

## Ontario Crops.

The last Ontario Government's crop bulletin gives statistics up to August 15. Regarding crops in general the report says:—Our previous bulletin (June 22) was delayed three weeks in order that we might determine the full effects of the excessive rains of May. Since then excessive drought over a large western area has caused a great falling-off in some crops. The reports indicate a more than usual variability in yield and condition. Through the Western Midland and Georgian Bay counties, and also in Muskoka and Parry Sound, very great damage has been caused by grasshoppers. Fall sown crops have done very well in all parts of Ontario. Hay has turned out fair to good in quantity and good in quality. Oats and barley are under the average. Corn is now making good growth, and is quite promising. Peas have fared badly; Roots are doing fairly well, except in cases of extra drought and grasshoppers. Fruit is, except in the case of fall apples, quite up to the average.

**Fall Wheat.**—All things considered, this is probably the most successful crop of the present season. The grain filled fairly well, and harvesting was completed in favorable weather. The harvesting began July 1 in the south-west and ended about August 1 in north and north-east.

**Spring Wheat.**—Reports are quite varied as to spring wheat. The little that is grown in the western half suffered very severely from drought, whereas excessive rains in the east have in some cases done much damage and encouraged rust.

**Barley.**—The acreage is greater than in 1893. The yield per acre below the average. The excessive drought of the west has caused premature-ripening, with grain small and light, but of good bright color. On the whole there will be available only a limited quantity of plump bright barley for export.

**Oats.**—From all parts come reports of only a fair yield per acre. The grain is a little light. Destruction by grasshoppers is very commonly reported in the west and north.

**Peas.**—This crop has suffered the most severely of the spring-sown staple field crops. On the whole the yield of first-class peas will probably be less than for some years past.

**Hay and Clover.**—The yields per acre of the past three years were as follows: 1891, 0.94; 1892, 1.74; 1893, 1.79 tons per acre. That of the present year is 1.39 tons per acre. The larger portion of the present crop is timothy and native grasses.

**Potatoes.**—Heavy rains at the time of planting, June frosts, bugs and drought have combined to make the yield of potatoes small in western Ontario. Some correspondents report only half a crop. In the eastern portion of the province the reports are much more favorable, in some localities the yield being most encouraging.

**Roots.**—Roots generally are thin, backward and generally unpromising in the west owing to the drought. From York east to the Ottawa river roots continue to improve in appearance, and some most encouraging reports have been received from Frontenac, Carleton and other counties in the St. Lawrence and Ottawa group.

**Fruit.**—Correspondents are not unanimous regarding the various fruits, but the general condition may be thus summarized. Apples, notwithstanding the profusion of blossoms, will not be a heavy crop. Plums are in fair condition in the Niagara district, where they get special attention, but other sections report much injury from curculio. Pears will give a fair yield, taking the province over, although considerable blight is reported in the west. Peaches are fair to good, early sorts especially yielding largely. Grapes will hardly be up to their summer average, owing to early summer frosts, although in some sections there is promise of an abundant yield. The rose bug has

been doing damage to some vineyards. Small fruits have been fair, except wild sorts, which have suffered from drought. In fact rain and cold weather at the season of blossoming and fertilization and drought during midsummer have hindered the orchards from fulfilling early expectations.

**Pastures and Live Stock.**—The most favorable reports concerning pastures come from the St. Lawrence and Ottawa counties, but even there the fields were becoming dry. In the remainder of the province, but more particularly in the western groups, serious alarm is felt as to the extent of the drought. Several correspondents state that the milk flow has fallen off fully one third. Pastures hardly deserve the name, they are so brown; and some correspondents say that the aftermath will be almost nothing unless early rains come. Grasshoppers have been bad in Huron and Bruce and in the Georgian Bay and West Midland groups, as well as in Halton and more eastern counties. The hornfly is reported in nearly every group, and has been very annoying. Notwithstanding these drawbacks live stock are reported in a healthy condition generally, although very thin. Butter has been scarce in some districts, but cheese factories have been largely patronized. Judging by the returns our farmers are giving closer attention to dairying than ever before.

