

Middlesex, Ont., Crop Notes.

Reports on crop conditions in an important farming district like that surrounding London, Ont., an industrial, commercial and monetary center, are closely watched by shrewd business men and especially by bankers, who study them as a barometer to judge the coming weather. Throughout East Middlesex prospects generally are encouraging, though there is constant anxiety with each dry spell for more frequent showers. More thorough and intelligent tillage, in order to conserve soil moisture, is forcing itself upon the attention of farmers. The most casual observer can see that the better manured and tilled farms are, the less they suffer from drouth. The hot May forced vegetation forward rapidly, and the hay crop will not be heavy, which probably means stiff prices in prospect for another year. Clover fields were cut by June 20th, in hope of a second growth for pasturage, which, though good to that date, had begun to show signs of failing. This will, in turn, shrink the milk flow. The fall-wheat area is fairly large, and the majority of fields look particularly well, with ample straw, and good heads. Undrained and unmanured fields look worst, as might be expected. Barley and oats look well, but the yield will now be a question of fairly frequent rains. All signs point to an early and rapid haying and harvest. Some alarm was caused by the appearance of a supposed "blight" at the ends of the oat leaves, but, as pointed out by John Dearness, of the London Normal School, an authority on plant physiology, in "The Farmer's Advocate," it was evidently just a case of arrested growth. The plant had been growing so rapidly that, when hot, dry weather came, the supply of moisture and food became insufficient, and the tips wilted. The farmer's worst enemies in this district are undoubtedly the weeds, which steal enough every season of plant food and moisture to make hosts of poor men rich.

At this writing (June 22), crops, on the whole, are up to the average of recent years. But failure is written on the apple orchards, and such fruit will again be a costly luxury next fall and winter. With few exceptions, where proper culture, pruning and spraying are practiced, orcharding is the most neglected branch of farming in this district.

The most noticeable crop increases are in the corn and alfalfa areas, the former for the ever-growing number of silos, and the latter for the fodder and pasturage. The alfalfa plant thrives in dry weather, on barren hillsides, and the two make an invincible pair for the dairy farmer. In live-stock rearing, the chief improvement to be recorded is in the breeding and, to some extent, the feeding of dairy cows. Good beef cattle grow scarcer and dearer, while horses continue high in price and hard to get in sufficient numbers.

Co-operative Fruit-growers' Annual Meeting.

The Co-operative Fruit-growers held their annual meeting in Toronto on Tuesday, June 20th, when the following officers were elected: President, E. Lick, Oshawa; 1st Vice-President, R. Thompson, St. Catharines; 2nd Vice-President, A. C. W. Gurney, Paris; 3rd Vice-President, A. Brown, Owen Sound; Sec.-Treas., P. W. Hodgkiss, Toronto. Other members of the Executive were L. K. Shourds, Wellington, and D. C. Ham-link, Goderich.

Representatives of sixteen associations were present, and it was decided to continue the weekly crop reports, paying attention to both sprayed and unsprayed orchards. Strawberries were reported a short crop, owing to dry weather, and ports a short crop, owing to dry weather. Raspberries are beginning to show signs of the dry spell. Reports received as to the apple crop were rather different from early expectations, in view of the poor crop in 1910. The central and western counties will have only a fair crop, with many sections poor. Baldwins and Greenings will be light. The eastern counties vary considerably, Ben Davis being a good crop in some and poor in others, other varieties blossoming earlier being more even throughout.

The sixth annual National Dairy Show is to be held at the International Live-stock Amphitheater, Chicago, October 26th to November 4th. Fifteen thousand dollars will be offered in cash prizes for dairy cattle. Special premiums will be awarded in the milk, cream and butter tests. Scholarships in the National Student Judging Contest will be given by several agricultural colleges, pure-bred dairy cattle clubs, butter manufacturers and individuals. Preparations through special committees of the Cattle Clubs are being made not only to assist in bringing out a great show in numbers of their respective breeds, but are planning to exhibit many of the most celebrated animals of the breed.

"Dry-farming" is a term objected to by land-boomers, but generally used in reference to agriculture in regions where the annual rainfall is less than 20 inches.

Birrell and Son's Shorthorn Sale.

