

The Rain Maker.

The rain maker is abroad in the land.

For the past month, from every section of the west have come more or less frequent accounts of this product of modern drouths, and his more or less unsuccessful efforts to refresh the parched earth with needed rains. In Kansas and Nebraska, where repeated trials of almost every known theory for forcing the reluctant clouds to give down the coveted moisture have proved the utter fallacy of some and the conditional success of others; in Iowa, that garden spot of the west, where nature has bestowed her gifts so bountifully that man has but to gather them; in the drouth-stricken region of South Dakota, where four years of famine have failed to blot from memory the years of plenty that preceded them, the professional rain maker has found abundant opportunity for plying his trade, and made hay while the sun shone. Some of these gentlemen are honest in the belief that they can bring from the sky, however clear, the precious rain. The formula that is successful in one locality, however, may prove worthless in another, and those who are honest in their professions are ever ready to admit that certain atmospheric conditions must prevail or success cannot attend their undertaking. In other words, if there is moisture in the air, they have discovered a process by which this moisture can be condensed, and precipitated in the form of rain. To this class of rain makers all respect is due. There is another class, however, who are not entitled to the consideration of any one. They are fakirs, pure and simple, and are just as much confidence men as the burco steerers on the Bowery in New York city. They will sell their alleged formulas knowing them to be practically worthless, and the drouth-stricken community, unable to secure the services of a reliable man, grasps at the possibility like a drowning man at a straw, only to find it as useless, and their money goes as well as their crops. These are the two classes of rain makers we have heard of most frequently in the past month.

There is another rain maker, however,—one who has proved his efficiency in the past, and who is responsible for most of the precious showers which have come recently—and that is God Almighty. His theories never fail in practice, and His formulas are not for sale at \$500 or \$600 or \$1,000,000 for any one county or one state. Neither are they to be had for the asking. Like every good thing, it requires labor to obtain them. This lesson has been learned after years of toil and hardship and loss in the west and southwest; the same lesson is being taught in the north-west. The clouds are nature's sprinkling pot, and the grain field her garden. But there are ways to refresh the garden besides using a sprinkling pot, and there are some spots in the garden not easily reached with a sprinkler. You need a hose. There are water works to which it may be attached most everywhere. That's what the Lord put the immense artesian reservoir under the drouth section of South Dakota for—to be utilized, by means of irrigating ditches, in those parts of the garden not easily reached by the sprinkling pot. That's one purpose for which the Missouri river and the Red river traverse South Dakota, and the Platte bisects Nebraska. They were meant to be used, not for navigation alone, but as a source of rain supply. The irrigation systems of Colorado and California and New Mexico and Arizona have cost millions of dollars. They will repay the expenditure a thousand fold. They have literally made the "desert to bloom as a rose." Like enterprize in the northwest would bring like usurious returns. So long as the northwestern settler is content to call his state a God-forsaken country because he can't buy sufficient rain to mature his crops for \$500 or \$600 to the county, so long will it be God-forsaken. But once let him awake to the fact that under and around him are sources from

which he can secure water independent of the clouds, and act upon the knowledge, then see how soon the God that has forsaken him because of his indolence, will return to bless him with abundance. Go to work and get your rain from the ground instead of the sky—from the river or the artesian well. That's one thing God put them there for, and He is the most practical and successful rain maker the world has ever known. Minneapolis Farm Implements.

Crops in Ontario on June 15.

An official crop bulletin, showing the condition of the crops on June 15, has been published; slight falls of snow occurred about the end of May and sharp frosts were felt somewhat seriously in some places. Frost was reported on May 28th and 29th from nearly all parts of Ontario. Ice one quarter of an inch thick formed at several places.

Fall Wheat—This crop has stood the heavy rain and changes of weather much better than the spring crops. Throughout the entire province some low lands have been flooded and the crop drowned out. The reports for this time of the year are quite up to the average. The frost of the first week of June was felt to a very slight extent. The reports from all parts of the province are practically the same—that after the rain the wheat soon picked up and showed less injury than had been supposed. Not more than usual had been plowed up and resown to spring grain. Heading out was in progress on the 15th of June. In some places the growth was quite rank. With favorable weather for the next three weeks a good crop of fall wheat may be looked for. At present the conditions promise an average yield.

