

## Ontario Crops

The following statement of the condition of crops and live stock has been prepared by the Ontario Department of Agriculture. It is based on the reports of the Departmental correspondents, and represents the conditions in Ontario on May 10th:

**Fall Wheat**—The lateness of the harvest of 1904 caused much of the fall wheat to be sown a week or two after the usual time. However, the soil was then in rather fine condition for seeding, and there was a good catch, although the cool weather in the latter part of the fall somewhat retarded the growth of the young plant. Taking the Province over, the crop suffered less than usual from winter-killing, the county of Northumberland being an exception to the general rule. The cold winds prevailing in April were very trying to fields in exposed places; nevertheless, the crop picked up wonderfully with the more favorable weather which followed, and when correspondents reported as to conditions on the 10th of May, fall wheat had a most promising appearance in most quarters, more especially in the case of early sown fields. The more favorable statements, happily, come from the counties in which the crop has a large acreage. But little fall wheat has been plowed up compared with the two or three years immediately preceding, although in some instances barley or some other grain has been drilled in some of the bare spots. The disappearance of the Hessian fly—or, rather, the absence of any marked evidence of its presence—is one of the most gratifying features of the reports concerning fall wheat, for during the last four or five years the havoc wrought by this insect pest has been of a most extensive and costly nature.

**Clover**—The present indications are

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that there will be a full yield of clover this season, taking the Province as a whole. In the central and western counties clover fields are in a really first-class condition, having suffered but little from winter killing of any form. In the more eastern counties prospects are not so bright, but the herds are rapidly recovering from the heavy check given the crop by the raw winds of April. The general report is that new fields are particularly strong, the catch last year having been most successful.

**Fruit Trees**—A considerable loss is reported among plum trees, and some peach and other fruit trees are also said to have been winter-killed, although not to the same extent as last year. In fact, much of the immediate loss of orchard trees is charged against the severe weather of the winter of 1903-4. Blossoming was starting, as correspondents wrote, and cherries, plums and peaches were coming out profusely. Apples are not likely to be so heavy a crop. Field mice continue their attacks upon young fruit trees, and there are many complaints of serious injury. There are now but few counties exempt from the injury of this active pest.

**Live Stock**—Live stock of all classes came through the winter without any serious mishap, any disease complained of being more or less local in character. Horses are described as being rather thin, but in good working condition otherwise, as the weather was not too warm during the spring operations. There are the usual scattering reports of fever, with but few fatalities. Cattle are also said to be on the lean side, but hearty. Like other live stock, they had to be carefully fed, owing to the lack of corn and high prices of mill feed, but they are now rapidly picking up in form on the grass. Sheep are generally reported as in good condition, except in some of the townships of Lambton, where there was an outbreak of scab, which fortunately, was quickly stamped out. Ewes have been prolific this spring, and lambs are said to be remarkably strong and active. Several correspondents, however, state that sheep cannot be kept in large numbers in Ontario on account of dogs. Swine are more generally raised, but do not appear to be as plentiful as usual this spring. Occasional reports have been received of crippling from rheumatism or other causes, but these attacks are generally the result of local housing and feeding. New litters of pigs do not appear to have done so well in the eastern part of the Province as in the counties farther west. Generally speaking, there was a sufficiency of fodder, although many farmers were pinched for corn and straw.

**Farm Supplies**—In most parts of the Province there is more than a sufficiency of hay, although the scarcity of straw and corn drew largely on this fodder. Oats have been largely fed, and high prices have been paid for what was marketed, and while there is a surplus on hand, it is not a large one. Wheat is comparatively scarce from the same causes. Fat cattle have nearly all

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