

Western Crop Estimates Modified.

Intelligent agricultural opinion in the Canadian West has been protesting against the dissemination of exaggerated predictions of crop yield, calculated to bear prices and thus adversely affect the farmers' interests. Recent forecasts place the average yield at slightly under twenty bushels per acre, thus considerably discounting the estimate of 100,000,000 bushels ventured by Premier Roblin, of Manitoba. The Northwest Grain-dealers' Association, in their first circular this season, place the average wheat yield at 19.4 bushels, and cast up an aggregate of a little better than 77,000,000 bushels. Oats they estimate at 41.2 bushels per acre, multiplied to a total of 75,725,600. Of barley they count on 16,980,600 bushels, and of flax, 690,184 bushels.

The Winnipeg Branch of the Bank of Commerce places the total wheat yield at 91,813,900 bushels; oats, 80,854,680 bushels, and barley 17,735,790 bushels.

Harvest conditions have been excellent, and cutting has proceeded rapidly. Hot weather has caused considerable shrinkage of the wheat, but still the crop is splendid. To garner it some 12,000 or 13,000 harvesters have left Ontario and the Maritime Provinces, up to the end of last week, with another excursion this week, details concerning which are not to hand at date of writing. The draft is making a heavy drain of the repeatedly-reduced brawn of Eastern Canada, but the annual migration has its advantages, not the least of which is that the migrants are finding opportunity in our own country rather than abroad. At any rate we must make the best of it, pardonably trusting to participate in the national prosperity that will flow from the magnificent harvest they are helping to reap.

Co-operative Fruit Associations Organize

A large and representative meeting of the various co-operative fruit-growers' associations of Ontario was held in Toronto on August 14th, and a Provincial organization was formed. The meeting was called as a result of considerable correspondence on the need for such an organization. The associations represented at the meeting were those of Forest, Chatham, Simcoe, Oakville, St. Catharines, Parkhill, Oshawa, Newcastle, Trenton, Meaford and Walkerton; from each of these one or more representatives were present. Several other associations sent word they would give their support to the movement contemplated by the meeting.

The name of the newly-formed organization is to be "The Ontario Co-operative Fruit-growers' Association." The following officers were elected: President, A. E. Sherrington, Walkerton; First Vice-President, D. Johnson, Forest; Second Vice-President, W. H. Dempsey, Trenton; Third Vice-President, Robt. Thompson, St. Catharines, and Secretary-Treasurer, A. B. Cutting, 507 Manning Chambers, Toronto.

The object of the association is of a wholly commercial nature, and is designed to obtain reliable information with regard to the fruit crop throughout Canada, the United States and Europe. It will assist the various local associations to market their fruit to the best possible advantage, by bringing them into close touch with each other, and with the leading buyers, and by disseminating reliable information regarding fruit crops and sales. It will aid the local associations to procure satisfactory accommodation for the storage and shipping of their fruit.

The provincial association will take steps to bring about more uniform grades in the pack of the fruit of the Province. Already the Fruit Division at Ottawa has been asked to provide that the local co-operative associations be specially inspected and specially protected. It has been requested that a fruit inspector call at intervals throughout the packing season at the various co-operative fruit houses, so as to guarantee a high standard in the pack of the association. The Fruit Division has been petitioned also to hold meetings in the various co-operative localities, to demonstrate the best and most approved methods of packing fruit.

Reports gathered from the representatives present at the meeting were, generally speaking, of an encouraging nature. While the apple crop is regarded as a good one, a resolution was unanimously endorsed, calling upon the members and growers generally to exercise reserve in disposing of their stock. The opinion was freely expressed, that good prices will prevail for Canadian apples.

The membership in the provincial association shall be confined to the local co-operative fruit-growers' associations of Ontario, who have charge of the grading, packing and sale of the fruit of their members. Each affiliated association shall have the right to appoint one representative to act as a director of the provincial association. The membership fee shall be \$5.00 a year. In case it be required to meet further obligations of the provincial association, a very small levy per barrel will be made on the different affiliated associations.

At the close of the meeting a number of leading buyers, including some from Great Britain, met the growers and discussed matters pertaining to crop prospects and sales. The fact that an organization of this kind has been formed, and that leading buyers met its members at the initial meeting, is an indication of something doing in the direction of progress in the Canadian fruit industry.