Spring Wheat—As usual, there is but little spring wheat in the western part of the province, while in the eastern half the acreage is declining. The low lying lands have suffered severely, but the higher lands have fair crops. The grain was sown in fine condition, and is now recovering rapidly from the extra rain. In many places correspondents state that the rain did more good than harm. In the eastern counties about one third of the spring wheat is either destroyed or is in poor condition; two-thirds may be said to be fair to good.

Barley—Barley has suffered quite extensively, is backward in growth, but at present is making very rapid progress, and with a continuance of favorable weather will probably come up to nearly the average of the last two years.

Oats—The reports from every section of the province are practically the same, and to the following effect: The rains drowned out the crop on low lying fields; on higher lands, and these under drained, little or no damage was done. At the time of reporting the crop was making a very rapid growth, and becoming somewhat rank in straw. A few fields were baked by the hot sun, but on the whole the prospects were most promising, the only unfavorable report being as to the low lands. The crop is on the whole somewhat more backward than usual, but present conditions point to a yield fully up to the average.

Peas—The continued rains did more damage to this crop than to the other spring-grown crops. Early-sown peas have done well on high lands, but on low lands have suffered heavily. The reports from the largest pea counties of the west are quite favorable.

Corn—From all parts of the province come reports of replanting, of late planting and of slow growth. Prospects are for a crop a little under the average in quantity.

Beans—Early planted beans were cut off by late frosts.

Timothy—A small amount of timothy was winter killed, but the principal damage has resulted from some cold, wet days of spring and early summer. The reports from all counties are in agreement that we shall have a short hay crop this year.

Clover—This crop has suffered more than timothy. Complaints of winter killing are universal.

Roots and Potatoes.—Early planted potatoes were much injured by frosts and large quantities rotted in low lands. Late planted potatoes are now coming on well.

Fruit.—The frost has done same damage to fruit. Grape vines have suffered quite extensively in the West Midland, Lake Huron and Georgian Bay counties. Peach trees were injured to some extent by frost, and "leaf curl" is reported by many. There is promise of only a fair crop. Apples are setting well, and on the whole promise a good crop, especially east of Toronto. Pears are in good form. Plums and cherries are reported fair. Small fruits give prospect of extra yield. Strawberries on the whole are reported as turning out fairly well. The Essex and Kent and Niagara districts give on the whole very favorable reports as to fruit.

Labor and Wages.—The result of the large number of men seeking rural employment in the spring and early summer is seen in the lowering of the scale of wages. The average amount paid monthly, with board, was \$16.48, compared with \$17.17 in the previous year. Day laborers averaged 83 cents with board, a falling off of 5 cents compared with 1893; while those working by the day, without board, received but \$1.11, or 5 cents less than in the year previous. Domestic servants are still scarce on the farm.

The Traveller Convinced Her.

The other day an omnibus, full of passengers drove up to its suburban terminus, says a contemporary. Side by side sat a commercial traveller and a lady temperance lecturer. The commercial traveller seized his bag and made a move to get out. The lady made a snatch after him, and he halted.

"I beg your pardon," she said, "but you have my bag."

"You are certainly mistaken, madam," the traveller said, courteously but firmly. "This bag is mine."

"No, sir," the lady replied firmly, "it is mine. I should know it among a thousand. You must not take it."

But the traveller persisted, and the lady insisted; and they came very near quarrelling.

Presently one of the passengers pointed to a twin bag in the omnibus, and said:

"Whose is that?"

"It isn't mine," said the traveller. "It is just like mine; but this is mine."

"And it isn't mine," said the lady. "He has mine, and I want it; and I'll have it. It's a pity if a lady can't travel alone in this country without being robbed of her property in broad daylight."

Finally the traveller said he would open the bag to prove his property.

The lady objected at first, saying she did not want her bag opened in the presence of a crowd of strangers.

But as there was no other means of settling the dispute, she at length consented.

The traveller took out a key, opened the bag and the curious crowd bent forward to see.

On the top of everything lay a big, flat flask, half full of whisky, a pack of cards, meerschaum pipe, a quarter of a pound of tobacco, and a snuff box.

The traveller was the first to recover his self-possession and speech.

"Madam," said he, "you are right. The bag is yours. I owe you a thousand apologies."

But the lady had fainted and the traveller relocked his bag, with a quiet smile.

A movement is on foot to establish malleable iron and steel works in Toronto. The promoters are United States capitalists.