

farming. (These come from the growth of population in cities and towns; from the people becoming better off and more fastidious and exacting in their tastes; and through cold storage giving them an opportunity to market perishable things abroad.)

4. Those which come with low prices for farm products, and which are beyond the control of the people of this country; and

5. Those that are inseparable from maintaining the fertility of soil economically.

Pursuing this subject further Prof. Robertson said. "Since we have over large areas of the country, lamentably small crops, considering the character of the soil, which could and should carry large crops, we come to the question—to what are the small crops due? They must be due to one of several causes or to several or all of them combined. The first is either insufficient moisture in the soil or too much. The second is unfavorable temperature in the soil and over the soil. The next is unsuitable physical conditions for the roots of plants in the soil. The fourth is the want of available plant food for the crops that are growing. The fifth is the lack of inherited or other powers in the plants themselves. The first two—moisture and temperature—belong to the climate and are in a measure, but not wholly beyond the control of the farmers. The third—the physical condition of the soil—is nearly altogether under the control of the farmers, because that depends on cultivation, including drainage. The fourth—the want of available plant food for crops that are growing—may be corrected by management, the rotation of crops and the application of farm-yard manure. The fifth—the lack of inherited or other power in the plants—can be remedied by selection of the seed that is sown on the fields.

In brief the ease or difficulty with which plants may secure their food out of the soil and air and the power of the plants to take their food out of the soil and air, are the two big things in the consideration of growing crops. The climatic conditions of the season and the intelligence of the farmers, as applied to the growing of crops, are what affect these most, and through these determine whether the crops shall be large or small.

I believe that if the farmers can be got to understand clearly a few fundamental principles and know the underlying reasons for the common things they do, they will do these far better.

Speaking of the control of moisture and temperature, Prof. Robertson said. "In ordinary seasons the moisture in the soil, available to growing plants depends almost entirely on the amount of what is called humus or decaying plant material which the soil contains. An abundance of that with good cultivation and drainage, will regulate the moisture, and permit the air to have access to the roots. The burying in the soil of some form of decaying plant substance is one of the wisest ways of controlling the soil moisture and of influencing the soil temperature favorably. Farmyard manure and green crops which may be ploughed under, should be kept as near the surface as is practicable, with regard to temperature. Heavy soils are often wet soils, particularly in the spring. For want of drainage want of deep growing roots, they are so compact that they hold water; When that evaporates rapidly it cools the soil and sometimes bakes it. Rapid evaporation removes the moisture, but

makes the land cold. When seed is put in in spring time, it is most important that the temperature should be favorable to a quick germination of the seed. Everyone knows that the seeds which germinate most rapidly give the most vigorous plants. The professor recommends rolling the land as one means of increasing the temperature of soil, it having been proven that rolled land had a temperature over three degrees higher at a depth of an inch and a half from the surface than unrolled land. The lumpy, irregular surface of unrolled land radiates the heat of the sun into the air."

The next points taken up were cultivation, rotation of crops, etc., all of which Prof. Robertson showed to be well worthy of careful study by every farmer. Selection of seed is strongly recommended as one method of improving the quality and yield of grain crops. The evidence given along these lines is much too bulky and minute for insertion here, but we have no hesitation in saying that a careful perusal of the whole pamphlet containing this evidence would richly repay every farmer in the country for his trouble in doing so.

### Low Prices For Fleece Wool.

Canadian fleece wool has been coming forward very freely when the extremely low prices which it brings are taken into account. It is estimated that 350,000 pounds of the new clip have been received to date by Toronto merchants. In addition to this quantity of wool, a close canvass of the street reveals the existence of 355,000 pounds of last year's clip. That so much 1898 fleece wool remains in the country—stocks in Toronto may be taken as representing conditions in other parts of Ontario—exercises a very depressing effect upon the market. Merchants in Toronto are paying 14 cents the pound for new fleece wool, and do not appear anxious to secure consignments ever at this low price. The representative of a firm which usually buys heavily stated this week that his house contemplated dropping out of the market until conditions gave evidence of improvement.

The present price of Canadian fleece wool is the lowest on record, and is two cents per pound lower than the prices of wool at the same season in any of the past eleven years. We submit a table of the prices paid for wool in the first week of July, since the year 1889:

Season.	Price of Wool per pound.
1899.....	14 cents
1898.....	16 cents
1897.....	17 cents
1896.....	19 cents
1895.....	20 cents
1894.....	17 cents
1893.....	18 cents
1892.....	17 1/2 cents
1891.....	18 cents
1890.....	20 cents
1889.....	20 cents

Farmers naturally feel very discouraged that domestic wool prices are so low, and anxiously await a turn for the better in the market. The only relief that can come to growers must come from the United States. Prices there have, we are pleased to say, shown a hardening tendency. Up to July 1st there had been an average advance since May 1st of 11 per cent., or about two cents per pound. While buyers profess to regard present quotations as extreme, sellers, on the other hand, manifest great confidence

in higher figures. The advance which has taken place in wool values in the United States, however, has not yet led to any American enquiry for Canadian fleece wool. We know of no wool buyers from the United States in Ontario, and are creditably informed that Toronto merchants have not as yet exported any of the new clip.—Monetary Times.

### California Oranges.

The orange season in California is practically closed, says the Minneapolis Commercial Bulletin. There will be very few Valencia's shipped in August. The total shipments for the season have been 9,933 cars. A survey of the condition of the market during the past year indicates that the citrus fruit crop will have been sold for about \$2 per box on an average, f.o.b., California. The average price last year was \$1.19. While the bulk of the crop has been reduced about one-third, the increase in price has more than offset the loss, and the growers have shared between them \$6,000,000, as against \$5,000,000 for the larger crop of last year. This is on the estimate that the total shipment of oranges and lemons will reach 10,500 carloads up to Oct. 31 next. The shipments to the close of the orange season are expected to be about 10,000 carloads, leaving an estimate of 500 cars of lemons for summer shipment. The amount paid out for freight for moving the crop is estimated to have been reduced from \$1,500,000 last year to \$3,150,000 during the season now closing, while the value of the crop delivered in the east is supposed to have decreased from \$11,000,000 last year to \$10,150,000 for the present year.

### Shall We Buy Novelties?

Retailers make many mistakes in the handling of novelties. No merchant should seek to make a dime museum of his store, and yet novelties must be introduced in every stock if the most successful retailing is to be realized. The markets are filled with novelties. Some of them are worthless from every standpoint, while others have merit and selling power as well. So far as possible, selections of novelties that will not "lumber" a stock should be the rule.

A good many merchants make the mistake of being conservative along this line. Their stock of goods lacks the brightening effect of a few novelties. It may be a bright piece of dress goods, conservative in character, that is wanting, or it may be notion novelties for counter use.

The feminine eye enjoys new things. The buying instinct is often tempted by novelties and there is good profit in their handling if retailers do not over-buy — Minneapolis Commercial Bulletin.

The Hudson's Bay company has amalgamated its fur trading districts known as English River and Cumberland, and placed them under the management of one officer, Chief Factor James McDougall, who will have his headquarters at Prince Albert.

The foreign trade of Argentina is growing steadily. Great Britain occupies a leading place among the countries from which imports are made, followed in their order by Germany, Italy and the United States. The latter country exports largely of agricultural machinery to the Argentina.