

orchards. Where spraying has been thorough there will be a good crop, but the prospects for the county are for a medium crop. In the Niagara Peninsula early and fall varieties give good promise but later varieties only medium. The fruit has generally set better below the mountain than above it. During the last few days the development of fruit has been very rapid. A fair crop is expected in Norfolk County. Between Toronto and Hamilton there will not be more than a fifty-per-cent crop. Spies and Greenings are light and Baldwins fair. In the counties on Lake Huron and inland to York County, the fruit set full but has dropped heavily. It is feared that there will be a large proportion of low-grade fruit in Western Ontario. In the immediate vicinity of Oshawa the set of apples indicates an average crop. Spies are light but on the whole there will be a larger crop than last year. In Prince Edward County there has been very general spraying and the fruit is apparently setting well. In the Bowmanville district the prospects are fair to medium; a heavy second "drop" is expected.

From the northern sections of Ontario very favorable reports are being received. The fruit has set heavily and little dropping has yet taken place. Spraying has been much neglected. In the Fameuse and McIntosh sections of Ontario, scab has developed to a remarkable extent, and has resulted in heavy dropping. Spraying has been fairly general. In the province of Quebec, Duchess and Wealthy will have a very heavy crop. Fameuse and McIntosh are a full crop where orchards have been cultivated. Considerable scab has developed. There is every prospect for a good crop in New Brunswick. Weather conditions during the blossoming period were excellent and the fruit has set well. General impressions are that there will be plenty of fruit after the "drop" has taken place. Apple trees bloomed very unevenly in the Annapolis Valley. The fruit, however, is setting well and there is promise of more than an average crop where the bloom was heavy. Taking the valley as a whole there should be at least two-thirds of an average crop, or slightly over one million barrels, and of good quality. Gravensteins and Nonpareils promise a very large crop; Wagener, Golden Russet and Ribston, good; Baldwins fair and Ben Davis light. The main bulk of the crop is in the well-cared-for orchards.

Conservative estimates made on June 26 placed the crop in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, at 25 per cent. greater than last year. Crab apples will be an excellent crop.

In the Kootenay Valley there is promise of a large crop. Wealthies have set well and there has been little dropping in any variety. Latest reports state "Kootenay apple crop easily double that of last year." In the Okanagan Valley, McIntosh and Jonathan are still a heavy crop, though the latter are reported to be dropping heavily. Yellow Newtowns are not as heavy as was expected earlier in the year.

Weather conditions in most of the fruit-growing districts of the United States have been similar to those experienced in Canada. Present indications are that the crop for the Western States will be somewhat larger and of better quality than last year. Aphids and powdery mildew however are quite prevalent and may alter the crop to some extent. In Michigan, early varieties promise a good crop, but fall and winter sorts not over 60 per cent. of normal. New York State, as a whole, now promises a crop materially in excess of last year but it is impossible to fix a percentage as much dropping may take place as a result of scab.

The peach crop of the Niagara Peninsula may be about 75 per cent. of that harvested last year. In the commercial peach-growing areas of British Columbia, the crop is not expected to be any larger than that of last year. New York State has suffered from "leaf curl" and will not produce more than 50 to 60 per cent. of a full crop. In Michigan the output will barely

equal that of 1915. Georgia has a moderate crop of high-quality fruit. Small fruits promise a good crop this year, pears will be only fair and a light crop of plums is expected, cherries will run from 50 to 75 per cent. of a full crop taking the Dominion generally.

FARM BULLETIN.

A Disgusted Blackbird.

BY PETER MCARTHUR.

I know it was a low-down thing to do, but I did it with the best of intentions—though I am afraid the blackbirds will never understand. They will probably think that after the good work they did in eating white grubs, cut-worms and other pests while I was preparing the corn ground, I should have treated them differently. But it was just because they did so much good work that I treated them so badly. I was so grateful to them that I did not want to treat them in the usual way when the corn came up. In past years it was the custom to loaf around with a double-barrelled shot-gun about the time the corn was coming through the ground, but this year the blackbirds were unusually plentiful, and as the season was late they probably had many broods of young to feed. Anyway they came to the corn field in flocks and followed the plow, disc and harrow, picking up every worm and bug that came in sight. They demonstrated the fact that they are true friends of the farmer, even though they may have faults. So when it came time to plant the corn we gave the seed grain a good coating of tar, and then rolled it in ashes to dry it. This used to be a common practice many years ago, though I haven't seen anyone doing it of late years. It certainly made the corn about as unappetizing as anything possibly could, so I was not surprised, when I went to the corn field a few mornings after the planting, to find a blackbird sitting on the fence, coughing and spitting and using unparliamentary language. But I will take part of that back. Some of the language used by parliamentarians during the past few months has been of a kind that makes me wonder if any kind of language can possibly be unparliamentary. But to get back to the blackbird. He evidently thought I had played it low down on him after the way he had helped me in the matter of grubs, and I had no way of telling him that like a lot of human beings who do disagreeable things to one another I had done it "for his own good." A little tar and ashes in his beak was a greater kindness to him than a charge of bird shot.

