



Sheep Clipping in Yorkshire, England.—A Familiar Scene in the Springtime.

Shearing Time

BY OUR ENGLISH

CORRESPONDENT

Sheep shearing is an important part of farm life in England during May and June. Fortunately there is a better outlook for the product than there has been for some time. Shearing time is very different from what it was in the days of our forefathers, for then it resulted in a jollification and festivities reigned supreme. That was the time when the demand for wool greatly exceeded the supply and when Englishmen wore genuine woollen clothes and not shoddy. Prospects this year are fortunately better in consequence of an important rise in the markets for the kinds of wool. The sorts that were quoted last spring

from 12 to 18 cents and 20 cents per lb., were only worth from 10 to 12 cents per lb. a year or two ago, and some wools were even placed as low as 9 cents per lb. Flockmasters are thus congratulating themselves upon this welcome change, and by the tone of the markets there appears to be no immediate prospect of any relapse from the upward movement. Cloth has already gone up in price, especially for the best qualities, which are made from new wool, and as far as I can ascertain buyers and manufacturers anticipate will go higher than they are at present. The sheep owner can only devoutly hope that it will be so.

Fall Wheat in Western Ontario

The wheat crop is one of the things to be reckoned as largely a failure throughout western Ontario. In most places it was seriously damaged by the severe winter, more especially in the southern parts, where a thick crust formed over the deep snow and smothered the crop; those who plowed the wheat down and sowed other crops have the most reason to congratulate themselves. Many instances are to be seen where the farmer simply sowed barley over the damaged portions, expecting thereby to get a crop of mixed grain that would make good meal and roughage. Further north, the crop appeared to fare better, and, while a considerable portion was killed or damaged, there were many fields to be seen that appeared in flourishing condition, and promised a bountiful harvest. Rust has attacked these, and the general sample of wheat to be found in the best looking fields of Ontario is about as poor as has ever been seen. Rust is one of the things which scientific research and experiment seems unable to offer any remedy for. Given a dry, early summer, with later enough rain to produce fairly rapid growth, even a week's succession of heavy dew or foggy mornings, and damage from rust is about as sure as the coming of harvest itself. Generally speaking, too, it is the best varieties of wheat, under other circumstances, that suffer the most from rust. Such grains as goose wheat or speltz, are practically unaffected, while the grains that have become popular through their other commendable qualities are the heaviest sufferers through rust.

Various attempts have been made to place the credit for rust in various places. A short time ago a series of experiments seemed to give grounds for

the surmise that barberry bushes were fertile in imparting rust to cereals in their vicinity. These were ordered to be destroyed, other measures were taken, but the rust is still here. There is possibly a good field for investigation on the part of the pure-bred seed association in this department, and a trial to determine if seed of good sample, growing on stalks unaffected by rust, would not prove the progenitors of plants enjoying some comparative immunity from this plague. Thus far, other cereals seem to be unaffected to any serious extent, but the prospect is a very uncertain one, and farmers will congratulate themselves if they suffer no more losses through damage to their cereal harvests in this way.

J. W. S.

The Outlook for Fruit

The Fruit Division, Ottawa, obtained during July a very full return with reference to the fruit crop of the Dominion, which is in part as follows:

Dividing the apple crop into fall and winter varieties the reports show a medium to full crop of the former. In the apple sections, from which the bulk of the winter fruit will be obtained for export, the crop is not as large as last year but may be classed as light to medium. A very clear distinction must be made between fall apples and good storing stock. The reports from Great Britain and Europe generally show a very large crop of fruit that will come into direct competition with our fall varieties and may slightly affect the market for winter fruit, but as the present time European apples do not compete seriously with our keeping varieties. The apple crop in Canada appears to be singularly free from the attacks of insects and fungous diseases. It is quite probable that

the codling moth will not be a serious pest, but there are indications that the spot may yet develop to a slight, if not a serious, degree.

Pears, except in British Columbia, will be a light crop. There will be very few for export, but the quality of those will be good.

Cherries in British Columbia have been a full crop, but a light crop throughout Ontario. In the rest of Canada, wherever grown, they have been light to medium.

Only one or two districts report serious depredations of insects, and the indications at present are that fruit growers will be little troubled this year by either insects or fungous pests.

The reports from the United States, particularly those portions that compete with Canada, indicate a large but not an extraordinary crop of fruit. The indications in England, France, Germany, Holland and Belgium point to a crop somewhat above the average.

Nova Scotia Farm Prospects

The midsummer lull is now in evidence and trade generally is of a holiday character. In some lines in which farmers in particular are interested the markets are decidedly flat. Dairy products are extremely dull and dealers are stocking at unheard of prices. In fact, it is hard to say what is to be done with the surplus butter and cheese which the Maritime Provinces have this year to dispose of. There is little export outlet, and there is only one exporting house in the city that is now doing much buying. Last week a lot of cheese was offered on the Charlottetown Cheese Board, and was withdrawn because only 7 1/2 cents was bid. A small number were sold at 7 1/2 cents. A number of factories in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are willing to sell at 8 cents but buyers are few. Butter also is extremely dull and jobbers are paying only 13 1/2 to 15 cents for new made dairy. Eggs are scarce and there is some difficulty in getting orders filled in P. E. Island. The price here would be at least a cent higher were it not for some ill-feeling among jobbers which gives rise to a disposition to undersell each other.

Farmers throughout the province are now cutting their upland hay. Owing to the dry weather which prevailed for the last month the hay on the uplands will be only about 75 per cent. of an average crop. The bulk of the hay which comes to the market, however, is grown on the intervals and dyke lands surrounding the Bay of Fundy, and these have been much benefited by late rains, so as it is much better than the upland hay it will probably reach an average yield.

Grain and root crops are estimated below the average by the Nova Scotia crop report, but conditions have materially improved since its publication. The apple crop still promises to be a very large one in this province.

Fishermen are doing very well, and as this industry is a very important one in Nova Scotia, a good fish year means much to almost every branch of business. Two Lunenburg Bankers have just arrived from their summer voyage, one with 1,500 and the other 1,000 quintals. Last year the vessel average for the entire season's work of three voyages was only slightly over 1,000 quintals.

Horse racing in Nova Scotia has received a setback. Some ten days ago the trotter "Drusil," owned by J. T. Prescott, of Sussex, N.B., dropped dead after winning a race at Springfield. Last week another B. Elton's speedy mare, "Yonita F." died on the train after a close race at New Glasgow. Horse racing is evidently a risky business with which farmers should have little to do.

—J. B.