

THE WEATHER AND CROPS.

We have before us a large number of clippings from local newspapers in all parts of our Province and Dominion, wherein are set forth, with great particularity of detail, the characteristics of the present season, and the harvest prospects of the farmer. It would occupy well nigh half our space to quote these in full, and the necessary sameness of many of them, renders it quite unnecessary to do so. Never, so far as we can remember, has the attention of the local press been so greatly drawn to the weather and crops, or so much space in their columns devoted to the state of the farming interest. Whether this arises from peculiarities in the season that is passing over us, or from an increased appreciation of the importance of agriculture, we know not, but we chronicle the fact with much pleasure. Many of our Provincial newspapers have now a department of the farm and garden, a feature which will tend to increase their popularity among farmers, while it will do the ONTARIO FARMER, and other journals of its class, great good, by awakening and sharpening an appetite for that description of reading.

Taking, what sundry ecclesiastics would term, "a conjunct view" of the numerous weather and crop reports now lying on our table, we find that the season has been wet and backward to an almost unprecedented degree, several newspapers mentioning what one of them records with a spice of facetiæ, that "never in the remembrance of that very respected and venerable personage, 'the oldest inhabitant,' has there been such a cold, wet season as the present, in this country." Notwithstanding this, there is great unanimity in representing the condition of the growing crops as well nigh all that could be desired. Grass, though light here and there, owing to lack of heat, will be, on the whole, fully an average yield, and in some sections of the country, very heavy. The great want is fair weather to cut it. At this date (July 10), we have received hardly any accounts of haying having begun in general good earnest, and fear there has been but little opportunity yet to house hay in proper condition. Such a season is well fitted to teach farmers their need of an implement like the hay tedder, by the use of which they can cure this

important crop in double-quick time, spite of catching weather. Fall wheat is universally spoken well of, and it is now so far advanced that the chief danger to be apprehended is from rust, which, if we should, unfortunately, have a time of close, muggy, sultry weather, may yet do it great damage. Spring wheat reports are generally favourable. Peas, oats and barley are everywhere in excellent condition, and some of the reports before us apply the term "splendid" to their appearance. Root crops can hardly fail to be abundant. Potatoes, especially, never looked better. All garden products are fine, and the market prices indicate supply in excess of demand. The small fruits that have already ripened, or are on the point of doing so, are a plentiful crop; and the prospect is that the larger and later fruits will well nigh equal the earlier ones. On the whole, there is cause to take up the devout strain adopted by one of our exchanges, and which we are glad to echo: "From present appearances we predict a good harvest this year, and all have reason to feel thankful to the Giver of all good things, that the prospects are so encouraging."

The exceptions to the generally favorable accounts above collated, are from sections that are flat, low and in special need of drainage. Both the extremes of drought and wet read the farmer a lesson on the importance of draining his land. This, indeed, more than any other improvement that can be named, requires to be effected on a large scale, to secure that regularity of yield, independently alike of the extremes of dry and wet weather, which is so greatly to be desired.

Very much the same state of things exists in the United States as here. The bi-monthly report of the Agricultural Department, at Washington, for May and June, is to hand, and the returns, mostly statistical, shew a high average condition of wheat, and promise of an abundant yield. Spring and summer crops are, in general, looking well in all parts of the Union, not excepting the regions where corn is a staple product. The latest accounts as to cotton, are favourable, and the crop is estimated at three million of bales, half a million in advance of last year. From causes that need not be fully explained here, there is no decline in the market value of