COUNTRY NOTES AND PRICES

KING'S CO., NOVA SCOTIA.

The dry weather has been succeeded by a series of very beneficial showers. Potatoes, corn, cabbages, buckwheat, oats, rye, pumpkins, and beans, look very flourishing. Owing to the dry weather the late beans are doing better than those sown earlier. Apples are not so promising. Beans (green) have not been so plentiful as in other years. Commission merchants slow in sending prices. Raspberries plentiful, both wild and cultivated, 12 cents a quarts. Blueberries and blackberries promise a big crop. Many farmers are plowing after the hay crop. Fall web-worms do very much damage in orchards and woods, also woolly bear caterpillars, which eat almost anything. Currants and gooseberries plentiful where grown.—Eunice Watts.

SHEFFORD CO., QUE.

DAVIDSON HILL.—Our general system of harvesting the grain crop is by the use of the binder and sheaf carrier. This combination is a great saving in these days of scarce and high-priced labor, which, at this season of the year, is very important. Owing to the limited area of grain grown in the Eastern Townships, compared with Ontario and the West, it will scarcely pay farmers to have all the improved implements needed in those sections where grain is largely grown. With implements such as corn harvesters and ensilage cutters, two or three neighbors might own them jointly and change work at the time of filling of the silos, thus saving looking up extra help, besides each one would be interested in having the work well done.

When the grain stands up well and is free from weeds and grass, and when the other conditions are favorable, there is no trouble in saving grain in good condition. If the crop is weedy, and the weeds are tied up in the bundles, and stocked on the weedy land it is difficult to get it in a fit condition to put it into the barn. Such a condition should not exist on a well cultivated farm.

Slings for unloading, are not much used. Corn harvesters are being introduced. They are a great saving of labor.—W.T.D.

HASTINGS CO., ONT.

ACTINOLITE.—The weather has been very hot and dry for the last two weeks. Haying is about finished and has turned out better than was at first expected. Barley is a poor crop, but other grains promise to turn out well. Corn is largely grown, and is looking fine. Potatoes and roots promise to be a good crop. Pastures are very poor owing to the dry weather. Farmers are cutting their marsh hay. It is turning out well. The general belief is that hay, straw and grain will be dearer than it was last year.—J.K.

CORBYVILLE.—Haying is over for 1908. The crop is about 40 per cent. heavier than last year; it is a splendid sample and was saved in fine condition. Early sowed barley is gathered in. Owing to the extreme drought it is very short, both in straw and yield of grain. Most was cut with the mower and handled in crib racks. The fields that were sown after the rains of early May are now looking well, being greatly improved by the recent fine showers. Oats are making a most wonderful growth, and are heading in grand style. There is sufficient moisture in the soil to make them fill well, while the bright sun and extreme heat of this week ward off rust and blight. The oat crop in the south end of East Hastings will be fairly good. This is corn weather, and with the corn month ahead it should be an average crop. A great deal of seed did not germinate; more was very low in vitality. It was purchased from the seed merchants and the canning factory. This will teach us once more to buy seed corn on the ear, when we do not raise our own, and in either case to adopt the germination test. Many are keeping the scuffler going to promote growth to kill weeds, retain soil moisture, and leave the land in good condition for the following crop without having to plow. Very few roots are grown, though a number of good catches were noticed some time ago. The new seeding of clover does not look as well as we would like. The recent fine rains ought to bring it along in good shape. Fruit is not more than half a crop. Farmers who were struck with the panic last fall and disposed of their breeding sows now regret their hasty action; many inquiries are heard for feeders and brood sows. Pastures suffered sadly during June and the early half of July, but they are getting green again. Fewer cows, but better cows, are being milked, which spells profit, and the dairyman is trying to keep clean and keep cool.—H. C. E.

PETERBORO CO., ONT.

LASSAWADE.—Hay gave a favorable yield, although only a slight advance over last year's turnout. No fall wheat is grown. Early peas and oats are very promising so far. Oats is the principal grain grown. Hay is nearly all taken in, but as yet no preparations are being made for harvesting.—C. E. D.

HALIBURTON CO., ONT.

IRONDALE.—Wheat is a good crop and is ripening fast. Cutting will commence this week. We have had no rain for a couple of weeks. Oats look as if they would be a good yield. Hay is better than it was last year. There is not much corn planted but what there is looks well. Potatoes so far look fine.—J. P. H.

