

only be held in check by the enactment and enforcement of just laws for the protection of the people. The old-time highwayman plied his trade successfully, for want of effective Governmental interference. In like manner does the modern highwayman, who robs, not with pistols, but with freight-bills. When the people rise *en masse*, and demand effective Governmental interference, we shall get it, and not before. Already there are signs in the United States of a grand popular uprising for this purpose, and there must be one throughout Canada. In the mighty army that will fight for and win victory along this line, the farmers will be the most important class, and it is high time they were enlisting for the fray.

FARM FENCES.

All through the Great North-West, recently visited by us, it is observable that stock are fenced in, not out. The farmers of Manitoba, Dakota, and Northern Minnesota cannot, if they would, adopt any other system. Fence material is too scarce and costly to make the system practicable that obtains at the east. There can be little question that the time is coming, and is not very far distant, when there will be a great revolution as to fencing all over the American continent. Facts like the following prove this to a dead certainty:—

The Iowa Agricultural Report for 1859 says: "The annual cost of keeping up our fences exceeds the total sales of our live stock."

The Iowa Report of 1866 says: "The total cost of fencing the land in most of our States exceeds the cost of the buildings."

The Massachusetts State Reports give the cost of fencing in several States: "Up to 1875, the cost of fences in Kansas had reached \$80,000,000; in New York, \$144,000,000; in Iowa, \$74,000,000; in New Hampshire, \$42,000,000; in Pennsylvania, \$108,000,000; in Massachusetts, \$23,000,000; in Maine, \$25,000,000."

The Report of the New York State Agricultural Society for 1862 says: "The taxes paid by the farmers of New York State are thirty-three cents per acre. The annual taxes that fences occasion are \$1.12 per acre."

The Report of the United States Department of Agriculture declares: "The fencing in use in the United States, in 1875, had cost \$1,748,529,185."

We see it declared that the annual cost of maintaining the fences of the United States is \$449,476,098.

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF THE SEASON.

The following epitome is from the monthly report of the Ontario Bureau of Industries, and gives, in a brief, compact form, the main facts relating to the crop yields for 1882:

The early weeks of spring were dreary in the extreme. There was little rainfall, a succession of killing frosts, and a continuous blow of east winds. A rainy spell followed, and with the setting in of warm weather the crops sprang up as if they were under an enchantment. The meadows thickened, the fall wheat, that was believed to have been ruined, grew to be the finest crop seen in twenty years, and the spring grains promised a splendid yield.

But just at the critical time another change occurred. The heavy grain became lodged, the wheat in many districts was smitten with rust, and throughout the western counties harvest work has been interrupted by a week of rain. Fortunately, however, the storm was not general throughout Ontario, and in a large wheat-growing section no harm has been done.

The correspondents of the Bureau refer this month (August) to the state of grain crops on the 1st of the month, and to the progress of haying and harvesting operations at that date. They also report on the fruit and root crops, on live

stock and the dairying interest, and on the supply of farm labour and the rate of wages. A large majority of the correspondents are themselves farmers, and report what they see and know. It is not possible, however, to organize a full and efficient staff in a single season. The services of men who will, without remuneration, collect and report facts promptly and intelligently are not procurable in every neighbourhood; but it is gratifying to know that there are many such men in the country, and that they fully appreciate the efforts made to promote the farmer's interests.

The month of July was very favourable for haying, the weather being steady, and the temperature moderate, and the bulk of the crop has been saved in excellent order. Clover recovered to some extent from the serious damage done to it by winter exposure and spring frosts, but in the most favoured localities the yield does not exceed one ton per acre, and the general average is much less. Timothy and mixed grasses were very heavy, and the uniform report from all sections is that no better crop has been gathered in twenty years.

Throughout the western half of the Province fall wheat has been remarkably heavy, but it has not escaped the dangers incident to a late season of ripening. Owing to a rank growth of straw and occasional rain storms, the crop lodged badly in many localities just as the grain was beginning to harden, and about the same time, unfortunately, it was struck with rust. As a consequence, the sample is not generally as good as was looked for; it is lacking in plumpness and colour. The worst effects from those causes are reported from the loamy lands of the south-western counties—from Essex, and the basins of the Thames and Sydenham rivers. In some sections the whole crop has been reaped and saved in good condition, but the bulk of it was either standing or in shock when work was interrupted last week by a rain storm of several days' duration. Late reports say that in many fields the grain has sprouted, but the full extent of the damage will not be known for some time. The storm was local, and confined chiefly to the western counties. In the Georgian Bay counties a large acreage has been saved in good order, and the sample is prime. In the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence and Ottawa counties, the crop was badly winter-killed, and what remains will yield less than an average. In the East Midland counties a good crop will be harvested, but not equal to last year's. In the Lake Erie counties, where some grain has been threshed, it is found to yield from 20 to 30 bushels per acre, and correspondents in all counties west of Toronto estimate the yield at not less than 20 bushels per acre. Spring wheat in the eastern half of the Province, where it is extensively grown, gives promise of an abundant harvest, but in some districts it is being attacked by the midge, the Hessian fly, and rust.

