

into use; and its introduction marks a new era in the branch of business for which it is designed; effecting as it does such an immense saving of time and labor, and at a season when they are of such value as to establish itself at once as one of the most valuable and effective labor-saving machines ever offered to the farming community." \* \* "The success of this machine is complete. From every part of the country there comes united testimony in regard to its perfectly satisfactory performance in every possible kind of work. Its use the past three years has fully demonstrated the perfection of principle upon which it is built."

"We call attention to this important invention, because we wish to encourage its general use, and we believe that one of the machines should be owned in every neighborhood at least, so that every farmer, who raises potatoes, may avail himself of its use."

The Programme of the great Annual Exhibition of Ontario will be found on another page. The Exhibition is to be held this year in London, during the latter part of September. We hope to be able to find room next month for the Rules and Regulations under which these Canadian Exhibitions are held, so that hints may be obtained for the arrangements connected with our own Provincial Exhibition, to be held next year.

The Act remodelling the Central Board of Agriculture is not likely to come into force for some time.

#### CONDITION OF CROPS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES UP TO THE MONTH OF JULY.

(Condensed from the Monthly Report of Department of Agriculture, Washington.)

During the month of June, conditions of vegetable growth were remarkably diversified in different parts of the country. In the New England and Middle States, and as far south as the Chesapeake Bay, the general character of the season was one of drought; in many counties disastrous to vegetation. The opposite class of hygrometrical conditions prevailed in the South Atlantic and Gulf States, where the rain-fall was enormous in some localities, and excessive in its general average. Cases are reported in which nearly every day of June was rainy. The ground became thoroughly saturated, and the grass gained such headway that many fields of corn and cotton were abandoned. This abundance of moisture, however, was unfavourable to the development of insect life, and consequently the depredations upon the cotton crop were much less than the previous reports had given ground to fear. In the inland Southern States—Arkansas,

Tennessee, West Virginia, and Kentucky—the rain-fall was abundant, and in many places excessive, but not to so injurious an extent as in the States further south. South of the Ohio River, the rains were generally moderate, and in many places the weather was reported very fine. Westward an increase of atmospheric disturbances is noticeable; heavy storms of wind, rain, hail, with thunder and lightning, were frequently destructive of growing crops. West of the Mississippi, accounts are somewhat variant, the majority, however, showing an abundant rain-fall, while in no case is the drought severe. Heavy hail storms are reported in this quarter also. In California, the general character of June was cool and dry, with exceptions, especially in the northern part of the State. In Oregon, the rain was more general and heavy; in some cases enabling farmers to dispense with irrigation entirely. In Linn County, the rain-fall was greater than for twenty years.

#### WHEAT.

A large proportion of the winter-wheat, in several of the States, was reported in June as winter-killed. As the season advanced, however, it was discovered that in many cases the crop was only thinned out, and that its increased size and weight of heads and plumpness and beauty of berry promised a very considerable compensation for the losses of winter. An improvement in quality was also quite generally noted in several of the largest wheat-growing districts. In a large number of counties, however, wet weather during harvest not only delayed the gathering of the crop, but also threatened to injure it in the shock.

It was observed that the early-sown fields of winter-wheat were far more promising than those later sown. The advantage of early-ripening varieties was also indicated by the fact that these escaped the ravages of insect enemies, which entirely swept some of the later crops. Of these early ripening varieties, the Fultz and Tappahannock from the Department, especially the Fultz, receive very frequent and honorable mention.

Of counties growing spring-wheat, the number above average declined during June from 103 to 87, and counties average from 115 to 108, while the counties below average have increased from 68 to 142. The general condition of spring-wheat was enhanced in Ohio, Wisconsin, Nebraska, California and Oregon. It declined in all the New England and Middle States, and in all the Northwestern States, except those just mentioned. There is but casual mention of spring-wheat in the South. In New England, the dry weather interfered with the growth of the crop, while in the North-

west, in many localities, a variety of insect enemies—the Hessian fly, the grasshopper, the chinch-bug, &c.—very seriously injured the crops. The deterioration of spring-wheat appears to have been greater in proportion than the improvement of winter-wheat, yet the larger amount of the latter grown in the country will probably restore the equilibrium. Upon a careful consideration of all points in the problem, the prospective wheat-yield of 1873, judging from its condition on the 1st of July, appears about the same as at the 1st of June, or about 220,000,000 bushels.

#### INDIAN CORN.

The low price of corn in the Northwestern states, the backward, wet, frosty spring, and the extraordinary amount of rain in all except the New England and Middle States during the planting season, are among the causes which have checked an increase, and to some extent occasioned a decrease in acreage; in all the Gulf States there is an increase. This result, due mainly to a healthy tendency in the cotton States toward producing their own supplies, has, perhaps, been perceptibly increased by the amount of cotton-fields plowed up and planted in corn. The largest absolute falling off, by far, is in the great corn-growing State of Illinois, in which there is also a still larger falling off, 15 per cent., in condition.

Condition.—Owing to the peculiarities of the spring weather, the planting of corn was almost universally late. Throughout the Northern, Middle, and Northwestern States, the seed, to an unheard-of extent, failed to germinate. This is generally accounted for on the supposition that the seed-corn, not being sufficiently dried in the autumn, was injured by the extraordinary freezing of last winter. This failure, together with the extensively prevailing wet, cold weather, during the season of its germination, and the consequent depredations of worms, has occasioned an unprecedented amount of replanting, often the second, and in not a few cases the third, and even the fourth time. In the New England and Middle States, also in Ohio, Michigan, and sections of adjacent States, and in California, an early drought checked its growth, while South and West protracted wet weather, has greatly hindered cultivation, and multiplied weeds and grass. These causes combined left the crop, July 1, generally quite backward and in an unfavourable condition. But as the stand is nearly, if not quite, average, as the too dry weather at the North, and the too wet at the South and West, have already changed for the better, and as July and August are the months in which corn is made, (except in the cotton States), there is yet a chance for great improvement, and a much larger crop than the