

—the Williams—grown in Ontario. I also had some on the bloom that came after the rain that were very good. But for the most part the crop was of an inferior quality in shape and size, but the flavor was good.

Now, while I am disappointed in my crop, I am not at all discouraged, for I have lost part of my crop in Ontario from the same cause once or twice. We had them on our table here this year for a very long season, some four weeks or over.

Since you published my last article in your very valuable paper I have received a great many letters from your readers wanting information on care, etc., of strawberries, some of which letters I have answered, but they came so thick and fast that I thought it would be better for all concerned to give you a short article now, that will do for fall and winter care of the plants, and then in the early spring give you another article on setting out plants and the summer care of same.

Strawberry plants should be kept clean in the early fall and the soil should be kept loose so that the runners can take root, and if there is a little soil or lump of earth placed on the runner just behind the node, or end of the runner, to keep them in place, and also draw the moisture they will take root much quicker. In no case should the runners be left closer together than from six to eight inches; as they grow so dense a foliage in this western country that they shut out the sun and do not set the fruit so well.

As soon as the ground is frozen in the fall the plants should be covered with about two inches of clean straw or marsh hay as a winter protection. This covering should be left on in the spring until there is a growth started in the plants, then taken off and placed between the rows to keep the fruit clean in case of heavy dashes of rain, to keep the ground moist, and more than all, to have the straw for a covering in case of June frosts.

Central Alta.

JAMES CHEGWIN.

## FIELD NOTES

### British Notes

The Board of Agriculture has issued its report of crops and live-stock for the current season. The total acreage under crops and grass is 32,211,381—a decrease of 32,066 compared with 1907. Potatoes show the greatest increase in acreage of any crop, and the greatest decrease is in barley.

The number of horses, 1,545,671, and of cattle, 6,905,134, show very slight changes.

Supplies of British wheat are unusually heavy for the time of year, but much of it is in damp condition owing to the unfavorable harvest weather which still continues. The week's average town prices are 31s. 9d. per quarter for wheat, 22s. 1d. for barley, and 17s. 7d. for oats. The average price of wheat for the cereal year just ended has been good, being 32s. 10d. per qr., compared with 27s. 11d. for the previous year.

Great damage has been done to the hop fields of Kent by the stormy, inclement weather of the last few days. Fully one-third of the crop will be left unpicked. The harvest promised to be so abundant that it is a question whether it is a calamity from the farmer's standpoint as an abundance would have meant low prices and a large surplus.

France is trying a new experiment in an attempt to solve the "back to the land" problem. This may be summed up as "half an acre and a cottage." Parliament has sanctioned a bill providing £2,000,000 to be loaned at 2 per cent. through local companies under government guarantee. Laborers and others may acquire a plot of land and a modest homestead. The land must not cost more than £48, and its extent is limited to half an acre. The intending purchaser must pay £9. 12s. to enter into possession—if he has not the money he may deposit his savings till he has the necessary amount. He must undertake that he, or his children, will cultivate the land, and also insure his life. Should the experiment succeed, the promoters will ask for larger credits from Parliament.

The 25th Annual Bath Horse Show had a record number of entries over any recent year, and was very well patronized considering the unsettled weather. There were many fine hunters amongst the ninety-nine exhibited. Mr. Simpson Hinchliffe's famous five-year-old brown gelding "Broadwood" was awarded first place in the open class, and the Championship Cup. There were over one hundred exhibits in the hack and harness classes.

In spite of mingled sunshine and shower, enormous crowds were present at this year's Dublin Horse Show. The visit of the Viceroy in state, was signified by the presence of society in force, and the gaily dressed visitors were a brilliant sight.

The Hunter's Champion Cup, and the Champion Gold Medal were carried off by Major Alexander's gelding, "Redshank."

Mr. Paul Hoffman was awarded the Cochrane Challenge Cup, for the best pair of ponies or horses in tandem class, with his gelding "Riot," and mare, "Green Girl."

From every point of view the show compares very favorably with any of its predecessors. In young hunters there was a grand display, but the heavy weights were not so good. Many foreigners were present and were eager bidders on weight-carrying mares and well-bred horses. Big prices were given for hunters—£1,400, £1,200, and £850 were paid by three Continental buyers. Still some exceedingly cheap lots were secured by astute buyers—for instance Mr. Denneby bought a good looking yearling for £45, and could have disposed of it at once for four times the amount.

Upon the whole, many fine horses changed hands at fairly good prices—a satisfactory admission from Irish horse owners.

The annual show of Shorthorn cattle at Birmingham brought out an excellent entry of exhibits of a quality probably better than last year. The entries numbered 340, and many well known breeders were represented. Mr. James Blundell's "Ream Hill Flora," a fine roan beast was given first honors in the cow class, and afterwards sold for 52 gs. Competition was exceedingly keen in the bull class, exceeding 18 months. First place went to Lord Calthorpe's "Music Leader." At the sale he only realized 26 gs. In the 12 to 18 months bull class, Mr. H. Turner's "Right Honourable," secured first honors, and sold for 56 gs.

This year's Derbyshire Agricultural Show, suffered from fitful weather. The various classes were well filled on the whole, though fewer horses were shown. Shire horses are always a notable feature at this show, and the section was fully up to the high Derbyshire standard. Lord Winterstoke's two-year-old brown filly, "Danesfield Dazzle" carried off the Shire Horse Society's medal.

Lord Derby's famous herd of Sussex cattle have been disposed of at auction by Messrs. Thornton. The herd brought 2283 guineas, an average of 16 gs. The highest figure, 61 gs, was paid by Mr. John Aungier for the bull, "Masterpiece."