Nova Scotia Crops.

In its summer crop bulletin the Nova Scotia Department of Agriculture summarizes as follows the returns of something over a hundred reports of correspondents in the most important agricultural districts of the Province:

The fall of 1905 was unusually dry. This was succeeded by an open winter, and by a rather slow, cold spring. As a result of all these conditions, the crop returns are extremely variable. For the most part, wherever the soil was in fairly good condition and the plants healthy and vigorous, the reports are favorable. But where fields have been neglected for a number of years, the grass roots especially did not seem to have the vitality to withstand the conditions, and, as a result, reports are not so favorable. Seldom have we experienced such a backward spring, as a consequence of which little seeding was done until June, and in many sections fields were not seeded until the end of that month. Following the wet month of May, June brought in very dry weather, and it looked, for a time, as if crops would generally prove a failure. However, during the latter part of June and the month of July, we have had lots of rain and heat, and the growth has been unprecedented. At present opinions as to crops differ considerably, but it would appear as if the hay crop for the whole Province may be estimated at about 85 per cent. Oats and other grains will be about a 90-per-cent. crop. Roots will be fully up to average. In regard to fruit, opinions too are variable; but it is generally anticipated that the crop will be above the average. Every correspondent reports the season to be from ten days to three weeks late.

The King's Horses at Toronto.

The coming of the King's horses, and those of Lord Rothschild, to Canada, for exhibition at the Canadian National Exhibition, has created considerable stir among horse-owners, breeders, etc., all over the country. As a result, the owners and breeders of different types are on their mettle, for these horses are both magnificently majestic and substantially massive. There are ten of these horses, all Shires, five belonging to His Majesty, and the other five to Lord Rothschild. They include two stallions, one Girtton Charmer, the champion of all England; and the other, Premvictor, has won seven firsts, three championships, two reserves, and a number of other prizes. In short, these two majestic animals are, undoubtedly, grand champions of champions. There is also a magnificent mare with filly foal, one of Baron Rothschild's, that has never been beaten in the showing, and is accounted the best bred and purest type of her class. An extra beautiful filly is Tacsonia, by the King's stallion, Calwich Blend. She has never been beaten wherever shown, and is really entitled to be considered a Queen of the Shires. There are two yearlings, quite as big as any two-year-olds of any species of horses, and two grandly-built geldings. In all, these horses are supposed to represent a value of twenty thousand pounds sterling.

The Crops in Quebec.

The July report on the condition of the crops in the Province of Quebec, issued by the Provincial Department of Agriculture, states that, according to information received from different counties, the average crop, in the various branches of farming carried on in the Province, will probably fall short of the average of past years. Lack of snow in the past winter, leaving the fields and pastures bare, has had a considerable effect on this branch of cultivation; the prolonged period of cold weather in the spring in turn delayed sowing operations, while the unusual dryness of the summer explains the probable diminution in the returns of farming produce.

According to figures of the Quebec Observatory, the total rainfall for the months of June and July was 4.54 inches, as compared with 8.07 inches, which is given as the average for the past forty years. In July the rainfall was only 1.74 inches, the average for the previous forty years being 4.25.

Formal Acceptance of Rittenhouse Gift.

On August 14th, in Victoria Hall, near Vineland, Ont., Hon. Nelson Monteith, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, formally accepted the land donated by M. P. Rittenhouse, of Chicago, for the purpose of an experimental fruit farm. Several thousand people were present from all parts of the district, also President G. C. Creelman, of the Ontario Agricultural College; E. A. Lancaster, M.P., Lincoln; E. D. Smith, M.P., Wentworth, and Dr. Jessop, M.P.P., Lincoln, and G. A. Putnam, Superintendent Farmers' Institutes for Ontario. County Councillor D. H. Moyer was chairman. In accepting the gift, Mr. Monteith spoke of Mr. Rittenhouse as a man who had accepted the responsibility that wealth cast upon him, and said he knew of no more shining example of a man considering the interests of his fellow men. His good example was already bearing fruit in Canada.

Reports last week stated that the tomato crop in the Niagara district was being seriously threatened by drouth.

Wool and Wool Prices in Britain.

