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Cows that are watered from stagnant ponds or from wells in the barn-yard will give milk more or less tainted, and from which it is impossible to make the best butter. So large a part of milk is water that the drink of the cow is of quite as much importance as her food.

BUTTERCUPS possess a poisonous property, which disappears when the flowers are dried in hay; no cow will feed upon them while in blossom. So caustic are the petals that they will sometimes inflame the skin of tender fingers. Every child should be cautioned against eating them; indeed, it is desirable to caution children about tasting the petals of any flowers, or putting leaves into their mouths, except those known to be harmless.

WE are in receipt of a neat little work of one hundred pages, giving catalogue of the herds and flocks at the Ontario Experimental Farm. The merits of individuals by pedigree is fully given in this catalogue, but as their value otherwise can only be known by inspection, the author has submitted notes on several of the animals. Prof. Brown deserves great credit for the present high position of the Experimental Farm, and we have no doubt the near future will see great advances on what has already been accomplished. We have no doubt our readers can procure a copy of the catalogue on application to the college authorities.

FARMERS and others who are thinking of planting shade trees, or trees for timber groves, could not do better than try the beautiful *Catalpa speciosa*. No other tree grows so fast. Its foliage is very large and shady, but from its open branching it offers little obstruction to the passage of air, while its flowers are exceedingly beautiful, somewhat of the form of a gladiolus, and white in color. A tree planted by the writer four years ago is now 14 feet high, about 5 inches in diameter at the lower part of the stem, and bloomed last year. The timber is exceedingly durable for posts and railroad ties, and, of course, for buildings for farm purposes and fences. It is thus one of the most valuable trees for planting for profit, while for a road tree or an ornamental shade tree it has few, if any superiors and it grows and thrives everywhere.

PROF. SHELDON, in an Article in the *Live Stock Journal*, on the Scotch Dairy Farmers' Association, says:—"Not to Scotland, nor even to Somerset, the birthplace of the system, must we look for improvements which have been wrought out in Cheddar cheese-making. To America, and more particularly to Canada, we must turn in our search for the later developments of which the system has been proved to be susceptible." "The Scotch Farmers," he goes on to say, "feel that their Cheddars compare unfavourably with the mellow and salty cheese of Canada; so much of which is now being sent to the northern markets to compete with the home-made Cheddars. One of the most successful cheesemakers of Canada, Mr. Harris, of Ontario, is now employed by the Association to teach the later Cheddar method to the Scotch dairymen, and we may safely take it for granted that his teaching will have a very beneficial effect on the dairy husbandry of the north."

OUR AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

In addition to reports on the progress of harvest work, the promise of the crops and the state of live stock, the August Report of the Bureau of Industries contains the agricultural statistics of the Province, compiled from the returns made by farmers to the Bureau on the 25th of June. These statistics are tabulated by counties, and comprise (1) the areas of the grain, hay and root crop, with estimates of the year's production; (2) the numbers of horses, cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry; (3) the wool clip of the year, classified as coarse and fine, (4) the quantity of butter made last year, and (5) the average rate of wages paid to farm and domestic servants. A summary of this Report we are sure will prove interesting to the readers of THE RURAL CANADIAN, and we may remark that the information and the statistics are all the more valuable because they are so promptly issued.

FALL AND SPRING WHEAT.

The great staple crop of Ontario, of course, is wheat, and at a time within the memory of the great majority of our farmers it was spring wheat. In the year 1870, for example, the census returns show that the yield of spring wheat was 7,891,989 bushels and of fall wheat only 6,341,400. Ten years later, for the harvest of 1880, the yield of spring wheat was 7,213,624 bushels and of fall wheat 20,193,067 bushels. This remarkable change is accounted for in part by the failure of the spring wheat variety, and, in part, by the introduction of improved varieties of fall wheat. The one was neglected by those people who interested themselves in hybridizing processes, and the other received special attention. How this arose is not positively known, but we suspect that it is due to the fact of seed culture being almost wholly confined to a number of intelligent men in England as well as in New York and other States of the neighbouring Union lying within what is known as the fall wheat belt. Our Province lies on the border land of the two belts on this continent, and, while it is admirably adapted to the life and maturity of fall wheat, the spring variety can only be maintained at the maximum of quality by careful cultivation. There is no doubt as to the fact that for a number of years with us the spring wheat had been gradually "running out," as it is termed; and with a low yield and an inferior sample it is not to be wondered at that spring wheat was being abandoned, especially when several new varieties of fall wheat were bound to give far more satisfactory returns. It is interesting to learn, however, that renewed attention has recently been given to spring wheat cultivation, and that there is a prospect of its restoration to favour especially in all the northern and north-eastern portions of the Province. Several new varieties have recently been imported from the continent of Europe, and last year's crop gave such uniformly good results as compared with the fall wheat that an increased area was to be looked for this year as a matter of course. The following table gives the acreage and estimated produce of the crop for both years:

