

Manitoba.

Official Manitoba Crop Report.

The Manitoba department of agriculture has issued the following report, from information gathered up to date of August 1st:—

	1891.	1892.
Rainfall recorded in July	2.95 inches.	2.16 inches.
Average yield per acre of prairie hay	1.62 tons.	1.92 tons.
Average yield per acre of cultivated hay		2.31 tons.
Approximate yield of wheat	27.1 bush.	22.07 bush.
" " Oats	44.6 "	43.10 "
" " Barley	35.8 "	32.19 "
" " Peas		23.00 "
Acres of new prairie broken.	178,330	143,919

In giving the average yield of different grains it is to be understood that they are only approximate, as it would be almost impossible for correspondents, on the 1st of August to state with any certain degree of exactness what the yield will be when the grains come to be threshed out.

WEATHER.—Correspondents are all pretty well agreed that the weather during the month of July was favorable for the growing crops, some saying it was of the very best. There has been a good deal of sultry weather during the month with frequent showers, which has brought along the crops rapidly, and has made up to a large degree for the cool weather of June.

The following is a record of the total rainfall, in inches, at the principal stations in the province for the month of July: Gretna, 1.20; Morden, 2.95; Arden, 3.81; Hartney, 1.82; Greenwood, 2.92; Selkirk, 2.69; Manitou, 2.94; Pomeroy, 3.43; Aweme, 4.97; Treherne, 6.59; Hillview, 3.14; Rapid City, 3.68; Norquay, 3.18; Bradwardine, 1.64; Carman, 2.90; Shoal Lake, 2.89; Beaver Creek, 3.67; Oak Bank, 2.92; Elm Valley, 2.14; Winnipeg, 3.56; Foxton, 3.10.

WHEAT.—Correspondents differ very widely in their estimates as to their yield per acre. Some are as low as 10 bushels to the acre, while a few estimate 35 and 40 bushels to the acre, by far the greater number estimate from 18 to 25 bushels per acre. Growth has been very rapid during the month, yet the yield of straw is much lighter than last year.

OATS.—Oats are reported to be doing very well, but are said to be very short in straw, in some places and uneven in plant, especially on old land. In some places where poor seed was used they are reported as thin. This is no doubt owing to their having been sown broadcast, because where the drill has been used, they are much thicker and further advanced. On back-setting they are reported as very good. In some places they came up thinly, but have stood out wonderfully. On the whole the crop promises to be an average one.

BARLEY.—Comments by correspondents on the barley crop are as follows: Good; average; very good; equal to last year; headed out; ready to cut in a week or ten days. The impression is made that the yield will be greater according to the appearance of the crop, than it was last season with the extra growth of straw.

PEAS AND FLAX.—Where they are mentioned they are said to be in good condition. Peas

will average 23 and flax about 17 bushels per acre; which, in the case of flax, is some better than last year, when it was put at 15 bushels per acre. The total area under flax is 1,718 acres, which is almost entirely confined to the municipalities of Arthur and Rhineland.

POTATOES AND ROOTS.—The unanimous report on potatoes is that they are a splendid crop, for years past there has been no report so generally favorable. No damage of any kind is reported. Turnips and field roots are above the average. The seasonable rains in July have given them a start that ensures a good crop.

MEADOW GRASS.—This is a bonanza year for grass, the estimated yield of wild grass per acre is 1.92 tons. In some cases the sloughs are as yet too wet to cut, but the favorable weather of the past week will give access to the heaviest and richest marshes.

CULTIVATED MEADOWS.—It must be said that the report current for some years that timothy could not be successfully raised in Manitoba was not founded on actual experience. Very few farmers until quite recently have tried to raise timothy, the prairie supplying all hay required, and the land broken has been given to some kind of grain. Now we have reports from almost all sections of the country of very fine crops being taken off cultivated meadows. The average estimated yield is 2.31 tons per acre. It is only a matter of time until the meadow will take its place in the rotation of crops in Manitoba as in Ontario. The most successful farmers to-day are thus raising hay for their stock, and at the same time giving back to the soil its virgin fertility by occasionally "seeding down."