P. B. MacNamara, Canadian Commercial Agent in Manchester, Eng., writing under date of July 15th, spoke as follows of the wool situation:

At no time in recent years has the price of raw wool reached so high a level as it commands to-day in England, and every indication points to a maintenance of high prices. Three years ago the price ranged from 6½d. to 8½d., but at a sale recently held at the Salisbury wool fair 105,000 Down fleeces were offered, and there was a brisk demand. The prices realized averaged 1½d. per lb. above last year's quotations. Washed lots sold at 14½d. and 15½d.; unwashed lots realized 11½d. Local wool, however, commands higher prices than the imported, and the price of latter is governed by its grading and the demand existing. The wool market reports point somewhat to the fact that buying is circumscribed to the most actual needs, the high prices deterring buying for storage. The European markets showed a decline, but most of the wool offering was withdrawn when prices fell off. Spinners and manufacturers claim that the present prices are more than the trade can carry.

IMPORTS OF RAW WOOL INTO GREAT BRITAIN.

From the Trade and Navigation Returns, I have obtained the following figures, showing the quantity and value for periods stated:

	1903.	1904.	1905.
Pounds.....	599,500,932	561,677,833	615,708,727
Value.....	£20,622,523	£20,366,030	£23,821,350

Fair Dates for 1906.

Cobourg Horse Show	August 21-23
Canadian National, Toronto.....	Aug. 27-Sept. 6
St. John, N. B.	Sept. 1-7
Winchester, Ont.	Sept. 6-7
Canada Central, Ottawa	Sept. 7-15
Western Fair, London	Sept. 7-15
Michigan West, Grand Rapids.....	Sept. 10-14
Sussex, N. B.	Sept. 10-14
New York State, Syracuse	Sept. 10-15
Guelph Central	Sept. 11-13
Chatham, N. B.	Sept. 14-21
Arthur	Sept. 18-19
Mount Forest	Sept. 18-19
Peel Co., Brampton	Sept. 20-21
East Parry Sound, Burk's Falls.....	Sept. 20-21
South Ontario, Oshawa	Sept. 25-26
Dominion Exhibition, Halifax, N. S.....	Sept. 20-Oct. 5
Prince Edward Island Agr. and Industrial Exhibition	Oct. 8-12
Provincial Exhibition, New Westminster, B.C.....	Oct. 2-6
American Royal, Kansas City, Mo.	Oct. 6-13
International, Chicago	Dec. 1-8
Ontario Winter Fair, Guelph	Dec. 10-15
Caledonia	Oct. 11-12

Managers of fairs whose dates do not appear on our list will confer a favor on our readers by sending in their dates.

Western Fair Dairy Prizes.

A meeting of the dairy committee of the Western Fair Board was held Saturday afternoon. Special interest seems to center in this department this year. There are several reasons why this should be the case. Cheese has been a very high price all this season, and the farmers generally are consequently greatly interested in what is to them one of the best sources of income. The butter exhibit is always one of interest to farmers' wives and daughters, and with the prizes of this year will, without doubt, bring out a large exhibit. The buttermaking competition will be carried on daily as usual, for which there are already several entries. Perhaps the greatest reason of interest in this department this year is the fact that there has been given to it two beautiful medals, which have been kindly donated by Messrs. Ryrie Bros., of Diamond Hall, Toronto. It was decided by the committee on Saturday that one of these medals be given to the exhibitor who is the winner of the most prize money in the cheese department in any or all of the first four sections. The other medal will be given to the exhibitor winning the most money in sections 4 and 5 of the butter department. The giving of these handsome medals, in addition to the prizes already promised, should bring out one of the largest and best exhibits of cheese and butter ever shown here. Entries will be received up to Thursday, September 6th. Programmes and all information given on application at the Secretary's office, Richmond St. north, London, or mailed on application to A. M. Hunt, Secretary and Manager.

Take in the Ottawa Fair.

The Central Canada Exhibition, Ottawa, will be held this year September 7th to 15th. The housing accommodation has been increased, and in prizes it is claimed that the largest list of specials ever offered by this or any other exhibition will be set up for competition. The management of this show is always the soul of courtesy, and the exhibition is a delightful and instructive place to visit, apart from the fact that it is located at the Dominion capital, a city which every young Canadian ought to see. Half rates will obtain on the railroads, and we bespeak for this Fair the generous attendance its excellence deserves.