

JOTTINGS FROM THE WEST.

THE HARVEST, CROPS, PRICES, &c.

HOW rapidly the seasons come and go! Here we are into the first week of October, and already the frost is turning our forest leaves into crimson and gold. Vegetation has passed its summer meridian, the greater part of the fruits of the earth have been garnered, and Nature's decline and the "fall of the leaf" are fast hastening on. Four weeks more of beautiful weather, and we shall have "dark, chill November," with a fitful gleam of Indian summer; then mother earth will don her fleecy mantle, and jolly winter, with its blazing fires and good cheer, will have come again.

THE HARVEST OF 'SIXTY-SEVEN.

The largest and (we might almost say) the most important class of our Canadian population, are our agriculturists, and the Fall is the season when they reap the reward of their labours. The great bulk of them throughout Ontario have reason to be thankful over the result of the harvest of '67, and the prospects before them. The crops now cramming their barns are fully the average in quantity. There are, of course, exceptions: individual farmers here and there have failed to obtain a good return, and even certain localities have to lament a poor crop. But other individuals and localities are rejoicing over the largest crops obtained for several years; and balancing the accounts together, the harvest may be safely set down as an exceedingly satisfactory one. Both Fall and Spring wheat have done well this year, although in some parts the latter suffered from the drought. Barley and oats are fully an average crop, the former being, if reports can be relied upon, of very fine quality. The want of rain has effected both turnips and potatoes injuriously, and garden produce has also suffered from the same cause. Fruit has, however, turned out very fair; and taking the harvest as a whole, our agriculturists have much reason to be satisfied.

ACTIVE MARKETS AND GOOD PRICES.

Next to well-filled barns good prices most concern the farmer, and, we might almost say, the merchant and mechanic also; for when the agricultural community is prosperous, all sections of the people feel the inspiring influence. Up to the present time the prices of produce have ranged high. There is an active demand from the United States for our barley and finer qualities of wheat; large commissions have been given from Philadelphia, Oswego and other American cities for the former, and extensive dealers in Rochester, Buffalo and other places are in the field as usual for our white wheat, the flour made from which sells so well in all parts of the Republic. Barley brings better prices than it did last year, averaging at the time of writing about 75c. per bushel. With wheat ranging from \$1.40 to \$1.50 per bushel, the farming community have cause to feel gratified; and considering the excellent crops which many of them have reaped, we may confidently predict that a very large amount of money will be in their hands before the close of the year.

CHEESE-MAKING LOOKING UP.

The dairy business has made great progress among the farmers of Ontario during the past season. The success of cheese factories in the County of Oxford and a few other districts for several years past seems at last to have aroused many Western farmers to the fact, that it is possible to make money off a farm without incessantly raising wheat. The result is, that in some localities cheese factories have become quite the rage, and large numbers have been put in operation or commenced during the present season. The writer has visited some of these factories, and tested the cheese made by them, and has no hesitation in expressing his satisfaction with the quality of the article turned out. In most cases the cheese is excellent, better than could reasonably be expected considering the short experience which many have had of the process of manufacture. There is a danger that, in some places, too many factories may be put up—a result which might induce a spirit of rivalry and competition, which would be apt to produce unprofitable returns. Where there are many factories crowded into a small space, they must necessarily be of limited capacity, and the smaller they are the less chance is there of the venture proving profitable. This is an evil which, no doubt, would soon cure itself; but a little calm consideration of the subject before hand might prevent not a little loss. The price of factory

cheese is not so high this Fall as it was last year at this time, and the margin of profit has been reduced rather fine for some new beginners. But variation is a word which applies to the profits of every kind of business, and cheese-making is no exception to the rule.

STOCK RAISING ON THE INCREASE.

A drive out into any township of the western part of Ontario will convince anybody who keeps an eye on the barn yards he passes that stock-raising is rapidly increasing. A few years ago, when cattle commanded but poor prices, the farmers seemed quite careless about rearing their young stock, and calves were slaughtered in all directions. Of late years we have had a large demand for cattle, both fat and lean, from the United States. So great was this demand, just before the Reciprocity Treaty terminated, that Ontario became almost denuded of certain classes of cattle, the high prices offered by drovers causing many persons to sell animals which it would have been rather better for them to have retained. The effect of these large sales and good prices has been to give an impetus to stock raising, which the large number of young cattle now to be seen on the meadows fully attest.

THIS YEAR'S FLAX CROP

Has turned out pretty well as regards profitable returns, although there are, as usual, a good many failures. So far as my observation goes, there has not been much, if any, increase in the quantity of flax sown. As a general rule, the farmers do not like flax-growing. One of the main causes of this has been the necessity of pulling the crop by hand. This is a very tedious process, and where there is not cheap labour available, is also expensive. If the newly invented flax-pulling machine, which is spoken so highly of by Mr. John H. Donaldson, should do away with the necessity of hand-pulling, one of the principal objections which farmers have to the crop will be overcome. There needs be no doubts entertained any longer that flax can be successfully and profitably cultivated in Canada, and that a correct knowledge of the nature of the plant, together with a proper choice and preparation of the soil, is all that is required to ensure a good paying crop.

