

THE CROPS.

THE most gratifying accounts of the appearance of the crops throughout the Province are presented by our exchanges. A week ago the farmers were anxious and expectant. There was a lack of rain to lay the dust, to moisten the ground and give the necessary stimulus to the seed cast on the soil. Within the last few days we have had rain in abundance, probably beyond both the desire and expectation of the proprietors of low lying lands, but still more recently we have had strong winds, which have aided in the absorption of superabundant moisture, although they would have been none the less welcome had they been a little warmer. Much, of course, depend on the continuance of the present favorable condition of the weather, but the warm sunshine which has come in the wake of the cold nor-wester which has come in the wake of a brighter and deeper color than they already display, and give emphasis to the promise we now possess of an abundant harvest.—*Guelph Herald*

From all parts of the county in this and adjoining townships we hear but one expression of opinion with respect to the growing crops. The fall wheat looks extremely healthy, and promises a bountiful yield, while the hay crop, from present appearances, will far surpass in quantity and quality the growth of any previous year for some time past. The prospects, as far as we can learn, are, that more than an average crop of everything may be looked for, unless something extraordinary intervenes to blast present bright hopes.—*London Prototype*

We have conversed with several gentlemen who have travelled through various parts of the county, who declare the appearance of the fall crops exceedingly favorable. The weather has been beautiful for growing wheat, and farmers are sanguine of a splendid production. The late rains refreshed the ground wonderfully, and gave health and impetus to cereals that will result in great good to the country. The soil is in excellent condition for the spring crops; they never had a better chance to spring up and flourish luxuriantly. This is the first time for many years that we have not heard complaints from some quarter, and we hope it will prove prognosticatory of a glorious fall, spring and summer yield.—*Guelph Advertiser*

There never was a better appearance of a good crop.—*Goderich Signal*

The crop reports from all parts of the country are exceedingly favorable. The prospects of a generally abundant harvest were hardly ever better than now.—*Prescott Telegraph*

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After a somewhat protracted season of chilly nights and mornings, cool and rainy days springing here in all its pristine beauty. The late rains have made a wonderful improvement in vegetation, and the grass has now that green appearance which betokens vigorous growth. Early vegetables are also springing up from their earthy beds, and the appearance of the fall wheat is most favorable. In the whole, the prospects of a good season are hopeful, both in regard to business and agriculture, and if the weather continues fair, and the seasons do not molest us a bountiful harvest and a brisk business season are in store for Canada.—*Barton Herald*

The spring crops in this section of the country, for the time of the year, never looked more promising, and we are told that fully one-third more grain has been sown this spring than on any previous one for years. The fine conditions in which it has been put in fully warrants us in the belief that the prospect for a bountiful harvest is never better.—*Naprean Express*

From all parts of our country we receive the most encouraging reports in reference to the growing crops. The winter has passed away and the fields have assumed their beautiful summer appearance. Great fears were entertained that the spring frosts would materially injure the winter crops, but we are happy to learn that the winter grain never looked better, and that the prospects are most encouraging. In reference to the spring crops in consequence of the favorable weather, an unprecedented breadth of land has been sown, which has been put into the ground in the very best condition; and the late fine showers have had the effect of bringing it uniformly above the surface, and of giving it a good healthy appearance. This is a cause of great encouragement, and we congratulate our enterprising agriculturists upon their splendid prospects of an abundant harvest, when we trust "the husbandman will reap the reward of his labor."—*Pembroke Observer*

From all parts of the townships round Fergus we have favorable reports of the appearance of the spring crops. There was not a great deal of fall wheat sown, but what was looks first-rate, and so far, every thing indicates a good return to the agriculturist for his labor.—*News Record*

Ten specimens of quartz from the shores and islands of Vermilion Lake, in North Eastern Minnesota, are found to yield an average of \$53.10 gold, and \$14.46 silver per 2,000 pounds, gold being estimated at the rate of 90 cents, and silver at 60 cents per penny weight. How extensive these deposits are is not yet known. Silver is also found in considerable quantities in the neighborhood of Soudaw Lake, forty miles North East from Vermilion; and at Fort William, on the North-Western shore of Lake Superior.

MINING IN NOVA SCOTIA.