The auction sale of Shorthorns from the Maple Hall herd of D. Birrell & Son, at Greenwood, Ont., Tuesday, June 20th, was a decided success. The cattle offered were well up to the description given in the catalogue, and were in fine condition, their breeding being of the most desirable sort. The attendance of breeders was large, bidders being present from the Maritime Provinces in the East, to Saskatchewan in the West; and, while some of the animals went at less than their value, the prices, on the whole, must be considered fairly satisfactory, considering that a number of the calves catalogued were under a year old. Following is the list of those selling for \$100 and over:

COWS AND HEIFERS.

Crimson Fuchsia 31st, calved March, 1908; Graham Bros., Claremont, Ont.	\$400
Crimson Fuchsia 24th, 1909; Graham Bros.	400
Rosemary 207th, 1905; Traynor Bros., Comber, Sask.	350
Blythesome Girl 4th, 1903; Traynor Bros.	305
Duchess of Gloster A. 4th, 1910; John Bright, Myrtle, Ont.	330
Blythesome Girl 13th, 1909; Hon. W. C. Sutherland, Saskatoon, Sask.	300
Crimson Fuchsia 23rd, 1904; Hon. W. C. Sutherland	255
Crimson Fuchsia 24th, 1904; John Bright.	200
Crimson Fuchsia 23rd, 1908; P. M. Brett, Regina, Sask.	210
Rosemary 208th, 1909; P. M. Brett.	200
Blythesome Girl 11th, 1909; Robert Miller, Stouffville, Ont.	200
Blythesome Girl 5th, 1905; John Howden, Whitby, Ont.	200
Duchess of Gloster A. 3rd, 1906; Joseph Johnson, Whitby, Ont.	170
Crimson Fuchsia 27th, 1906; Hon. W. C. Sutherland	140
Blythesome Girl 12th, 1909; Thos. Stanton, Wheaton, Ill.	145
Crimson Fuchsia 26th, 1905; Hon. W. C. Sutherland	170
Rosemary of Hillhurst, 1901; A. Knox, Norwood, Ont.	180
Blythesome Girl 14th, 1910; Jas. Wilkin, Pickering, Ont.	130
Crimson Fuchsia 25th, 1904; C. Reid, Reaboro, Ont.	155
Crimson Maud 9th, 1899; Kerr & Davidson, Ashburn	145
Blythesome Girl 9th, 1907; Jos. Johnson, Ashburn	105
Minnie March 8th, 1907; Jos. Johnson.	100

BULLS.

Royal Baron, 1909; E. Ratchiffe, East Oro, Ont.	260
Roan Boy, 1910; T. P. B. Blackwell, Cannington, Ont.	140
Roan Chief, 1910; I. B. Vannatter, Ballinafad, Ont.	150
Lord Roberts, 1910; T. Baker & Sons, Solina, Ont.	105
Silver Stamp, 1910; F. H. Simpson, Orangeville, Ont.	115
Twenty-four females sold for \$4,880; average, \$203.33. Nine bulls sold for \$1,090; average, \$121.	

Co-operation Versus Servitude.

It does us good, sometimes, to see our acts reflected through an observer's eyes. There is such a strong tendency for us to lose ourselves in work that we grind ahead as though it were a virtue, instead of merely a means to comfortable living. The result is that we miss the full enjoyment and the virtue of a well-rounded life. Does it pay? Here is Peter McArthur's view, as expressed in a recent letter to the Globe:

"It probably shows a very perverse disposition, but I rejoice at many things that serious-minded people deplore. To begin with, I rejoice at the widespread scarcity of capable hired men at the widespread in Crop Bulletin 107. This is that is bewailed in Crop Bulletin 107. This is evidence to me that no man worth his salt need be working for anyone else. Somewhere he can find a piece of land where he can work himself to death for his own benefit. Moreover, I can find no satisfactory reason why some men should be masters and others servants. All the things that are now accomplished by the master-and-servant system should be accomplished just as well by co-operation. Carlyle said that 'labor, wide-based operation, reaches to heaven.' Knowing that as he is dead, I shall venture to amend his statement. Co-operation wide-based as the world might reach to heaven. Please notice that I do not say it would. Too many fine theories have failed to work out for anyone to be sure about the results of any of them. Co-operation has already accomplished much in some places, but it needs to be tested further, and if the disinclination of men to work for others continues to increase, it will be thoroughly tested. Another thing that gives me solid satisfaction is the growing discontent of even prosperous farmers. Some of them are beginning to realize that a man is

