

SEPTEMBER CROP REPORT.

The September Report of the Bureau of Industries gives full information on the progress and completion of harvest work throughout the Province, and of the state in which the various grain crops have been garnered. It also deals with the condition of pastures and live stock, of the root and fruit crops, of corn, beans and buckwheat, of the new crop of clover and the prospective supply of clover and timothy seeds, the preparations for sowing fall wheat, and the honey produce of the year. The Report is prepared from information furnished by a large staff of correspondents in each county of the Province, the great majority of whom are practical farmers.

With the exception of occasional fields of late oats and peas, harvesting operations were pretty generally concluded by the first of September. The heavy rains which prevailed almost universally through out Western Ontario in the earlier part of August, not only made the harvest season an unusually long and tedious one, but seriously impaired the quality of the grain crops, and especially fall wheat and barley.

The yield of fall wheat will be even greater than was estimated in former Reports; but a considerable portion of the crop has been housed in a damp condition, and rust and sprouting prevailed in many localities.

In the western peninsula barley is very generally discoloured, though the grain is large and plump, and the yield fully as large as was anticipated. In Lennox, Addington, and Prince Edward, however, where the grain is so largely sown, the harvest was favored by the finest weather, and the crop was garnered in excellent condition. Indeed, throughout Eastern Ontario generally, the farmers escaped the almost continuous rains which rendered harvesting operations so uncertain in the west, and as a result, the crops have been much better saved, though the yield is not so heavy.

Many correspondents report that the spring wheat has been badly injured by rust and midge, while in more limited localities it suffered from the rainy weather which followed closely on a period of drought. On the whole, it is less than an average crop.

Oats were late in ripening, and in some of the western counties shelled badly in harvesting, but they will be fully an average crop.

Peas are rather a light crop, partly owing to the ravages of their unfailing enemy, the bug, and partly to unfavorable weather.

A large quantity of fall wheat has been threshed but very little has yet been marketed, and prices are unsettled.

The damage done to the grain crops by the copious rains of August, will be fully balanced by the luxurious pastures they helped to produce, and the consequent benefit to live stock and dairy interests. Correspondents almost unanimously report that the pastures were never better, that live stock are in excellent condition, and that the year has been a most prosperous one for dairymen. The supply of store cattle, largely on account of the prevailing high prices, is small; and, owing partly to the same cause and partly to the ravages of the pea bug, pork promises also to be rather a scarce article. "Pink-eye" is reported from the county of Essex, some horses having died of the disease, and a considerable number having been disabled for work.

Owing to the "heaving" of the plants last winter, the crop of clover seed will be much below the average

throughout the Province. The most favourable reports in the west come from some of the Lake Erie counties, where the prospect is said to be "fair," conditional, however, on a continuance of dry weather and the absence of frost. In some of the eastern counties Alsike lover is extensively grown, and it stood the winter well. Of timothy seed there will be an average supply. From all quarters correspondents report that the new seeding has had a splendid "catch"—the best in many years—and there is a fine prospect for an abundant crop next year.

The corn crop has had much to contend against this year. Owing to the cold and wet weather of May, it was planted late, and the soil was in the worst possible condition to promote its growth. The low temperature of June and July was scarcely less unfavourable, and many fields were re-planted. At the end of July, the outlook was cheerless in the extreme, and the most sanguine of correspondents, in the best corn-growing counties, did not look for more than half a crop. But the month of August transformed the prospect; warm days and genial showers did wonders for the corn, and the reports of correspondents this month are greatly altered in tone. The crop, as a whole, will scarcely reach an average and there are many poor fields, but it is a very great improvement on the promise of a month ago. In Essex and Kent, it is well ripened by this time, but in the other counties it will be two or three weeks later.

Beans are fairly good, on high and well-drained ground, but on low-lying fields they have not podded well, owing to the heavy rainfall, and in some localities the crop will not be worth the pulling. The best accounts come from Kent and Norfolk, and the counties along the Ottawa river.

Buckwheat is late, and fears are entertained that it will not ripen before the coming of autumn frosts. In the eastern counties, the later-grown fields are giving the best promise, having escaped the scorching days of early August.

Generally speaking, the fruit crop of the year is a failure,—apples decidedly so, owing to the "blight" referred to in previous reports. The trees, though showing some signs of recovery, have still an unhealthy appearance, the leaves being dark in colour and shrivelled up as if they had been touched by fire. The fruit is small, diseased and worm eaten, except in the case of a few hardy varieties, notably the Russet. The only part of the Province reported free from the "blight" is the St. Lawrence and Ottawa counties, where there will be an average crop, though the fruit is small in size. Peas are a fair crop, except in the Georgian Bay counties, where they are reported to be a worse failure than the apples. Plums are considerably below an average yield, owing mainly to the ravages of the curculio, and in a small degree to the effects of black-knot. Peaches, where grown at all, are scarce, and prices high. Grapes are a fair crop.

Roots are fairly good in all sections of the Province, excepting the counties of Grey and Simcoe, on Georgian Bay, and Haldimand and Welland, on Lake Erie. The local droughts of June and July, in those counties, were very unfavourable to potatoes, carrots and mangolds, and the fly has been a troublesome enemy to turnips. But the rains of August have greatly improved the general prospect, and farmers are hopeful. There are many complaints, however, that potatoes are affected by rot, but so far no serious damage has been done. It was doubtless due to the heavy rains.

A large breadth of fall wheat will be sown this year, but, owing to the prolonged harvest season, seeding will be fully two weeks later than usual. The rains, too, interfered with the cultivating and harrowing so necessary to keep fallows in good condition for the reception of the seed.

The Report contains miscellaneous statistics, embracing the acreage and produce of hay and clover, the acreage of root crops, buckwheat, beans, flax, hops and fruit, and the year's produce of maple sugar. Following are the figures for the whole Province, and for the County of Welland:

| | The Province. | The County. |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Meadow and Clover, acres in crop | 1,602,008 | 39,204 |
| Meadow and Clover, tons of produce | 2,138,460 | 43,124 |
| Potatoes, acres in crop | 161,300 | 3,791 |
| Mangold Wurzel, acres in crop | 10,060 | 185 |
| Carrots, acres in crop | 9,941 | 63 |
| Other Roots, acres in crop | 75,164 | 180 |
| Buckwheat, acres in crop | 33,935 | 1,578 |
| Beans, acres in crop | 20,857 | 882 |
| Flax, acres in crop | 5,413 | |
| Hops, acres in crop | 2,047 | |
| Orchard and Garden, acres | 213,725 | 7,302 |
| Vineyard, acres | 1,824 | 127 |
| Maple Sugar, pounds made this year | 3,292,331 | 50,57 |

Returns made by correspondents, based on the threshing machine records of their several localities, show that the total produce of fall wheat in the Province is 32,352,403 bushels; of spring wheat, 9,295,793 bushels; and of peas, 11,428,479 bushels. These figures exceed the estimates made on the 1st of June, especially the figures of wheat and oats. More accurate data, however, will be furnished by the returns of threshers, the results of which will be given in the October Report of the Bureau.

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