Very good progress has been made under the Small Holdings Act. In all 19,000 persons have applied for 300,000 acres, and according to the Commissioners, "it is evident that a large proportion of the applicants are thoroughly suitable men." Upon the whole the applicants seem to be provided with ample capital for the land acquired.

Leeds, England.

FRANK DEWHIRST.

For the construction of the ordinary stable or barn floor, which is not to carry any great weight, the following proportion of cement and gravel is to be recommended for the concrete base: One part cement, two and one-half parts clean, sharp sand and five parts loose gravel or inch layer of a mixture of one part cement broken stone. This should be finished on the surface with a one to one and one-half inch layer of a mixture of one part cement and one and one-half to two parts clean, sharp sand. The total thickness of this floor must be from five to eight inches, depending upon the load it has to carry.

### Protracted Dry Spell in Ontario

Press reports in Ontario indicate that in certain districts crops and live-stock are suffering seriously for want of rain. In the Niagara peninsula vegetable crops are in a bad way, such crops particularly as potatoes, carrots, celery, and cabbage. The ground is so hard and dry in some places that it is next to impossible to prepare land for fall wheat sowing, and unless rain comes soon it will be impossible to sow this autumn. The dry weather and heat are also ripening up the fruit very rapidly, making the handling of it difficult.

In Eastern Ontario the same condition seems to prevail, as well as in the central parts and the West. At Kingston and in the district around, fall crops are badly in need of moisture, pools and creeks are dried up and live-stock have a hard time quenching their thirst. In the Ottawa Valley the same complaint is heard. No rain has fallen in that locality for a month, and things are badly dried up. Plowing for fall wheat or fall plowing is impossible. The grass is pretty well gone and dairymen find it necessary to feed their cows. Milk has fallen off, and dairymen in many instances find difficulty in supplying their customers. It is the same, seemingly, in all parts of the province east and west, crops are suffering and live-stock being fed in nearly all districts.

### Events of the week

#### CANADIAN.

The Dominion Parliament has been dissolved and elections will be held on October 26th.

Thomas Greenway, ex-premier of Manitoba, D'Arcy Scott, Ottawa, and Professor McLean, Toronto University, were last week, appointed to the Railway Commission. The board as now constituted consists of six members.

Judge Maybee and Dr. Mills, of the Railway Commission, held a hearing in Winnipeg last week. Considerable evidence and argument were offered on the matter of freight rates, it being held by certain interests that the rates in force on the C. N. and C. P. railways are discriminatory. Decision was reserved.

Hon. R. W. Scott, who has served in the Federal cabinet for the past twelve years as secretary of state, has resigned. Jas. Murphy is slated to succeed him. Mr. Scott is 86 years of age, but despite his years will continue to lead his party in the Senate.

A fire occurred last Monday in the tunnel being constructed beneath Detroit River in which several men lost their lives. The flames started in the frame work at the entrance of the tunnel while two hundred men were working under air pressure beyond. It was necessary for the workmen to first pass through the air locks, a procedure that requires considerable time, for the reason that if brought out immediately from a compartment where the air pressure is four or five times normal, serious results will follow. They then raced for safety directly into the burning area through the smoke and flames. That a few men only lost their lives is a marvel. The tunnel was not seriously injured.

The forest fires which have been raging for weeks in all directions from the Sault on both sides of the boundary, besides burning up millions of feet of valuable timber are covering the lakes and St. Mary's River with such a pall of smoke that navigation of the straits between Lakes Huron and Superior is extremely difficult, sometimes impossible. The fires extend along the Canadian side from back of Sudbury to Batchewana, Michipicoten and Port William, and on the American side below the straits in the Alpena Ausable lumbering district. The smoke cloud extends from Toledo to Port Arthur and navigation over the entire lake route is affected.

#### BRITISH AND FOREIGN.

Asiatic cholera seems to be very prevalent in St. Petersburg this year and a hundred deaths or more from the disease, are being recorded daily.

On October 12, delegates from the four independent States which at present constitute British South Africa will meet at Durban to frame a plan of union. The scheme they adopt will be submitted to the four Parliaments, and possibly to the four peoples, by referendum, and if accepted another great confederacy will be formed.

James J. Hill, the American railway magnate, celebrated his seventieth birthday the other day and in emphasizing the occasion proceeded to do some more preaching to the great American agricultural classes, whom he has endeavored to lecture to before on scientific farming and kindred themes. According to Mr. Hill's way of thinking, farming is not only on the up grade, but farmers never more will sell their products as cheaply as they have done in the past. Wheat will never again sell for less than ninety cents per bushel, and other farm products will be in proportion. He didn't explain exactly how this most desirable condition of affairs was to be brought about.

The most remarkable combination between capital and labor ever conceived was launched recently by representatives of four railroad brotherhoods and leading officials and investors of sixteen railroad companies. It will be known as the American Railroad and Investor's association, and the investors in all the railroads in North America will be invited to join. The officials and railroad employees represent four hundred thousand organized men.

The organization will endeavor to defeat all unjust legislation against the railroads, whether in congress or the State legislatures. It is to be kept clear of politics.

Tom Longboat, the famous Indian runner, is working overtime these days trying to recover the reputation he lost the day he dropped out of the Olympia, after his managers had boasted to the world that he was the fastest long distance mover on earth. Tom suffered a loss that day that he will be a while recovering from. However, he is trying to make amends, and on Thanksgiving Day he is going to run in two Marathon races, one over a twenty mile course at Hamilton, the other a fifteen mile cross country jaunt at Guelph. The Hamilton race is in the morning and the moment Tom gets in a winner, as he expects to, gets his running legs off and store clothes on, he will jump into an auto and slip over to Guelph arriving there in time to get started in the fifteen mile race, which he also expects to win hands down.