SUMMING THE MATTER UP.

To sum up—the harvest of 1867 has been a profitable one to the Western farmers. The bulk of them have good crops, are offered at every market town good prices for all they have to sell, and in the older settled districts very few of them are now burdened with indebtedness. As they have a good deal to sell, so they will have a good deal to spend, and the traders and business men generally throughout the Province may look forward to at least a fair business during the next three or four months.

PREPARING FOR NEXT YEAR.

Seeding is now over in most parts of the West, and the Fall wheat is already several inches above ground. Rain is very badly needed, but the plant looks strong and healthy, enough to bid defiance to the winter's blasts. The weather has been favourable for sowing, and a good breadth of land has been devoted to our great staple.

AMERICAN RECIPROCITY.

THE unsatisfactory condition of the manufacturing interest in the United States, and the unsound state of business there generally, have again called the attention of the American press to the trade relations now and heretofore existing between the country and the British Provinces; and in numerous instances much regret is expressed that the Reciprocity Treaty of 1854 was allowed to expire, or was not renewed. We in Canada, of course, re-echo these sentiments, but we must not deceive ourselves in the matter. We must not hope to see our trade with the United States on anything like the same footing that it was under the treaty in question, or, at all events, for a considerable period to come. The altered fiscal position of our neighbours, consequent upon the Southern rebellion, precludes the realization of that expectation, and renders a reciprocal exchange of our products on the old terms almost impossible, and certainly very improbable. Still, we might enter into arrangements which would be beneficial to both countries, and which would differ materially from the "Chinese policy" which Congress thought proper to adopt within the last couple of years. If we cannot expect that, heavily taxed as they are, the Americans will

open their markets to the free entry of our products, for that would be giving us advantages over the native producer, which they are not the people to grant to any one, yet it is undoubtedly for their own benefit to deal with us otherwise than they now do; and we are justified in believing that they will see the wisdom and necessity of the change before long. The expense and difficulty of guarding so extensive a frontier against smuggling, and which neither they nor we are able to prevent, is, of itself, a strong reason for legalising a traffic which will otherwise be carried on illegally, and to which we are as averse as they are, for we know its demoralizing effects and the injury it inflicts on the fair trader on both sides of the border. Smuggling is an evil to us as well as to them, though, pecuniarily, they may be the chief sufferers. But how is the question to be met? We can scarcely ask the American Government and legislature to admit our lightly taxed products to free competition with their heavily taxed products in their own markets; and Mr. Galt has, from the beginning, reviewed this phase of the question in its true light. Thence that gentleman's proposal, after the close of the Reciprocity treaty, to impose heavy excise duties on Canadian whisky, &c., to harmonise with the requirements of the American tariff. Our people thought at the time, and still think, that this was paying too high a price for the benefits we were to receive in return, though they are from undervaluing these benefits. Fully to comprehend the subject, however, we must take into account the relative burden of taxation borne by the people of the United States and ourselves. The Finance Committee of the Constitutional Convention of the State of New York, now in session, has just published a report which enables us to form a judgment in the matter. By that document we find that the public debt of the State amounts to \$633,351,000, or over \$158 per head of the entire population, or about \$700 per family, while the annual taxation exceeds \$45 per head or \$200 per family. The report further says: "This brief statement shows that taxation has reached a point beyond the entire net earnings of the whole people, and is absorbing the capital with fearful rapidity. No argument is needed to establish the fact that such an extent of taxation cannot be permanently endured." Now, the inevitable conclusion to be drawn from these facts is that any future commercial treaty between the United States and British North America is certain to be of an essentially different character from that which was entered into in 1854; and we ought to be prepared to accept the situation in the altered form which it has assumed. That the manifest interests of the two countries, especially of our neighbours, will lead to some new arrangement, at no distant day, we entertain little doubt, and that it will be just and liberal to both the contracting parties will be the best, indeed the only, security, for its permanence.

We see by the *Liverpool Journal of Commerce* of the 10th ult., that Mr. Jules Fournier of this city, the projector of the packet line between Montreal, Marseilles and Toulon, is now endeavoring to establish a steam line between a port in France, Spain and Canada. Pending the construction of steamships for the new route, vessels will likely be chartered in Liverpool. Mr. Fournier has our hearty wishes for his success. Spain and France should naturally take a large share of our produce, while we should be equally large customers for theirs.

DON'T OVERLOOK IT!

WE mean Printer's Ink! No business man can afford in this enterprising age to overlook it. You need it in posters and circulars, but above all, the man who is determined to do business, needs it in newspaper advertising. Our advice to commercial men is—advertise judiciously and systematically! Don't overdo the thing, making promises to customers not to be realized, or expending more than a reasonable sum per annum. But when you have some speciality to sell—when you have a better article—or can sell cheaper than your neighbour, take care to use a little printer's ink, and let the public know it. Money so expended is one of the best investments we know of.

A notable instance of the benefits of advertising is recently transpired. It is one of many in connection with the Patent Medicine trade, but it is one which few equal in the rapidity with which a fortune has been made. A great many individuals have been