

THE FARM.

Crops Good in Eastern Canada.

The Dominion Census Office, on October 11th, published a bulletin on the condition of crops in Canada at the end of September. The reports show lower averages of condition for the whole of Canada than those of a year ago, but the reduction applies chiefly to the North-west Provinces. In the Eastern Provinces a high per cent. is maintained for nearly all crops, and quantity and quality are better than a year ago, and still better than two years ago. In Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta there is a drop of about 20 per cent. in the quality of grain and roots,

but the threshings indicate that the yield will be larger for wheat, oats and barley than was promised at the end of August. For the whole of Canada, the condition of rye at the end of September was 83.59, which is ten per cent. better than two years ago, and 2.39 better than last year. Peas and beans are nearly eight per cent. lower in condition than a year ago, but nearly ten per cent. higher than in 1908. Buckwheat is about the same as last year, and 12 per cent. better than in 1908, whilst mixed grains are better by 5 per cent. than last year, and by 19.47 per cent. over two years ago. Corn for husking, compared for the three years, 1910, 1909 and 1908, shows percentages of 85.12, 86.77, and 82, and corn for fodder, of 89.82, 87.18, and 92, for the respective years. The condition of potatoes

is 76.08 at the end of September, compared with 90.37 last year; of turnips, 82.69 to 83.34, and of sugar beets 83.13 to 71.02, whilst in 1908 their condition ranged from 68 to 74. Alfalfa has a condition of 83.30 for the end of September, and it exceeds 90 in the Maritime Provinces and Ontario. In Quebec and the North-west Provinces it is not more than 70 per cent, and in British Columbia it is 88.33. All field grains in the Province last named exceed 82 per cent. in quality.

The estimated yield of rye this year for Canada is 1,634,000 bushels; of peas, 6,444,500 bushels; of beans, 1,089,600 bushels; of buckwheat, 7,302,000 bushels; of mixed grains, 20,103,000 bushels; of flax, 4,314,000 bushels, and of corn for husking, 17,682,000 bushels. ARCHIBALD BLUE.

What Men Have Done in New Ontario.

To the average man contemplating settlement in a new country, nothing else carries such weight as practical experience. What man has done, man can do. Sometimes he can do better. Following our general article of last week, we present herewith some details, in desultory form, as gathered from point to point, drawn chiefly from observations and interviews. Most—though not all—of the interviews, it should be stated, were with the more successful settlers, though what they have done, it would appear, could be likewise accomplished by any young man of good physique, average good-fortune, ordinary intelligence, and fair business instinct. After all, here, as elsewhere, man is the most important factor in his own success.

From Englehart, 138 miles from North Bay, an eight-mile branch line of the T. & N. O. Railway runs into the town of Charlton, on the south branch of the Blanche River, skirting a beautiful, broad valley. Charlton is on the shortest route to the Elk Lake and Gowganda mining regions, and, in the time of the rush, hundreds of teams were engaged here hauling supplies into these camps. The roads in the district about Charlton were seen to a disadvantage, following an exceedingly wet period of weather. Pitch-holes and ruts threatened to capsize the heavy carriage in which the visiting pressmen were driven over the country. Evidently, the clay in New Ontario, while capable of growing first-class crops when properly cultivated, is also capable of producing execrable clay roads. What these roads need is the frequent use of the split-log drag, not only when they are dry, but when they are sloppy wet. So far as we were able to learn, the drag has not been much used on these Northern Ontario clay roads at this season, when it could do much good by filling ruts and pitch-holes, and facilitating the drying of the surface.

Quite a number of settlers are at work in the Charlton district making more or less impression on their bush homesteads, though the area in cultivation here is not large, compared with the percentage cleared in the Liskeard district. As an example of what may be accomplished by an average man without particularly favorable opportunities, we quote an interview with a settler named Russell Darby, who came into the Charlton district from Pendleton, five years ago. This man had a neat little house, and quite a clearing about his buildings, amounting, perhaps, to about 25 acres. He has worked a good deal for wages, securing \$2.50 per day for man and team, at ordinary work. The timber on his land runs about 25 cords of all kinds of wood, and he obtained, one winter, \$4.00 per cord for spruce, and \$3.00 for balsam. Hay runs about two tons to the acres, with a good aftermath; oats, perhaps, 25 bushels. Pork sells at 20 cents per pound for long clear, and 22 cents for breakfast bacon, hams 25 cents per pound, and dressed hogs 15 cents. There is no trouble getting good water. Mr. Darby was taxed \$25 last year on an assessment of \$1,200, and values his place at \$1,500.

