

FARMING CONDITIONS IN MANITOBA.

The first of the series of crop bulletins of the Manitoba Department of Agriculture for this season was issued last month under date of June 1st. A pretty full reprint of it is given in another part of this issue. This is the first and only authoritative statement regarding the crops of Manitoba that has been published this year and is consequently of considerable interest and importance. To simplify the understanding of the crop situation as a whole and in the different parts, the Department divides the province into districts. Hitherto this has been done by grouping the electoral divisions, but this year a new plan has been adopted, the municipalities being grouped. This change is certainly for the better. Altogether some three hundred and fifty correspondents contributed to this bulletin, these covering pretty thoroughly every part of the province.

The acreage under crop this year is much larger than in past years. Of course, it is natural that this should be so, but the large increase shown is none the less gratifying for all that. The table of acreage shows that wheat has now passed the one million acre point, with 1,476,550 acres more than in 1891—1892 was a smaller year than 1891. Oats, barley and roots all show a considerable increase in acreage. In potatoes, while a larger area is sown to them this year than last, are still below the 1891 mark. Possibly the next bulletin will show that they have still further increased as the acreage given is only approximate, the seeding not being all done at the time the reports were sent in. The table of areas under crop in the different divisions shows that the Southwestern is away ahead of all the others. This is attributed to the impetus given by the branch railway extensions of last year. It will be remembered that the extensions were: On the Glenboro branch, extension to Souris, connecting there with the Souris branch; on the Deloraine branch, extension to Napioka connecting there with the Souris branch; and on the Souris branch extension to Estevan in Assiniboia.

Speaking of the plowing, the bulletin says: "It is pleasing to notice that there is a decided increase in the number of acres plowed, while special attention is given to fall plowing." It is pleasing to note that, it shows that the farmers are beginning to use their intelligence in the management of their farms.

The scarcity of female help is noticed under the head of "hired help." It seems that this is always going to be a cry in Manitoba. Female help of any kind is exceedingly scarce both in town and country, and good female help it is almost impossible to get. The majority of the present supply are hardly worth the name of "help."

The reports given in this bulletin show that there is still room for improvement on the part of our farmers in the care and management of their live stock. The most useless and contemptible class of farmers are those who keep live stock and do not give the animals proper care. A farmer who from laziness or indifference neglects his field work,

while he too is no credit to the country, is the principal sufferer himself for his neglect, but the man who neglects live stock, especially in the severe months of the winter, should get six months in jail or a coat of tar and feathers. Live stock is being more generally gone into throughout the province.

The weather so far this year has been all that could be desired. Although spring opened exceptionally late, when it did open the fine weather came with a rush and vegetation has advanced by leaps and bounds.

Taking the crop prospects in Manitoba all round they are good, in fact it can almost be said they have never been better.

MANITOBA FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

The second annual convention of the Manitoba Central Farmers' Institute was held at Brandon on June 27th and 28th. Among the prominent men present were Mr. C. C. James, Ontario's Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Mr. McKellar, Chief Clerk in the Manitoba Department of Agriculture, Mr. Bedford, Superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Farm, and prominent members of the Institute from various parts. Premier Greenway, who was expected to address the convention, was unable to be present and Prof. Robertson, Dominion Dairy Commissioner, who was to have given two addresses and a paper on dairying, was also unable to be present. The Secretary's report showed that at the beginning of this year seventeen farmers' institutes were in operation in this province, and seven had become defunct. Of these, three have since been revived and five new ones have been organized. The meetings throughout were very interesting. On Thursday the delegates were expected to visit the Experimental Farm, but at the time of writing no report of that day's operations were available, so we cannot say if that intention was carried out.

Editorial Notes.

A good suggestion has been made by a writer to one of the Calgary papers regarding wedding presents for the Princess May. It is that the people of Alberta send her a team of Alberta bred horses. This would make a very appropriate and valuable present and one which she no doubt would highly appreciate.

A copy of a pamphlet by a grain dealer on "For Canada, Transportation the Problem," reached THE COLONIST some weeks ago, but too late for mention in our last number. As its title indicates it takes up the conditions affecting the industrial growth of Canada, dealing principally with the question of transportation.

MR. HUGH SUTHERLAND, the projector of the Hudson's Bay Railway scheme, is again in Canada. He left Ottawa for Winnipeg on June 27th. He claims to have all the arrangements for the completion of the line made, and is only waiting for a favorable opportunity to put the scheme on the London money market.

THE 1893 editions of the C.P.R. Company's popular pamphlet guides "Summer Tours" and "Fishing and Shooting" are out. Every pleas-

ure-seeker should obtain a copy of these before deciding upon a route for their summer tour or a field for a week's shooting. The facilities offered by the C.P.R. for reaching pleasure resorts and hunting grounds are unequalled.

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CAPTAIN STOTT and the officers of the new Australian liner, *Miowera*, entertained the mayor and aldermen and prominent citizens of Vancouver and Victoria to a parting banquet on board their ship just previous to her departure on the return trip to Sydney. An Australian menu was served, and proved quite a novelty to the British Columbians. On the front of the menu card was this inscription: "Luncheon given to the citizens of British Columbia on the a.s. *Miowera*, of the Canadian-Australian Steamship Company, by Captain Stott and officers, Wednesday, June 14, 1893." On the back of the card was the Canadian ensign with the words: "Hands across the sea." The affair passed off very pleasantly, and immediately after the guests had gone ashore the vessel cast off and started on her return voyage.

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AN inquirer in the *Carberry News* of a couple of weeks ago asks for information which will enable him and others to detect and exterminate noxious weeds. This is a good sign. It shows that the noxious weed agitation of late years is having its effect. More of the farmers of the province should inform themselves in this matter. The best plan for everyone to follow who desires to obtain the best results in the war against weeds is to write to the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa for copies of the publications which have been issued from there, which describe all the common kinds of weeds and give the means for killing them. These could, no doubt, also be obtained from Mr. Bedford, Superintendent of the Farm at Brandon.

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THE discussion of the present needs and future prospects of the Dominion of Canada, which has been occupying so much of the attention of the Canadian public of late months, has brought out with great distinctness the fact that the only phases of the question of present needs which require general attention are those of tariff and transportation. Canada it has been shown by past developments, and the truth of the showing is undoubted, is all right at the bottom, and can compare very favorably with any other country in the world as to resources and capabilities, but artificial barriers to trade and commerce have been created by the foolish policy of our Government, and these considerably hamper the growth and progress of the country. As soon as they are removed and natural conditions are restored there will be a general awakening of native industries, which will place the country on a thoroughly sound and reliable footing. Then Manitoba and the whole of the vast unsettled areas west of the lakes, which are so admirably suited for farming, stock raising and kindred industries, will be filled up with a rapidity that will surprise the most sanguine of the country's admirers.