Barley is everywhere a heavy crop, and a large acreage has been grown, especially in the Lake Ontario and East Midland counties. The grain is uniformly plump and of good colour, with a few exceptions where it ripened too rapidly, owing to the drought, or where it lodged and rusted. In the western counties the yield is good, but the harvesting season has been unfavourable.

There is a large area under oats, and, excepting in the Georgian Bay counties, the crop is reported good all over. In those counties it was affected by a local drought. The estimates of correspondents range from 35 to 60 bushels per acre. Peas are a good crop in all the northern counties, but elsewhere they have been injured by the bug.

The corn crop is everywhere pronounced a failure. The season has been too wet and cold for it, and though it has made good growth during the past three weeks, there is little chance now of its attaining to half an average crop. Beans are chiefly grown in the counties of Kent, Norfolk, Brant and Renfrew. They are generally reported good, but in some localities the crop is worthless.

Potatoes were injured by too much rain early in the season, and later on by the drought. The beetle, too, is about as troublesome as ever. Turnips, mangolds and carrots have only partially come up, and a good crop is rare; turnips

especially are late, and are badly injured by the fly.

The fruit crop is poor in all the best fruit-growing districts. The blossoming season was hopeful, but the fruit has been destroyed by a combined attack of frost, blight and insects. Apples are good only in the Lake Ontario and River St. Lawrence counties, and there they will be less than half a crop. Peaches and plums are almost a total failure, pears and grapes are fairly good, and small fruit alone is abundant.

Pastures were good throughout June and the first half of July, but recently they have become parched and bare in many parts of the Province. This has been especially the case in the Lake Ontario counties, where in some districts cattle had to be given extra fodder. Fat cattle are scarce, particularly in the finer classes suitable for export, and there is a disposition to force young cattle prematurely into the market. The dairying interest is less flourishing now than it was earlier in the season, and the milk supply is falling off. The recent rains, however, will doubtless make the pastures good again.

Farm labourers have been scarce, and the demand for them was increased by the general heaviness of the harvest. Wages ran from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per day, and from \$25 to \$40 per month with board, and even at these high figures it was difficult to procure men.

The *Inter-Ocean* (Chicago) is of opinion that if the State can teach boys useful trades after it gets them into penal or reformatory institutions, surely it should find the means of teaching them such trades before they have lapsed from virtue. This is a strong argument for teaching agriculture, the most universally practicable of all trades, in our public schools.

It is reported that the American Jersey Club are proposing to exclude from entry in their herd book all animals not bred either in the U.S. or on the island of Jersey. Mrs. E. M. Jones, of Brockville, Ont., the pioneer Jersey breeder of this Province, we believe, has entered a most vigorous and eloquent protest against this narrow and unjust policy in the *Country Gentleman*, which it is to be hoped, may have the desired effect.

The attention of new settlers on the prairie should be directed to the advantage of providing earth cellars, built on the surface of the ground within a rod or two of the rear of their dwellings, and connected by a covered way. Not only are they convenient for a thousand household purposes, but are a sure place of refuge and protection in case of fire, during a blinding snowstorm, or a high wind like those devastating Iowa and Nebraska. Should a prairie farmer, wife and children, a mile distant from a neighbour, be driven from his burning house, his ground hole would save the family from death by freezing, and against twisting deadly cyclones, should they ever find this valley. It is the only form of sure protection for the settler against wind, fire, lightning and freezing.—*Nor'-West Farmer*.

WORTH KNOWING.

A Winnipeg business man, writing to the *Monetary Times*, gives the following rules to be observed in connection with the shipment of freight from Ontario:—

1st. Be sure and bring through with you one copy of the invoice, with all articles or packages named on it, together with shipping bill, having written on it the guaranteed through rate of freight.

2nd. Mark every package fully with the address, also the weight if possible.

3rd. Never prepay the freight through, for in prepaying freight you run the risk of having it billed here as if not paid by some of the American roads over whose lines it may pass, and then have to pay it over again here, without any redress, except trying to collect the amount first paid.