One of the most ideally situated towns it has been our privilege to see is Cochrane, at the junction of the T. & N. O. Railway with the Transcontinental. This town, on the shores of beautiful Lake Commando, nearly five hundred miles from Toronto by rail, mostly due north, gives promise of developing into an important center, having not only railway traffic to support it, but being surrounded by a choice farming section which has already been homesteaded for quite a distance around the town. It has grown considerably since we saw it last May.

Nearly everything in the North suggests newness. The accompanying illustration shows a portion of what might by courtesy be called the town of Kelso, where traffic leaves the railway to enter the Porcupine gold-mining country. Our illustration shows the boarding house of Alex. Miller, who runs a transportation business with a line of boats on the Frederick House River. Mr. Miller has seventeen teams, and will have thirty

five this winter. He is also taking up 1,000 acres of land, having it homesteaded by proxy. The soil is sandy, and Mr. Miller proposes to grow potatoes largely. Teams and horses cost from \$400 to \$500 up at Kelso. Oats had been purchased for 55 cents per bushel, with freight 5 cents, and hay about \$15.25 per ton. Near Kelso

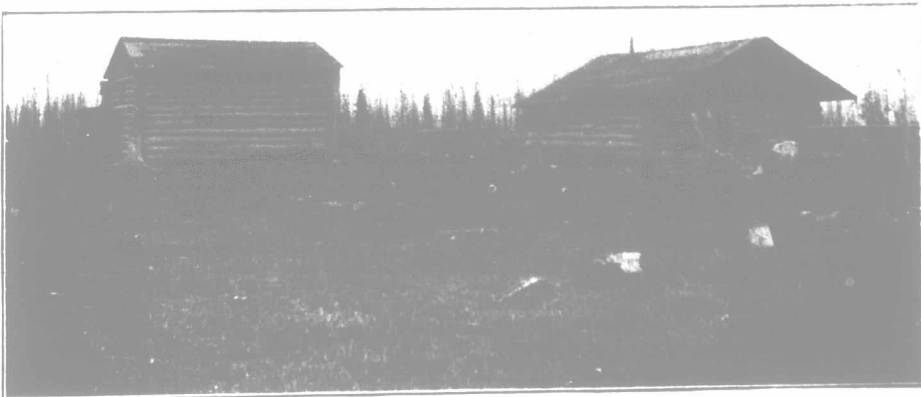
per acre. He had sold cordwood in Haileybury one winter that cleared him \$1.50, f.o.b., in Kelso. Mr. Culver appeared well satisfied with his prospects, but surprised his interviewers by admitting that he was a bachelor.

Originally established as a pioneer farm, the eight hundred acres of Government land at Monteith, on the Driftwood River, a tributary of the Abitibi, is clearly required for experimental purposes. As yet, little has been accomplished beyond the clearing of about one hundred acres of land and the growing of some crops in the regular way, a few varieties being incidentally compared. Of the one hundred and two acres cut, only about forty have been cleared for the plow, and of this, about twenty were

under cultivation this year. Pretty nearly every kind of crop was grown but flax and buckwheat. The fall wheat, noted last May as being fairly promising, having been sown on September 18th, 1909, gave the very surprising yield of about thirty bushels per acre. Peas grew straw four or

five feet long, and yielded as high as twenty-five to thirty bushels per acre where they were best. Timothy was grown five feet high, and clover four feet; potatoes did well, though frost killed the vines the first of September. White Cluster oats were sown April 18th, and harvested September 30th. Wild Goose wheat yielded well, and was of good quality. The potatoes grown for the Ontario Vegetable-growers' Association, in an experiment to test the value of Northern-grown potatoes for planting in the Southern portions of the Province, prom-

ised to yield fairly well, though the tubers were not especially large, the growth having been arrested, no doubt, by the freezing of the tops. The yield had not been calculated, but was expected to be about one hundred bags from ten bushels of seed planted. J. H. Whitton, the superintendent of the farm, expects that small fruits may be grown



A Settler's First Set of Buildings.
Snapshot taken on Mr. Dahl's homestead.

we ran across an interesting settler, C. H. Culver, who hailed from Mattawa, and has been in the North country for two years. He has already cleared thirty-five acres, and showed Banner oats in the sheaf that had been sown in June and harvested on Sept. 25th; barley sown June 26th,



In the Four-months-old Town of Kelso.

On the T. & N. O. R., where traffic leaves the railway for the Porcupine gold-mining camp.

was cut on October 21st. Mr. Culver says that he grows all kinds of roots, potatoes and vegetables successfully. His land cuts him about ten cords of pulpwood per acre, for which he received about \$3.00 per cord. It cost \$1.50 to cut it, 75 cents to haul it to the station, and 25 cents to load, leaving a net return of about \$5



A Snapshot in the New Liskeard District.