THRASHING MACHINES.—An interesting report is given in connection with threshing machines. The very heavy crop of 1891 taught farmers generally that their money is not in their pocket as soon as harvest is over. Machines were at a premium—old horse powers were overhauled—every available machine in the province in the hands of the machine men was secured and all found work to do, and yet many farmers could not and did not get their grain threshed. The result to some farmers was almost a total loss of the season's crop and, generally a serious loss to the province. A glance at the number of threshers in the province shows how great was the demand. Last year there were in the province the total number of threshers, 977, this year a total number of 1180, showing an increase of over two hundred, of which all but twenty were steam outfits. With a much lighter quantity of straw to handle and with the increased facilities, it may be expected that the difficulty of the past season may not this year be experienced.

NEW BREAKING.—Again we have a large area of new breaking, in all 143,919 acres. This is 34,411 acres less than last year, but when it is remembered that hundreds of farmers had to do their threshing in June and July—the breaking season,—this is a large increase of land added to what is already under cultivation in the province.

GRAND TOTALS FOR THE PROVINCE.

The following is a brief summary showing the estimated yield for the province of the principal grain crops:

	Acres.	Bush per acre.	Total Bushels.
Wheat	875,930	22.07	19,333,000
Oats	332,974	43.16	14,371,167
Barley	97,644	32.19	3,143,100
Peas	2,183	23.00	50,324
Flax	1,718	17.05	29,291

The Hirsch Colony.

The Montreal *Gazette* gives the following account of the visit of the Baron Hirsch commissioners to the Souris colony:

"Mr. D. S. Friedman and Mr. Moses Vinberg, the commissioners appointed by the Baron de Hirsch relief society to visit the Jewish colony in the Souris district and report on its condition and prospects, have just returned, highly satisfied with their visit and rejoicing in the consciousness that the efforts to assist their poor Russian brethren were not thrown away, but promise to bring forth good fruit. There was only one unpleasant incident in the whole trip, and as this occurred after Mr. Friedman and his colleague had arrived back in Montreal it was not a serious one. Mr. Friedman, while away, had been collecting reports and other data for presentation to the society. Thers he had stowed away in his valise, and on his asking for it here, he found that the zealous porter had re-checked it to Port Arthur, and by this time it is again heading for the great North-west unless it has been stopped at Owen Sound by the telegram sent after it.

Mr. Friedman, while regretting the loss of his valuable notes, was able nevertheless to give the *Gazette* yesterday quite an interesting interview on the subject of Jewish colonization in the great north-west. "The colony," he said, "I believe to be an assured success. It is on a decidedly good footing and is bound to go ahead. I stayed there three days, and during that time had ample opportunity of observing the internal workings of the little colony. The colony is situated on the Souris branch of the Canadian Pacific railway, and the line will pass through it within fifteen days. This in itself will prove an inestimable boon to the colonists, as it will minimize their transportation trouble. The colony is also within eighteen miles of the Dominion Coal company's mines and six of the Halyard mines."

"What is the present strength of the colony?"

"The colony when complete will number 350 souls. At present its strength is over 200. Of course, just now there are very few women in the party. These are in Montreal and will join the men in a short time. In addition to the colonists proper, the section is forming a nucleus around which quite a large Jewish settlement is springing up. Russians and other Jews who have money hearing good reports of the land, have come there to settle."

"How about their health?"

"Excellent. It was March the 23th when the colony was founded, and up to date not even have there been no deaths, but hardly any sickness. The men are splendid workers, and seem to enjoy themselves thoroughly. Why, they seem to work all night. When we were passing into the settlement at 3 o'clock in the morning we saw the men going to the woods to work."

"Are there any drawbacks?"

"Yes, there is one, and a serious one; but this we expect to conquer shortly. There is a great scarcity of water, and farmers have to dig as deep as 45 feet without finding it, although there are others who have found it at 20 feet."