FROM the Halifax Mining Gazette for May, we obtain several items of information respecting the gold fields and gold product of that province. In its review of the previous fortnight the *Gazette* says—Heavy rain during the past fortnight has interrupted both pit and surface work, but the short intervals of fine weather were turned to profitable account by the prospecting parties now ranging the country from one extreme to the other. The latest discoveries are at Ecum Secum on the south-east coast, at Brimsby Hill, about five miles east of Unlace, and French Landing. Some rich, though small, surface specimens have been taken from the two first named districts. Explorations have commenced, too, at Stillwater, a station beyond Unlace.

"We have no reliable quotations for stock, but understand that several parcels of Imperial, Westlake, Union and Central, of 'black' and of the Provincial and Orient of Wine Harbor—have changed hands at slightly advanced prices.

"The demand for claims in the proclaimed districts, both for development and speculation, continues active, and prices generally rule high.

"In addition to bullion reported by Messrs. Huse & Lowry, the Provincial Company of Wine Harbor sent up a bar of seventy-five ounces, the result of one week's work."

The following amounts of smelted gold are reported to have been received by Messrs. Huse & Lowry, American bankers, since its previous issue:

Unlace District—105 oz., from Unlace Company's mine.

Sherbrooke District—45 oz. 15 dwt. 20 gr., from Palmerston, Wellington, and Hayden and Lerby Mines, 548 oz. 4 dwt. 23 gr., from New York and Sherbrooke Company, 47 oz. 10 dwt. 21 gr.

Kensford District—164 oz. 1 dwt. 10 gr., from Ophir Company, two weeks' work, 116 oz., sundry mines, 35 oz. 1 dwt. 10 gr.

Other Districts—109 oz. from Tangier, &c. Total, 937 oz. 17 dwt. 6 gr.

The *Gazette* has not much faith in the new discovery of Stevens' Flux. In an article upon the subject it says: "We have seen the Wizard of the North take silver coin and gold rings from fresh eggs, selected and broken by ourselves, and the production of gold, where it could not be found by chemical assay, is a fact not impossible to legendom. The fluxing properties of Cryolite have been known to the chemists of Germany for some years, and if it had the creative power which the reports in question ascribe to it the experts of Freiberg and Chemnitz would have been the first to make and avail themselves of the discovery."

A valuable gold discovery has been made near Bedford Basin, about three miles from Halifax. A number of claims have been taken.

With respect to the characteristics of the gold mining districts of Nova Scotia, their distinguishing features are thus tabulated.

1st.—The gold loads of Nova Scotia are in general beds of quartz of contemporaneous age with the enclosing rock.

2nd.—They consequently conform in all particulars to the structure of the country rock, and are thrown into undulatory anticlinal and synclinal folds.

3rd.—The outcrop of the leads is determined by the nature and extent of the denudation to which the undulatory anticlinal or synclinal folds have been subjected.

4th.—The gold is distributed in parallel zones or belts, whose relation to the horizon varies for different leads, but appears to be very constant for the same lead.

5th.—The depth below the surface of an auriferous zone on any lead being known, together with its inclination to the horizon, shafts may be sunk with a reasonable certainty of striking the zone without any surface indications as to the position of the lead.

COTTON.—The testimony from nearly every county in Georgia shows that from one-third to one-fourth less cotton has been planted this year than last.

BRITISH MONEY MARKET.

THE *London Economist*, of the 16th inst., reviews this market as follows:—

The applications have been few and comparatively unimportant during the week at the Bank of England, as a consequence chiefly of the demand during the previous week having been beyond the actual requirements, in anticipation of a movement upwards in the rate. The tendency in the open market has been towards ease, and the rates show that, for the present, there is again more competition amongst lenders in the market, and that the Bank of England minimum is within a fraction of the rate for first-class three months' paper. The movements of the precious metals for the present must be favorable to a continuance of ease for the following reasons:—There is little or no demand for silver in India, and none at all for China, and the advance during the last two or three days in the continental exchanges causes a decided decline in prices. The large amounts shortly expected leave little doubt but that realizations will be made at lower prices. The arrivals of gold lately have been large, and further considerable sums are nearly due. The greater portion hitherto has been sent to France, but the advance in the exchange suggests the probability that forthcoming arrivals will remain in this country.

The current quotations for mercantile paper having various periods to run are as follows:—

30 to 60 days	2 per cent.
6 months	3
4 to 6 months—Bank bills	2½ to 3 p. c.
4 to 6 months—Trade bills	3 to 4 p. c.

SPECIFIC DUTIES ON TRIAL.

