

Aside from mild forms of distemper and indigestion—attributed by some to so much chaffy stuff having to be eaten—they may be counted as being in good general health. Some correspondents complain of too many old horses being kept. Cattle have not fared so well as horses, and, as a rule, were quite thin when turned on the grass. Some correspondents complain that lack of straw for bedding has resulted in some cattle being affected by a stiffening of the limbs. It is also claimed that more barrenness has prevailed amongst cows, and that a larger proportion than ordinarily of those calving have died. The general opinion is that fewer cattle than usual will be exported this year. Fat stock are scarce, and store cattle are not as plentiful as in more recent years, although a few correspondents claim to have the usual supply of stockers on hand. One return is to the effect that it will be another year before Ontario cattle conditions will right themselves. Sheep have done better than any other class of farm animals, and have been most fortunate in lambing. Some complaints are made of "grub in the head," and the dog nuisance is referred to several times. Swine are thin, and are not to be found in as large numbers as last year. So many brood sows were sold just before the winter, owing to the scarcity of feed, that it is doubtful if the fall delivery of bacon hogs will be anything near the record of more recent years. A form of crippling among swine, attributed to rheumatism, is reported in various localities. The good growing weather of the middle of May was greatly welcomed by owners of live stock, and many animals were then on the grass.

Supplies.—Hay was so scarce and dear last fall that much anxiety was felt by many as to whether they could pull along until the new growth was available. Some farmers were forced to buy hay, but the bulk of those owning live stock, by careful feeding, came through the winter

without having to resort to purchasing, and a number of persons who were holding surplus hay over for famine prices are now willing to sell at from \$4 to \$6 a ton less than was offered for it in the fall. Oats have not been so scarce and high in price for years, although here and there a few farmers report a fair supply on hand. Most of the wheat has been sold, and the supply in the barns is much less than is usual at this time of the year. More farmers than ever are buying flour, and are feeding or selling all their wheat.

Fruit Trees.—Orchards have come through the winter in good condition, having suffered less than usual from severe cold, ice storms, mice, etc. The San Jose scale and the oyster-shell bark louse are reported at various points, but the spraying campaign is being more vigorously entered upon than ever, and more attention generally is now being paid to orchard trees. Fruit buds promise a good yield should rain hold up during the period of bloom. In short, the spring outlook was never better for Ontario fruit.

Spring Seeding.—In the Lake Erie district seeding was almost completed by the middle of May, and in some of the other western counties work was also well advanced, although hindered somewhat by rain. In the eastern half of the Province, more particularly in the St. Lawrence and Ottawa counties, heavy rains have kept farmers off the land, except in most favorably situated places, and much spring sowing remained to be done. Early in the season the land everywhere was in more or less good tilth, but in many sections the wet weather has made the soil rather sad and lumpy for best results. The bulk of the seed sown has caught nicely, and with favorable weather continuing spring grains will get off to a fair start. Fears are expressed by some correspondents that corn, potatoes and roots will be rather late in planting.