

Official Manitoba Crop Report.

A bulletin has been issued by the Manitoba department of agriculture, compiled from returns made to the department under date of August 15. The last bulletin showed that 164,725 acres of wheat were sown on stubble, without plowing. The August bulletin says of this:

"The reports of correspondents just received, indicate that at least 50% of this acreage sown on stubble is a wasted effort, poor crop, very weedy, in most cases plowed down as summer fallow. In order therefore to obtain a basis for calculating the estimated yield of wheat for the Province, 50% of this area, sown on stubble, is deducted from the total acreage under wheat as given in the June bulletin. This leaves the area under wheat, by districts as follows:

North West District....	70,295 acres
South West "	157,665 "
North Central "	190,638 "
South Central "	227,400 "
Eastern "	53,600 "

Total in Province... 999,598 acres

The following tables give the estimated yields of the various kinds of grain for the present season:

WHEAT.

District.	Area under crop, acres.	Yield per acre, bu.	Total yield, bu.
N. Western	70,295	20.77	1,460,571
S. Western	157,665	19.82	3,125,180
N. Central	190,638	18.	3,431,481
S. Central	227,400	16.	3,638,400
Eastern...	53,600	18.	962,560
Province..	999,598	18.57	18,565,198

OATS.

District.	Area under crop, acres.	Yield per acre, bu.	Total yield, bu.
N. Western	65,705	40.	2,628,200
S. Western	159,120	37.5	5,937,000
N. Central	76,100	40.3	3,066,830
S. Central	87,520	31.6	3,027,192
Eastern	51,000	36.	1,941,000
Province..	412,415	37.5	6,633,222

BARLEY.

District.	Area under crop, acres.	Yield per acre, bu.	Total yield, bu.
N. Western	14,790	30	543,700
S. Western	31,200	29.4	917,680
N. Central	27,175	30.4	826,120
S. Central	34,400	25.6	880,640
Eastern...	20,320	26.	528,320
Province..	127,885	28.9	3,696,460

FLAX, RYE AND PEAS.

	Area under crop, acres.	Yield per acre, bu.	Total yield, bu.
Flax.....	20,235	14.2	288,615
Rye.....	3,130	20.4	63,852
Peas.....	1,103	20.5	22,611

NEW BREAKING AND FALLOWING.

	New breaking, acres.	Fallowing, acres.
North Western ..	9,435	29,750
South Western ..	31,460	195,260
North Central ...	13,575	60,600
South Central ...	20,640	56,320
Eastern	8,000	19,680
Totals....	82,710	361,610

HARVEST HANDS WANTED.

The answers sent in by correspondents on post cards, some three weeks ago, advising the department of the number of extra hands wanted to take off the harvest, indicated that over 2,700 men would be required. Hailstorms afterwards destroyed crops in certain districts. By deducting the demand in these districts, and allowing for men in said

districts who would seek employment outside the same, the demand was placed at 2,000. The harvest hands' excursion from Ontario, reaching Winnipeg on the 20th inst., brought the requisite number to supply the demand.

GRAIN CROPS.

To question 14: "State briefly condition and prospects of grain crops."

The best crops, in all parts of the province reported as those growing on summer fallow or new breaking. Crops on fall plowing and spring plowing are only medium. A number of correspondents comparing crop with that of last year, report them light, and short in straw, while the majority of correspondents report crops a fair average. Late crops are rusted on leaves and some on straw. The damage done by rust is not estimated. Where rust is reported answers indicate that there is not much damage done, for in most cases a fine sample of No. 1 hard wheat is expected. Reference to smut is in a few cases and that confined to oats. Special note will be made regarding smut and the preventatives used, in the December bulletin.

HAY.

Approximate yield per acre.

District.	Prairie hay, tons.	Cultivated grasses, tons.
North Western.....	2.2	1.8
South Western.....	1.8	1.8
North Central.....	2.1	1.5
South Central.....	1.8	1.6
Eastern.....	1.9	1.9
Province.....	1.9	1.7

This has been a season specially favorable for pasture and hay. Farmers have secured more hay of excellent quality in sloughs and hay meadows, near home, than for many years past. Some sloughs are reported too wet to cut, but the margins of these are extra good. If time will permit, an additional supply of hay will be secured after the harvest rush is over. The prairie hay as shown by the table above, is a better yield than the cultivated grasses. Farmers throughout the province are, however, providing a supply of timothy and brome grass, which experience teaches, can be profitably cultivated in all parts of the province.