KINMOUNT.—Spring wheat, not much sown, but what there is looks good. No fall wheat grown. Oats that were put in early promise to be a heavy crop. Peas promise well. Corn that was planted on good soil is looking well. Potatoes will be up to the mark. Hay was a very uneven crop, where it was not a partial failure it turned out well. Apples are a heavy crop. Small fruits a good crop.—J. A. S.

VICTORIA CO., ONT.

VERULAM.—Harvesting is in full swing. Owing to the extreme hot weather of the past two weeks the oat crop has been ripening too fast for a good filling, consequently there will be considerably light oats in this year's yield. The recent rains will improve the late sown grain as well as helping the root crops greatly. The pastures were getting badly dried out but they are again looking fresh. Barley which was short, but well headed, is now in the barns and the thresher is again on the way. Fall wheat is sparsely sown, but what there is of it is fairly good quality. The corn crop looks well. Some of the farmers have taken out their silos and prefer to sow only what can be fed conveniently in the straw. Hay was somewhat below the average crop, but was of excellent quality. Straw will be short, so feed will likely be scarce for the coming winter. Early planted potatoes are a poor crop. The late rains may cause the field crops to be fairly good. Very little clover is being left for seed, while Alsike is little sown.—B. G.

BOBCAYGEON.—Fall wheat is all out, and in the barn, as is also barley. Fall wheat will be about 75 per cent. of a full crop. Barley is very short in straw, but fairly well filled. The recent hot weather with drying winds has had a bad effect on the oat crop by weakening the straw and ripening the grain too fast. The Verulam Agricultural Society is having a fields competition in oats. The secretary, Mr. Hickson, reports the crop very much lighter than last year, and in some cases the straw is breaking down. The root crops were needing rain. The heavy rain of last night will benefit them, although it beat down the grain.—W. T.

NORTHUMBERLAND CO., ONT.

ORLAND.—Farmers have their hay harvested and stowed away. It was a fairly good crop, although not quite up to the standard of past seasons. Grain is being cut and threshing is in operation. There are prospects of a fairly good yield in some places, with spring rye and oats, from 30 to 40 bushels to the acre. Wheat and barley are decidedly poor, and will yield 10 or 12 bushels an acre. Mangels, turnips, potatoes and all root crops are looking fine, in spite of much needed rain. Pasture is getting very poor, and the flow of milk is decreasing. Apples are about half a crop to what they were last year. Mr. George Harnden of Hilton, has 100 acres of the best grain crops that can be seen in the township.—J. W. B.

DURHAM CO., ONT.

CENTREVILLE. — There is a great shortage of labor. Farmers are having a pretty hard time getting in the harvest. There is plenty of help to be had of a sort but it is mostly green hands, and the farmers say that that class of help is dear at any price, at this time of the year especially. The prospects are fair for fall wheat. Not much spring wheat is grown, but what there is is only moderate. Barley is good and will be slightly above the average. Roots are mostly failures. Rain is badly needed as quite a large acreage is under late peas, potatoes and turnips. Sow thistle is a serious pest. The farmers think that some legislation is necessary to keep this weed down, similar to that in force in the States, which compels a man with a dirty farm to cut his weeds, or the state cuts them for him and charges him with the time and labor expended on the work.—F. E. D., traveling representative of The Dairyman and Farming World.

HALTON CO., ONT.

SCOTCH BLOCK.—Hay is all in. It was a very good crop. Wheat is good; well harvested. Barley very good; mostly all cut. Oats good; some are cutting. Peas: the early ones are very poor; not half a crop; later varieties much better. Corn very poor in most cases. Potatoes are good; roots are very good. Where clover was sown in the spring it is an excellent catch. Crops have been harvested in excellent condition. The weather has been very dry for two weeks. Threshing has commenced; it is reported that wheat is turning out well.—M. E. T.

WATERLOO CO., ONT.

BERLIN.—We are very busy with our harvest—expect to finish this week. We threshed 540 bushels of wheat from 10 acres. The barley is only a fair crop, and is not a good sample. Oats promise an excellent yield. Corn and oats will be the best in several years. Pastures are getting dry again, as we have had no rain for two weeks. Our cream output, however, has not fallen off to any great extent.—R. R.

