

MAY CROP BULLETIN

The following information regarding agricultural conditions in the Province about the middle of May has been issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture:

Fall Wheat.—While correspondents are not nearly unanimous, the general tenor of reports regarding fall wheat is favorable. In most cases the crop entered the winter a little short in top, but snow fell early and lay on the ground nearly all the season, thus affording good protection, except on knolls where the young plants were exposed, and in some of the fence corners, where the crop was smothered. Early sown wheat did better than that put in later, and the crop did best on rolling land. The greatest injury to the growing wheat was caused by the ice forming in low places during the wet and cold days of the latter part of March and the beginning of April, resulting in a number of patchy fields. There will be only a small area plowed up, however, as most of the thin or bare spots will be sown to spring grains, chiefly barley, in order to save the catch of grass. The lesson of the year is the old one of the benefit of drainage, as several correspondents point out that most of the injury to the crop occurred on low-lying and undrained land. There is but little difference to note in the condition of fall wheat in the various districts, although the best showing must be credited to the Lake Erie counties.

Winter Rye.—This crop wintered even better than fall wheat, but it is not largely grown for grain, being raised chiefly for pasture, green feed, and for turning under for manure.

Clover.—Correspondents are much divided in their opinions regarding the condition and prospects of the clover crop, descriptions ranging from "excellent" to "poor." A number of the returns from the Lake Erie district claim that the

fields never looked better at this season, and other western counties send more or less cheerful reports; but some of the returns from the eastern half of the Province are far from encouraging, although a number of good fields are also reported. The drouth of the early part of last summer hindering a successful "catch," the too close pasturing of fields by live stock in the fall, owing to the scarcity of fodder, and the trying effects of the frosts of early spring on low and wet spots, are given as the chief causes of failure by those who report unfavorably. Very little will be plowed under, as the warm rains falling as correspondents wrote were reviving the fields wonderfully. Several correspondents speak of alsike as doing much better than clover.

Vegetation.—The spring promised to open early, but cold, wet weather prevailed later and delayed growth. As correspondents wrote, however, warm rains with bright weather was rushing vegetation along, and although growth was a week or two later than in some seasons, it was nearly a week earlier than last year. Grass is relatively more advanced than tree growth.

Live Stock.—All classes of live stock faced the winter with a poor prospect of fodder supply, as hay and grain were both scarce and dear. In order to meet the situation a large number of horses, cattle and swine were sold at sacrifice prices, but even then fears were expressed by some as to the possibility of bringing the remaining animals through in any form better than that of mere sustenance. It is the general opinion that the average condition of live stock is much better than was expected, and the provident handling of fodder supplies has shown that Ontario farmers as a class are well capable of meeting such an emergency. No disease of an epidemic nature has been reported amongst live stock. Horses are described as being rather thin, but they are in fair working condition.

Aside from m indigestion—a much chaffy s they may be general health complain of to kept. Cattle horses, and, a when turned o pondents compl bedding has re affected by a s is also claimed prevailed among proportion than have died. Th fewer cattle th this year. Fat cattle are not a cent years, alth claim to have tl on hand. One r it will be anot cattle conditions Sheep have don class of farm a most fortunate i plaints are made and the dog nui eral times. Swi to be found in a year. So many b before the winter of feed, that it is livery of bacon ho the record of mor of crippling amoi rheumatism, is re ties. The good g middle of May w owners of live st were then on the

Supplies.—Hay last fall that muc many as to whethe until the new grow farmers were force bulk of those owni ful feeding, came