

year. In fact, outside of New York there are only four cities in which the clearings show a loss as compared with last year, viz.: Philadelphia, 2.6 per cent.; Cincinnati, 3.1 per cent.; Galveston, 11.9 per cent., and Worcester, 3.4 per cent.

The New York *Shipping List* recalls the fact that under the law the time allowed for the redemption of trade dollars will expire on the 3rd of next month. The amount redeemed up to date is a little over \$7,400,000. The number of these dollars estimated to be held in the United States by the Director of the Mint in his reply to Congress was \$7,036,000, and the slight excess in redemptions is accounted for by importations from China and Japan.

Last week's New York bank statement was unfavorable, every item showing a decrease as compared with the previous week. There was a large contraction of loans, \$2,215,100, a loss of cash to the extent of \$1,537,200 in specie and \$313,000 in currency; deposits decreased \$5,529,000, and the surplus reserve shows a shrinkage of \$467,950, being down to \$4,265,575, against \$4,733,525 the week previous. The interior was a large absorber of cash, says the *Bulletin*, and Treasury operations were unfavorable to the banks.

THE CROPS IN ONTARIO.

Of all the provinces of the Dominion, Ontario produces the largest quantity of cereals; and the yield of the harvest here is, on this account, of general interest to all Canadians. The time may come when Ontario will cease to be the premier agricultural province, and some province in the North-west will take the precedence. But at present the Ontario harvest is the principal factor in the prosperity of the Dominion. According to the bulletin of the Ontario Bureau of Industries, the harvest is short in all the cereals and in potatoes; and whatever reliance may be placed on precise figures, the general statement, however unwelcome, must be accepted as correct.

Autumn wheat, we are told, will probably not exceed two-thirds of an average crop, the average being based on the experience, as far as ascertained, of five successive years. Of spring wheat the estimated yield is 4,500,000 bushels less than the average. The estimated yield of barley is 17,436,322 bushels, being 2,136,000 less than the average yield, though the area under crop was 50,000 acres more. Of oats the estimated yield is 8,000,000 bushels less than last year, and 5,000,000 below the average. Rye was confined to a small area, and is not expected to yield more than half a crop. Nearly as much as the average yield of the last five years, in peas, is looked for. Indian corn is a short crop, and beans generally a failure. It is too soon to tell definitely of the prospect of some root crops, but potatoes are certainly deficient.

It depends on the weather whether turnips, mangel wurzels and carrots will be a full crop; they may prove anything between that and a decided failure. Hay

is not believed to be much below the average. Clover seed borders upon serious failure.

Wheat, as reported, is still considerably above the United States average, one kind (autumn) being put down at 16.2 bushels per acre, and spring at 12.4. Both these figures are below the Ontario average, which, for autumn, is given at 21 bushels, and for Spring at 16.1. Oats are put down at 30.1 bushels to the acre against 37.1 the average. The shortage is expressed by 5,000,000 bushels on a crop of 55,333,393.

Two causes principally account for the declension in the produce of the harvest; diminished rain fall and excessive heat. The drought was most severe in the West and North-west, the rain fall being four inches less than the average of five years; in the North and North-west $1\frac{1}{2}$ less, but there much of it came in July. May opened the season with an augmented temperature, compared with the average, of eight to ten degrees, June brought a surplus heat of one to two degrees, and July blazed out at the rate of six degrees above the average; the highest temperature exceeding by $7\frac{1}{2}$ degrees the highest temperature of five years. In this month, the thermometer ranged from ninety degrees in Simcoe to one hundred degrees in Hamilton. These temperatures would be favorable to the growth of grapes; but heat did not come by shocks and starts which Count Gasparin, an authority on the subject, declares most favorable to them; it blazed with a continuous blaze. The coincidence of excessive heat and deficient rain fall had a stunting and wilting effect, with the result already stated. The diminished rain fall insured barley freedom from discoloration. The brightness of the barley adds to the price, since bright barley is capable of making pale ale; paleness brings a guarantee of purity, and discoloration may be reduced by adulteration, the use of molasses for instance, as well as discolored barley; but the trouble is that the public can never tell to which of these causes the result is due, and is under a sort of necessity to meet an accident of the weather with the same disapproval that it applies to a fraudulent device of men. Hence, bright barley, of which the crop of this year is composed, brings more money than discolored barley, though in all other respects than color, the latter might be equal to the former. So long as color stands the sentinel of honesty and dishonesty, though it does its work in a bungling way, the distinction, with a difference in price, will continue.

The deficient harvest will result in the curtailing of expenditure by farmers; and though serious, the deficiency is not great enough to portend disaster. The farmers will somewhat increase their indebtedness, while with a large or even an average harvest they would have been able to reduce it. This is the chief difference, and there is no doubt it will be felt in various directions.

—Professor Sheldon has sailed from London for Canada to renew his enquiries into the agricultural resources of the Dominion, and the adaptability of the various provinces for settlement by the farming classes of Great Britain.

THE MANITOBA RAILWAY EMBROGLIO.

Both parties to the Manitoba railway dispute, the Parliament and Government of the Dominion, and the Government and Legislature of Manitoba, profess to have right on their side. In that case a reference of the question to tribunals would seem to be the legitimate and the proper course. The Province has sometime talked of an appeal to the Privy Council, and it would have been well if such an appeal had been made. Instead of this, the Province has taken the law into its own hands, in defiance of the federal authority, which was exercised in the form of a veto on the local legislation. The constitutional right of veto does not admit of question; the power has been exercised, over and over again, under every government that has existed since the confederation was created. The question is not of the right but of the wisdom of the exercise of this constitutional prerogative, in any particular case. The course taken by the Federal Government in this instance, is inexplicable, in view of what has since happened. The veto has been a sort of Wouter Von Twiller proclamation, and has proved not to be in the least effective. The province has gone on with the construction of the forbidden road, as if there were no constitutional objection in the way. The talk of a resort to force, by some reckless men in the province, is child's talk, with an added dash of wickedness. A resort to force could only bring utter disaster and ruin on Manitoba; and journalists in the east who try to egg Manitobans on to their destruction are guilty of a great crime.

The question in dispute is a legal question, not one on which any rational human being would countenance a resort to force. And it is well that it is at last to meet a legal solution, if not on the initiation of the province, as had been talked of, on that of an individual closely connected with a rival railway. Sir Donald Smith has filed two bills to prevent the Red River Valley crossing his property in St. Norbert. A similar bill, previously filed by Mr. Browning, will be disposed of first, an injunction having already been granted; but whatever the decision, it will not, it is thought, prevent the cases of Sir Donald Smith coming to a hearing. Contests of this kind are always fought to the bitter end, and this is likely to go on till it reaches the Privy Council. When it is finally decided, it will be seen on which side constitutional right is to be found. But we cannot see how the constitutionality of the veto exercised, in this case, can be shown not to exist. It is quite possible that many Manitobans have convinced themselves that they are in the right, but there are among them some who are quite prepared, and so loudly proclaim, to Mexicanize the country. These people say that, law or no law, they are going to build a railway, the charter for which has been vetoed by the Dominion Government. This means that they are going to rely upon force; to resort to insurrection, in the hope of bringing about a violent revolution. This is the Mexican method; it is the method of the South and Central American repub-