

lature, passed during its last session. It is one of the Chief objects of the Bureau, as stated in my first circular to correspondents, to collect facts and statistics relating to food supplies from every section of the Province, and to abstract, tabulate and publish the same in the common interest of producers, dealers and consumers. A second object, hardly less important, is the procuring of similar information from other agricultural countries, and from countries in which the Province usually finds a market for its surplus products. By this means producers and consumers may be brought nearer together; sudden fluctuations in prices may be averted; the country's annual surplus or deficit of products may be ascertained; and its resources, capabilities and progress in material wealth may be accurately gauged.

The information given in this report has been gathered from all the townships in the Province, except a few in the remote and sparsely-settled north. It is a digest of more than fifteen hundred returns, made in reply to a circular of April 15th, asking for a report on the state of crops and live stock, and kindred subjects. The questions proposed were:

1. What is the general condition of Fall Wheat?
2. What is its condition on the various soils?
3. To what extent, if at all, has it been injured by winter or spring frosts?
4. To what extent, if at all, by worms or insects?
5. Has any wheat land been ploughed up? Or is any likely to be? To what extent?
6. Is Winter Rye grown? What is its condition?
7. What is the condition of the Clover crop, and how has it been affected by winter or spring frosts?
8. What is the condition of Live Stock—Horses, Cattle, Sheep and Pigs?
9. Has any disease appeared among them; and if so, of what nature, and what have been its effects?
10. Was there a sufficiency or a scarcity of fodder supply throughout the winter?
11. What progress has been made with spring work? When did ploughing and seeding begin?
12. In what stage is vegetation, and what is the appearance of the Fruit Trees? How has the winter affected Fruit Trees?
13. Is any considerable quantity of Wheat in farmers' hands above reserves for home consumption?
14. Is any considerable quantity of Hay and Oats?
15. Are any considerable numbers of Fat and Store Cattle?
16. General Remarks.

The circular was addressed to the officers of Agricultural Societies and Granges, the Reeves, deputy-Reeves, and clerks of townships, the inspectors of schools, and others, and the answers were returnable on the 25th of April. Owing, however, to some delay in completing arrangements for the free use of mail service by

the Bureau—which the Dominion Government readily granted—the circular was not sent out as early as was intended, and in some instances less time was given for enquiry than the correspondents would desire. But in spite of this drawback the promptness of the returns has been very gratifying. The correspondents manifest an earnest interest in the objects of the Bureau, and the general tenor of their replies is terse, practical and intelligent.

The main wheat-growing region of Ontario lies westward of the Laurentian system, the easterly limit being an irregular line drawn from the Thousand Islands, in the St. Lawrence, through the counties of Frontenac, Addington, Hastings, Peterborough, Victoria, and Simcoe, to Georgian Bay.

The returns of acreage received from township clerks are incomplete, but they indicate that a large breadth of fall wheat has been sown. In the western peninsula it embraces nearly one-fifth of all the cleared land, but in the counties north of Lake Ontario it is not more than one-tenth; in these counties spring wheat is chiefly grown. The condition of the crop is much less favourable than it was a month ago. The night frosts and the east winds have done it serious injury, especially on low and undrained lands; but, should warm weather set in, accompanied by genial showers of rain, a fair harvest may yet be reaped.

The clover has been irretrievably damaged by winter exposure and spring frosts. The same discouraging reports come from all quarters, and, under the most favourable circumstances, it will not be more than half a crop.

Live stock are generally in good condition. With plenty of fodder, and an open winter, they have fared well. In the eastern counties of the Province, and in the lumbering districts of the north, "pink-eye" prevailed very generally, and in some sections many horses died of it; a common effect on brood mares was to cause them to lose their foals.

The supply of wheat in farmers' hands is reported low; the good prices paid last fall brought nearly the whole surplus of the country into market. The same thing may be said of fat and store cattle, and, even under more favourable conditions than now seem possible, prices are not likely to decline.

The ground was workable at an early stage of the season, and farmers have the great bulk of their ploughing and seeding finished. But vegetation is very slow; there is little growth perceptible, and in Toronto to-day [May 6th] the trees are as naked as in mid-winter.

In the detailed report the counties have been arranged in topographical

groups, the object being to embrace in each group counties possessing the same climatological conditions.

A. BLUE, Sec'y.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRIES,
TORONTO, May 6th, 1882.

AREA AND POPULATION.—RETURNS OF ACREAGE UNDER FALL WHEAT.

A Return made to the Bureau from township clerks gives the population, acres occupied and cleared, and acres in fall wheat, as collected this year by the assessors. The acreage of fall wheat was obtained at the request of the Commissioner of Agriculture, through a circular issued on the 1st of February. In a number of municipalities, however, the assessors had commenced their work before the receipt of the circular, so that the returns are incomplete. But enough have been received from every county of the Province to furnish data for estimates of the whole acreage, and care has been taken to avoid extreme figures.

The total area in fall wheat as given in the summary table is 1,149,100 acres. This is an average of 1 acre to every 9 acres of land cleared and under cultivation in the Province, but the proportion varies greatly in different sections. In some of the western counties it is as high as 1 to 4½, while in some eastern counties it is as low as 1 to 55. In the eastern half of the Province, and in the northern portion of the western half, spring wheat is chiefly grown, and it is proposed to collect its acreage in time for the next monthly report of the Bureau. If its cultivation has kept pace with that of fall wheat it is probable that the total area under wheat will be found to be not less than 2,000,000 acres. In 1870, as shown by the census of 1871, the total area was 1,386,366 acres, with the product of spring and fall wheat nearly equal. The area of land occupied is shown to be 20,150,000 acres, of which a little more than one-half is cleared and under cultivation. In 1870 the area occupied was 16,162,676 acres, of which 8,833,626 acres were cleared and under cultivation. The proportion of cleared to wooded land has been closely maintained. The population, as furnished by the municipal returns, has not been given in the table. One reason is, that the returns are incomplete; another is, that there is too great a discrepancy between them and the returns of the census enumerators. They would indicate that the population of the Province had decreased by 30 per cent within a year. The total population of Ontario, as given by the census of 1881, is 1,923,228, being an increase of 302,377 in ten years. The population of the township municipalities is 1,324,235, which, less a moderate percentage for the population of