	1884		1883	
	Acres.	Bushels.	Acres.	Bushels.
Fall wheat..	864,551	18,479,207	1,096,266	11,644,003
Spring wheat	722,410	13,251,137	586,416	9,726,063
Totals	1,586,961	31,730,344	1,682,682	21,370,066

The decrease in the area of fall wheat is about 292,000 acres, while the increase in the area of spring wheat is 136,000 acres. Last year was exceedingly unfavourable for the growth of wheat, and as the ripening season approached the crop was greatly injured by rust. This year, on the other hand, the season has been unusually favourable—the temperature being cool and the rainfall

sufficient—and it will be observed that from an area less in extent by 95,000 acres the product is greater by 10,360,090 bushels. Last year the average per acre was only 12.7 bushels, and the quality of the grain was very inferior; this year the average yield is 20 bushels per acre, and the grain is plump, bright and hard. The harvest weather, too, having been propitious, the crop has been reaped and housed in excellent condition.

Next in importance of our cereal staples is barley, and the fame of

OUR ONTARIO BARLEY

is such that (when of good colour) it is always in great demand with malsters and brings the top prices of the market. The quality, however, is largely dependent on the state of the weather at the harvesting season. If dry our barley is invariably bright, but the fall of one shower when the crop is in sheaf, unless it be well capped, is sure to discolour it more or less. This year the crop has suffered from several causes. In the first place, the temperature was too low; in the second place the drought of June in the northern and north-eastern counties checked the growth; and in the third place the weather was somewhat "catchy" over large areas when the reaping season began. Yet on the whole the crop is fairly good; its condition was greatly improved by the rains and the higher temperature of July, and the worst that can be said is that the grain was stained by the late July rains. A considerable portion of it, however, has been saved in fine order, especially what was cut in the first and second weeks of August. The statistics for this year and last year are given as follows:

	Acres.	Bushels.
1883	757,156	18,414,337
1884	781,435	17,860,777

The comparison is decidedly in favour of this year's crop, for although the area is 55,721 acres less the difference in the total product is only 553,560 bushels—the average yield per acre this year being one bushel greater than last year. The steady extension of barley as an Ontario staple is shown by the census tables—the crop of 1850 being 625,452 bushels; of 1860, 2,821,962; of 1870, 8,461,233 bushels; and of 1880, 14,379,841 bushels.

OATS AND RYE.

Oats may properly be regarded as third in order of importance, and the year's crop is on the whole an excellent one. It is perhaps not equal to last year's—which was extraordinarily good—yet it is a crop to make the farmer's heart glad. Oats thrive best under a moderate temperature, and in this respect it was well suited this season. The chief cause of complaint is the June drought, but in some of the northern sections its failure is attributed in part to the use of frosted seed grain. The latter cause was the more permanent, for under the influence of July rains, the crop appears to have made a fair recovery from the effects of the drought. The figures for two years are as follows:

	Acres.	Bushels.
1883	1,418,309	54,573,609
1884	1,485,620	53,195,805

Rye, as compared with other cereals, is an insignificant crop, and in almost every county of the province the acreage was considerably less this year than last year. The total area last year was 188,111 acres, and the product 3,012,240 bushels; this year the area is only 104,141 acres, and the estimated product 1,621,667 bushels. It has been saved in good order, and the grain is of excellent quality.

PEAS, BEANS AND CORN.

The pea crop of this year appears to have been an unusually good one, and while the breadth