successive seasons on the same land, some bad weeds have increased enormously. The burning over of stubble in autumn will certainly destroy vast numbers of these and their seeds, as well as at the same time the larvae of the wheat-stem saw-fly. In Manitoba a great deal more straw is produced every year by farmers than they can possibly feed or use otherwise, and as a consequence, as soon as the farmer knows how much he will require the residue, a large amount, is burned every spring, simply to get it out of the way. Should the wheat-stem saw-fly ever increase sufficiently to affect the yield appreciably the burning in autumn of the straw needed would undoubtedly be a wise practice, as it is known that a few of the cocoons, at any rate, are formed in the straw." Report of Dr. James Fletcher, Botanist and Entomologist.

This is the only serious damage to the crop, reported this year, with the exception of one or two hail storms, of local character, covering only very limited areas.

NOXIOUS WEEDS.

Correspondents report that the inspectors appointed by the municipal councils under the noxious weeds act, are as a rule faithful in the discharge of their duty, and good results may be expected from their work. One correspondent says, "Farmers are putting forth every effort to stamp out noxious weeds. Some are pulling the French weed and burning it, others summer fallowing, plowing and harrowing the land as soon as weeds are in sight." Another says, "We have no weeds in our district, but are on the lookout for them in all seed grain and grass seeds." This is as it should be, and such watchfulness will be well repaid by escaping the annoyance and expense of dealing with the pest.

Care should be taken not to plow on the road allowances, but to leave them the full width, as this will be found of great help in preventing the spread of seeds from one farm to another. Summer fallowing and seeding down are the methods most adopted for killing weeds.

In some cases inspectors have found it necessary to have grain crops plowed under, but this extreme measure has been taken only in a very few instances, where a weedy plot was a menace to a neighborhood. It is individual effort that counts and reports go to show that farmers recognize this. All progressive farmers are looking carefully after the destruction of weeds without waiting for notification, assistance or compulsion from municipal or other officers.

RAINFALL.

N. W. District.		April.	May.	June.	July.
Rapid City84	.74	2.36	
Russell29	1.51	1.21	1.78
Shoal Lake25	.85	1.06	4.81