CONDITION OF LIVE STOCK.

Reports from all parts of the province are in a similar strain. With plenty of feed and coarse grains last year, stock has done exceedingly well.

NOXIOUS WEEDS.

It is pleasing to note by reports that farmers in all parts of the province are making an aggressive and successful warfare upon weeds.

Municipal councils with but few exceptions have determined to keep weeds in check and are wisely advising pathmasters and noxious weed inspectors to do their duty in this matter. The result is that the majority of correspondents report that weeds are being cut and burned; or weedy land summer fallowed, and in many instances weeds are being pulled by hand. Sowing wheat on stubble has shown farmers that weeds are likely to take possession of their lands unless properly cultivated. Self-interest has thoroughly aroused farmers, to systematically fight against the encroachment of weeds, as reported by so many correspondents. The best "Noxious Weeds Act" is public opinion, and when every municipality in the province, as well as every farmer in the province, takes an interest in suppressing weeds, not only will their spreading cease, but complete eradication may be expected.

To question 17: "Report on wheat crop on stubble."

Answers indicate that the conditions necessary for a profitable crop by such cultivation are: Land in good order, free from weeds

and a clean burn off of all stubble. As these conditions did not all exist this season, crop sown on stubble land without plowing has been a failure, from at least 50% of which no returns will be obtained. The brief reports given by correspondents are to the point, and convey lessons that will not soon be forgotten. Such as: No good; Light and full of weeds; All plowed down as summer fallow; half wheat, half oats; Cut as green feed; A dear way of gaining experience; 40 bushels to the acre, 5 of wheat, 85 of weed seeds. A few report favorably, where a clean burn of stubble was obtained and the land in good order.

Gambling in Wheat.

Mr. Pillman, of London, who is the foremost English opponent of future trading in wheat, recently appeared before the convention of the National Association of British and Irish Millers and delivered an address on option trading, in the course of which he said: "Your judgment and experience is a distinct disadvantage, for you can not recognize in the daily fluctuations the laws of supply and demand, but surely you see in them the effect of unbounded speculation, made possible by this artificial system, which is not necessary for the distribution of produce, but which affords to the promoters of these markets, and to the thousands of brokers belonging to these exchanges, great wealth, in striking contrast to the poverty of the producer. The farmer should have the same protection as the banker. Fictitious trading should not be permitted in wheat, and then speculation would be confined to dealing in the actual article, as it was twenty years ago. I am glad to state that the German government has passed the bill which comes into operation on January 1st, 1897, prohibiting fictitious trading in wheat and millers' produce. This measure was passed by the reichstag by a vote of two hundred to thirty-nine, but on Monday last is passed its third reading, and was formally adopted by the imperial diet. The Berlin term market is the original system, from which the term market of Chicago, New York and Liverpool are simply adaptations. The Germans, having had the longest experience, are the first to suppress them, and their government has decided to go a step further and open negotiations with all governments of countries in which option trading exists, for international abolition of the artificial and pernicious system.

"Now, gentlemen, what should your attitude as manufacturers be at this important juncture? Is it to be that your association favors the continuance of these artificial markets, created for the fostering of gambling and many evils that follow in their trail, or will you send a resolution to your government, in the interest of milling, just as the central associated chambers of agriculture have done in the interest of farmers? Before the general adoption of these artificial systems of fifteen years ago, you were enabled to conduct your business with profit and a degree of comfort and confidence, based upon your experience and judgment. My object in coming here is to help you to try and restore these natural conditions, and whereas, a year ago, I spoke my honest convictions, based upon close observations, for twenty-three years of the trade, both before and after the introduction of options in America and England, and I see these systems working ruin to merchants, bankers and millers, both directly and indirectly."

After Mr. Pillman had concluded, the following resolution was put: "That, in the opinion of this association, the effects of the gambling markets for wheat (i. e., options or futures) are prejudicial to the interests of agriculture, as well as injurious to the industry of milling."