Now, I dare say there will be some scientific persons who will sniff superior and say that my remarks about the blackbird coughing, spitting and cussing are only nonsensical romancing. That is the trouble with scientists. They observe things in nature in so matter-of-fact a way that they never get at the real truth. Moreover, I have long been convinced that only the observations we make about ourselves are of any use in trying to get at the feelings of others. For instance, I can remember a time when I would loaf along and observe a man digging in a ditch. Seeing him at so excellent and necessary a task I would imagine that he was full of fine ideas about the nobility of labor and the great virtue of the work he was doing, and I might even try to write a song of ditching to express what he felt but was unable to voice. Lately I did some ditching, and I know that my earlier observations were all wrong. If a man came along wearing summer flannels and paused to observe me and tried to understand my emotions and thoughts while doing a very necessary piece of ditching, my thoughts would have run somewhat as follows: "I wonder what that pop-eyed rabbit means by standing

there gawping at me. I wonder if I couldn't accidentally splash him with some of this mud." And all the time I was doing a noble piece of work and knew it, but that was the way I felt about it. I am willing to bet a cookie that when I was doing my observing in comfort on the dry bank the thoughts of the man sloshing around in the ditch were much like those expressed above. And I am by no means inclined to confine this method of interpretation and observation to human beings. My dealings with birds and animals have convinced me that each of them has as distinct a character and personality as any human being. So when I try to imagine the emotions of a blackbird that has sampled a grain of tarred corn, that he has dug up with much labor, I merely try to imagine what I would do and say if someone whom I had helped with his work had put coal tar in my salad. I am afraid that having more capacity for spitting I would spit harder than the blackbird, and having command of a larger vocabulary I would use worse language and more of it. Making my observations in this way I have no compunctions about explaining the state of mind of the blackbird as I did, and I defy any scientist in the lot to prove that I am wrong. And the best of it all is that the blackbirds soon got wise and stopped trying to dig out my corn.

In the current issue of the Geographic Magazine there is a wonderful article on the 'farming operations of the ancient Peruvians by O. F. Cook, of the American Bureau of Plant Industry. He shows that the Peruvians, under the rule of the Incas, had brought agriculture to a high state of development thousands of years ago, and that all the world is indebted to them for the domestication of the potato. He estimates that the potato of the Peruvians has meant more to the world than all the gold that has been dug from the earth. The treasure-seeking Spaniards probably thought it of little value compared with the gold trinkets they were able to wrest from a peaceful people, but potatoes are now so important a part of the food of mankind that the issue of the present war may be effected by the success or failure of the potato crop. Besides studying the ruins of this past civilization, Mr. Cook has drawn from the accounts left by the Spanish conquerors, and does not hesitate to assert that with the ancient Peruvians agriculture was "An ideal of existence." Even though they may have lacked the implements and the scientific knowledge that go with modern farming, they had a philosophy of farming beyond anything developed by any other civilization. This interests me particularly, because I have often maintained that the success of a farmer depends more on the quality of his philosophy than on the accuracy of his scientific knowledge. Science may teach him to prosper and make money, but philosophy would teach him to live, and he could be contented while enjoying the bounty of nature. The closing sentences of this interesting article are especially worth considering at the present time.

"What they were able to accomplish is a lesson in possibilities that our own race has still to learn. We are beginning to see that the agricultural ideal of human welfare, of living and letting others live around us, is higher than the military or savage ideal of killing all strangers through fear or jealousy of competition. But our traditions, literature and social institutions are still so largely military or commercial that we have not seriously considered agriculture as an aim or ideal of existence. We have not sent forth our imaginations to grasp a wisdom of agricultural development, either for humanity as a whole or for our own European race in the new continent that we have overrun, but not yet occupied."

Toronto, Montreal, Buffalo, and Other Leading Markets.

Toronto.

Receipts of live stock at the Union Stock Yards from Saturday, July 1, to Monday, July 3, numbered 166 cars, comprising 3,388 cattle, 162 calves, 561 hogs, and 341 sheep. The market was slow. Choice butchers' cattle were steady, at last week's prices. Best heavy cattle were easy. Other classes 10c. to 15c. lower. Hogs, fed and watered, \$11.40; weighed off cars, \$11.60.