**Area and yield of field crops.**—The average yields for 1894 are based on reports dated August 15. These are subject to revision after threshing. The following shows the estimated yield for 1894, compared with the yield for 1893, and also the average yield for the years 1882 to 1893:

	Year.	Yield Per acre. Bush.
Fall wheat .....	1894	21.6
	1893	19.2
	1882-94	20.0
Spring wheat .....	1894	16.1
	1893	11.7
	1882-92	15.2
Barley .....	1894	22.7
	1893	21.0
	1882-93	25.7
Oats .....	1894	30.4
	1893	30.3
	1882-93	34.6
Rye .....	1894	15.7
	1893	14.5
	1882-93	16.1
Peas .....	1894	17.5
	1893	19.2
	1882-93	20.4
Beans .....	1894	14.6
	1893	13.6
	1882-93	17.1
Hay and clover .....	1894	1.39
	1893	1.79
	1882-93	1.43

The total area under the above crops is 8,230,139 acres, as compared with 8,054,612 acres in 1893. The area devoted to pasture is 2,713,741 acres, an increase of 101,661 acres over 1893.

**Farm labor and wages.**—While a lowering tendency is perceptible in the matter of wages all around, yet the rates prevailing appear more uniform throughout Ontario than formerly. The average rates of wages for harvest hands throughout the province appear to be about as follows: Per day, with board, 90 cents to \$1; per month (four to six months), with board, \$15 to \$18; without board, \$18 to \$26. In cases of exceptional ability, however, as high as \$25 to \$30 is reported as being paid.

The last issue for August of the Toronto Monetary times is a very handsome number. This journal has recently adopted a new form of "make-up", and with the assistance of a new dress of type presents a decidedly improved appearance.

## A Big Apricot Crop.

Los Angeles Times. It looks as if before long the apricot would figure as one of the most valuable products of the state. It is estimated that the dried apricot crop of the state this year will be worth in round figures no less than \$2,000,000. The fruit will be carefully graded, for the first time this season. This is a job which has been undertaken by the San Francisco Fruit Exchange, and it will undoubtedly result in obtaining better prices for the fruit in the East, as purchasers will have more confidence. It has been decided in principle that there shall be four grades of the dried apricot—prime, standard, choice and fancy.—The last named being the highest class. As yet only the standard has been fixed.—those apricots falling below it being considered prime. The higher grades of the fruit are received later, in August and September, and will be classified in a week or two.

It is reported that the growers in some sections, such as Winters and Vacaville, are holding out for 10 cents a pound for their dried apricots, and that in some sections, owing to the railroad strike, the fruit is overripe and has been badly dried.

In the course of a detailed article on the outlook for the present apricot crop, the San Francisco Examiner says:

A large share of the apricot product is now dried. The later sections—such as the Santa Clara Valley—are now in the midst of drying. The quantity of this year's product of dried apricots is estimated variously at from 700 to 1,000 twelve-ton carloads, or from 8,000 to 12,000 tons. The largest dried-apricot yield ever produced in California was the crop of 1891, which aggregated about 6,000 tons. Owing to comparatively short fruit crop in the eastern states and to nearly if not quite all of our product of dried apricots and other dried fruits of the crop of 1893 having been consumed, California producers were in hopes of getting good prices, especially for all the early stock. Some shipments were made the very last of June, but on account of the railroad strike none of these shipments got outside of California. In the meantime the pressure to sell by growers was great, owing to many causes, first of which was their failure to realize on green fruit shipments, which were entirely stopped, together with all other shipments, by the railroad strike.

## World's Wheat Crops.

In reply to an inquiry Beerbohm's London list gives the following totals showing the world's wheat production for year mentioned:

Year.	Bushels.
1893 .....	2,408,000,000
1892 .....	2,400,000,000
1891 .....	2,368,000,000
1890 .....	2,240,000,000
1889 .....	2,144,000,000
1888 .....	2,208,000,000
1887 .....	2,304,000,000
1886 .....	2,120,000,000
1885 .....	2,040,000,000
1884 .....	2,182,000,000
1883 .....	2,000,000,000
1882 .....	2,200,000,000
1881 .....	1,984,000,000
1877 .....	2,000,000,000
1873 .....	1,760,000,000

Beerbohm makes the following comment:—From this return, which for the most part is founded on official returns, it will be seen that in no previous years has the production so far exceeded the average consumption as in the past three years. There have been years like 1884 and 1887 in which far more wheat was produced than was required, but these followed by comparatively lean years, during which the surplus was consumed, whereas for the three past years the production of wheat has evidently been greatly in excess of the world's requirements.