(From the *N. Y. Journal of Commerce*)

A recent gathering of those self-proclaimed "friends of home industry, who believe that most of the ills that afflict mankind can be cured by a high tariff, the usual resolutions were adopted in favor of specific duties. In the face of this we find a large branch of the manufacturing interests complaining of the effect of that system, and asking Congress for at least a partial return to the old method of a tax according to value. Twenty years ago there were but two or three sugar refiners in the United States, and the entire capital invested in the business was only about one million dollars. Now there are nearly or quite thirty separate establishments, with an aggregate capital of toward forty million dollars. These refiners have had, on the whole, a prosperous time of it, and they could live very well if there were no tariff at all on the importation of sugar, especially since Congress, in a recent act, has kindly abolished the home revenue tax on their product. What is it, then of which they complain? Only of the effect of the system of specific duties. When this was adopted, we protested against it, and predicted the result now realized. If all sugars were taxed at a given rate *ad valorem*, every one would be fairly treated. The refiners could buy raw sugar for their business at a tax proportioned to its quality, and if a better grade was sent into market from Cuba, or elsewhere, to compete with their product, it would be compelled to pay a higher rate according to its market value. But this Protectionist system of specific duties spoils all the natural leveling of the market. The refiner cannot afford to buy any quality of sugar that is far below No. 12, Dutch standard, because it all pays three cents a pound duty, while, as nothing ranks under the description of refined that is not whiter than No. 20, the foreigner is tempted to compete with the refiner in preparing his sugars for the market. The plan now in vogue is not purely specific, but conforms to it so far as to injure the refiners. Above No. 9 up to No. 12, pay three cents duty, above 12 to 15, pay three and a half cents, above 15 to 20, pay four cents, pure white refined, and all above No. 20, pay five cents.

The refiners have prepared a petition to Congress asking that raw sugar below No. 9 pay two and a half cents, and that all above No. 12 which have been clarified or improved by any process other than the old method of manufacture pay half a cent more than the present rate. There is undoubtedly some reason for the change demanded. Under the system as established, the grade of sugar between 11 and 12 (and as nearly to the latter as possible, is now scrambled for by the refiners, and all below are now shut out or discriminated against in the duty. On the other hand, there is an express temptation to refine the product abroad, as the duty is not thereby enhanced to meet the cost of refining here. We say the refiners have reason to complain of the working of this system thus against them, but we do not therefore favor the remedy they propose. The true corrective of the evil is a return to the only fair method of taxation, by *ad valorem* duties. Lands cannot be assessed at a specific rate per square foot in justice to their owners, and imports of varying quantity cannot be fairly taxed at a given rate per quantity. The pretext that it is a preventive of fraud was long since exploded, and it is maintained without any foundation in reason or sound public policy. A return to the *ad valorem* principle would settle all the difficulty now complained of, without any further trouble. If the tax were forty per cent. the cheap sugars below No. 9 would pay two and a half cents the refiners are willing to contribute, while the higher grades, now competing with them, at a tax of three or three and a half cents would find the half cent added which the refiners insist they ought to pay. We hope that if any change is adopted it will be in accordance with these suggestions. Any other will be certain to create a popular prejudice, and excite a clamor that will invite, if it does insure its defeat.

HAVE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME EXHIBITION.—As the time for opening this Exhibition approaches the interest in it increases. After having been compelled to make additions to the original plan, the administration have finally been obliged to refuse applications for space, and the number of exhibitors amounts to about 3,500. The building, with all its adjuncts, garden, &c., is fast approaching completion, but there is an unfortunate delay on the part of exhibitors—and particularly those from Great Britain—in sending forward their goods, and unless they are quick in so doing, they will be liable to be put to great inconvenience through their own neglect. The Exhibition will be opened on the 1st June by the Minister of Commerce and Agriculture; and, as there is no central space in the building sufficiently large to hold the persons who will be invited to attend, the inauguration ceremony will be held in a large hall belonging to the Dock Company, which is capable of holding 8,000 persons. It was at one time hoped the Emperor would come to the opening, but although he has promised to visit it, it will be at a later period. The price of admission to the Exhibition is fixed at 11 and 25¢ a season ticket. Families can also subscribe at reduced rates. The original scheme of an Exhibition exclusively maritime, has little by little expanded, so that now, under the head of importation and exports, there will be many things exhibited which, if not strictly appertaining to ships and shipping, are at least more attractive to that portion of the public who are not particularly or personally interested in purely nautical matters. The large salt water aquarium will in itself, be worth a visit, and in addition to its attractions and those of the Exhibition in general, there will be races on the 19th and 20th a regatta on the 23rd and 27th July, and all the various amusements which invariably spring up on such occasions.