The total receipts of live stock at the City and Union Stock Yards for the past week were:

	City	Union	Total
Cars.....	55	571	625
Cattle.....	612	4,909	5,521
Hogs.....	711	10,994	11,705
Sheep.....	518	1,765	2,283
Calves.....	169	1,250	1,419
Horses.....	114	3,236	3,350

The total receipts of live stock at the two markets for the corresponding week of 1915 were:

	City	Union	Total
Cars.....	33	516	549
Cattle.....	209	3,760	3,969
Hogs.....	586	8,339	8,925
Sheep.....	533	2,014	2,547
Calves.....	58	915	973
Horses.....	48	4,087	4,135

The combined receipts of live stock at the two markets show an increase

of 76 car loads; 1,552 cattle; 2,780 hogs; 1,446 calves, and a decrease of 264 sheep and 785 horses.

The week ending July 1st at the live-stock market closed with a light run of all grades of cattle. Choice, heavy steers were in demand at steady prices, \$10 to \$10.75 being the rule. Farmers must remember, however, that only finished cattle bring this price. Too many of the common kind are being offered with the result that cows, steers and heifers of this class were from 75c. to \$1 lower than during the previous week.

Milkers and Springers.—Trade was slow in this class at from \$5 to \$10 less than for the previous week.

Stockers and Feeders.—Good stockers and feeders were in demand at steady prices, but the common grades were slow and hard to sell.

Sheep and Lambs.—Choice spring lambs were steady and in demand at from 13c. to 14½c. per lb.; medium lambs, 9c. to 12c. per lb.; choice, light, handy butcher sheep were firm at from 7½c. to 8½c. per lb.; common and heavy sheep were slow.

Calves.—The market for choice veal calves has been steady to strong at from 10c. to 12½c. per lb.; medium calves, 9½c. to 10½c. per lb.; common and eastern grassers were very slow at 5½c. to 6½c. per lb.

Hogs.—The hog market was very un-

certain, best quality, fed and watered, selling at \$11.40 to \$11.55. Weighed off cars at from \$11.65 to \$11.75; several choice loads selling at \$11.85. Packers said that prices would be much less this week. The general feeling is that if large shipments arrive farmers must be ready to accept quite a reduction from the prices quoted above.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice, heavy steers, \$10.40 to \$10.75; good, \$10 to \$10.25; choice butchers' cattle, \$9.75 to \$10; good, \$9.40 to \$9.70; medium, \$8.90 to \$9.25; common, \$8.50 to \$9; cows, good, \$7.50 to \$8; medium, \$6.50 to \$6.75; common, \$5.25 to \$6; canners, and cutters, \$3.50 to \$4.75; best bulls, \$8.25 to \$8.50; good, \$7.50 to \$8; medium, \$6.75 to \$7; common, \$5.50 to \$6.50; stockers and feeders of choice quality sell at \$7 to \$8; common at \$6.75 to \$7. Milkers and springers, choice, \$7.50 to \$9; good cows, \$5.50 to \$7.50 each. Calves, choice veal calves 10c. to 12½c. per lb.; medium, 9½c. to 10½c.; eastern grass calves, 5½c. to 6½c. Sheep and lambs, choice spring lambs, 13c. to 14½c. per lb.; medium, 9c. to 12c. per lb.; light, handy sheep, 7½c. to 8½c. per lb.; heavy, fat sheep, 5c. to 6c. per lb. Hogs, weighed off cars, \$11.65 to \$11.75; fed and watered, \$11.40 to \$11.55.

Breadstuffs.

Wheat.—Ontario, No. 1 commercial,

98c. to 99c.; No. 2, commercial, 94c. to 96c.; No. 3 commercial, 88c. to 90c.; feed wheat, 83c. to 85c. Manitoba (track, bay ports)—No. 1 northern, \$1.18; No. 2 northern, \$1.16½; No. 3 northern, \$1.12½.

Oats.—Ontario, No. 3 white, 48c. to 49c. Manitoba oats (track, bay ports), No. 2 C. W., 52½c.; No. 3 C. W., 52c.; extra No. 1 feed, 51c.; No. 1 feed 50c.; No. 2 feed 49c.

Barley.—According to freights outside, malting barley, 65c. to 66c.; feed barley, 60c. to 62c.

Peas.—According to freights outside, No. 2, \$1.75 to \$1.80; according to sample, \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Buckwheat.—According to freights outside, nominal, 70c. to 71c.

Rye.—According to freights outside, No. 1 commercial, 94c. to 95c.

Corn.—American (track Toronto), No. 3 yellow, 85c.; track, bay ports, 81½c.

Flour.—Manitoba first patents, in jute bags, \$6.50; second patents, in jute bags, \$6.00; strong bakers' in jute bags, \$5.80. Ontario, winter, according to sample, \$4.05 to \$4.15, track, Toronto; \$4.00 to \$4.10, bulk, seaboard.

Hay and Millfeed.

Hay.—No. 2, per ton, best grade, \$17 to \$18; No. 2, per ton, low grade, \$14 to \$16.

Straw.—Car lots, per ton, \$6 to \$7, track, Toronto.