rich so long as he has to work fifteen hours a day, even though he has money in the bank and has a plot with a southern exposure waiting for him in a high-toned graveyard. Some of them may yet stop producing more than they need for their own use and comfort, and start in to enjoy life. Then we would have a real back-to-the-land movement forced on us, instead of having an academic discussion of the crying need for it. It is all very fine to describe the producer as the foundation of our civilization, but that is no reason why he should feel so flattered that he should destroy himself with hard work. Our civilization needs a broader foundation of comfortable, leisurely producers, and fewer overworked non-producers and their employees who are forced to get their living by clever scheming. Then, if some of the farmers they always talk of sending to Parliament—between elections—will just work out a good system of underdrainage that will let the water out of big business, it will be a great help. If all the discontent that is now to be found in the country could only be worked out on a good-natured basis, most of our problems might be solved, and we would be less like a drove of hogs crowding through a gate, 'each squealing his protest at the crush to which he contributes.' If our lives are too strenuous, it is because we have made them so, and the apparent remedy would seem to be to each a little less strenuous. What will it matter even if some of the others do get through the gate first? There is pasture for all."

An Excellent Garden and Dairy.

"Greenwood!" "Greenwood!" We may expect to hear the trainmen on the C. N. R., in the near future, calling the foregoing station, as the rails are laid, the station built, and everything nearly ready for the delivery of passengers at one of the beauty spots of "old" Ontario County. At present, Greenwood is reached from Pickering or Whitby, on the G. T. R., by a drive of 6 to 8 miles. We drove from Whitby along with Mr. Hare, the Agricultural Representative who is doing such excellent work in the county, and Mrs. Sandford Brown and Mrs. Balmer, officers of the Women's Institute. The objective point was the farm of Mr. Green, of Greenwood, where was to be held a joint meeting of the South Ontario Women's & Farmers' Institutes.

However, we wished to write of the garden and dairy, which are the pride of the owner, Mr. Green. The rosary includes over 100 varieties of roses—many imported—while the collection of peonies and columbines is not excelled anywhere that the writer has seen. Someone asked Mr. Green how he kept the "bugs" off his roses. His reply was, "I simply spray them with cold water, which drives the bugs away. Back of this, however, is the excellent care which the roses receive. The ground is made very rich with manure and bone meal, and this, Mr. Green says, is the secret of combating insects, as the latter attack weak plants. He seldom loses any during winter—not more than one or two. Although his grounds are apparently sheltered, the owner says that some varieties of flowers which will not thrive in his garden do well in the more exposed parts outside the garden. We have not time to say more about the water lilies, peonies, the long-forked columbines of rare species, nor of the bulbs which must have been a rare sight in the spring, as we were told Mr. Green purchased \$300 worth of bulbs last year. The well-kept lawn, the shady walks, the beautiful flowers, the rumbling of the grist mill, the "plunk," "plunk" of the vacuum pump on the mechanical milker—all this made a visit to Mr. Green's garden well worth while.

In addition to gardening, floriculture and milking, Mr. Green manages a herd of forty Jersey cows, milking, in addition to a large stock of calves and heifers, together with pigs to utilize skim milk and buttermilk. The stable was remodelled recently, with an excellent system of ventilation.

The milking machine has been in operation at the farm for some two or three years, but latterly it has not been used regularly, as the owner considers that the results are not entirely satisfactory. It was used on the herd the evening of the meeting, in order to show those who had never seen a mechanical milker how it works. Farmers and their wives were very much interested, though somewhat skeptical as to results.

The milk is separated in the creamery near the house at present, but Mr. Green is preparing to move the separator to a room off the cow stable, where he intends to separate the milk and pump the skim milk through pipes to the pig-geries, thus saving the carrying of the milk.

Both steam and electric power are used in the creamery, the former only in case anything goes wrong with the motor. The creamery is equipped with all modern appliances for making fine butter, which is chiefly sold to the Ladies' College at Whitby. Any surplus is marketed in Toronto. Mr. Green is working quite close to the "sweet line" of butter, and the product is certainly a credit to the buttermaker.

Mr. Benson, who was formerly assistant in the