AYR.—Harvest is pretty well advanced, and threshing is the order of the day. Wheat is a good sample and is yielding well. Owing to wet weather immediately after cutting considerable of it is sprouted. A considerable amount of peas is in evidence and they appear to be well podded. Barley is short in the straw, owing to the dry weather. The oat crop is also light but the heads seem to be well filled, and will yield good to the straw. Corn and hoe crops are looking fine. Potatoes are doing nicely, though the potato bug was considerably in evidence. The Bordeaux mixture is used to some extent in the neighborhood but its use is not general.—G. C. S.

HURON CO., ONT.

GODERICH.—Haying is completed, and although only an average crop, the quality was of the best, since very little rain interfered with the proper curing of it. The first year meadows were light owing to last summer's drought. Fall wheat and barley are now cut, and both promise a good yield. Barley, especially on the heavier soils, is a heavy crop. Oat harvest has commenced, but is not general. Oats are a good crop, not having been affected by the blight as they were last year. Peas, although not largely grown here, are much better than usual. The prospects are that grain crops will yield nearly one-half more than last year. Farmers have no reason to feel dissatisfied.

AYRSHIRE NEWS

The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World is the official organ of The Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association, all of whose members are readers of the paper. Members of the Association are invited to send items of interest to Ayrshire breeders for publication in this column.

WHAT BREED IS MOST PROFITABLE?

A dairyman producing milk for the New York market from Holstein cows, finding that his milk would not grade up to the state standard of 12 per cent. total solids, has written the Country Gentleman, enquiring if there are other breeds that will fill the bill called for by the New York law, and asking for information regarding the Shorthorn, Brown Swiss and Dutch Belted breeds. They reply as follows:

"Every breed of cattle has the defects of its qualities. Both Holsteins and Jerseys are supreme in their separate fields, and the combination of the milk of both may be the best way to reach maximum results. The Short-Horn has a proud record in the dairy in England, but in this country has been bred almost exclusively for beef. Where she has been given a fair chance, the Short-Horn cow has demonstrated a capacity for milk production, that added to her carcass value, makes her well worth the dairyman's consideration. In an experiment at the Geneva Station several years ago, in which seven different breeds were represented, the Short-Horn cow (Spencer's Betsy 10th) is reported as standing at the head of the list in the matter of relative cost of milk solids obtained, and second in relative actual profit from milk, while she stood third in quantity of milk produced.

"The most important public dairy record of the breed made in this country was at the world's fair at Chicago, in 1893. In the cheese making test of 14 days, the Short-Horns ranked third, the other breeds being Jerseys and Guernseys. In the butter making test of 90 days, in which the gain in live weight was credited, the Short-Horn outstripped the Guernseys in pounds of milk produced, though falling back to third in pounds of butter. The net profit credited to Jerseys was $1323, to the Guernseys $997, and to the Short-Horns $915. Part of this in the case of the Short-Horns came out of gain in live weight, as the 23 cows of that breed in the test gained more than twice as much (2356 lbs.) as the 50 Jerseys (776 lbs.) and Guernseys (464 lbs.) At the St. Louis exposition the Short Horns also did well.

"Among the Brown Swiss cows we believe there is much variation both as to the quantity and quality of the milk produced. They are the leading milk-producing breed of Switzerland, but are more distinguished for large than for rich yields. Prof. Plumb says of them: 'The milk is merely fair in per cent. of fat, the average in tests of several thousand head being 3.50 per cent. In Switzerland, where much milk is made from this milk, about 20 pounds is required to make one pound of cheese.' Prof. Plumb cites the dairy test of the cow Briens 158 to show what a member of this breed can do. In November, 1891, this cow aged twelve, weighing 1400 pounds, in a public test at Chicago, under the auspices of the Illinois State Board of Agriculture, averaged 31.7 pounds a day for three days, the total milk yielding 9.32 pounds of butter-fat, which stands as the largest public milk and butter-fat test yet made by any breed.

"The Dutch Belted give milk no better in quality than the Holstein, and usually quite a little less of it. Much can be done by selecting Holsteins that give a fairly good grade of milk. In fact individual selection is a most important factor in any breed."

The secretary of the Ayrshire Breeders' Association of Canada, Mr. W. F. Stephen, of Huntingdon, Que., replied to the letter of this inquiring New York Dairyman, also. While he had nothing to say against any of the foregoing breeds, he points out that the Ayrshire cattle are the best breed for the purpose required by the dairyman supplying the New York market. Mr. Stephen's reply in full will appear in a subsequent issue.

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