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London, Thursday, Aug. 21.

PARKS AND PRISONERS.

Some of the witnesses before the Ontario Prison Commission complained of the lack of work for prisoners under sentence in jail, and suggested that their labor should be utilized in laying out and beautifying a public park on the River Thames below the waterworks.

An ADVERTISER representative has since interviewed Mr. Langmuir, chairman of the commission. He expresses the belief that the Ontario Government would have no objection, under proper supervision, to have the work of idle prisoners turned to public benefit in some such manner.

The idea is a good one, and is well worthy of being carried out. Now let the Water Commissioners, the aldermen and the men of progress in the city not in office get together and put the matter in shape.

There is a splendid opportunity to beautify a popular resort at little expense, and at the same time aid in effecting a reformation in a class that are rendered less able to resume their position as free citizens by being kept in hopeless and unprofitable idleness while under detention.

THE TALE OF TWO CITIES.

On the Toronto civic holiday a big crowd of Toronto Orangemen went on an excursion to Hamilton, and their doings in the latter city have ever since been a fruitful source of discussion in the papers of the respective places. All three Hamilton journals described the proceedings of the excursionists as nothing short of a disgraceful drunken orgie.

In reply, the Toronto Orange leaders have asserted that the men who were guilty of rowdiness and whose bodies could not be held responsible for their doings. To this the Hamilton newspapers reply that at all events hundreds of the visitors who so shockingly misbehaved wore Orange uniforms and carried battle-axes, and thus the matter stands. In this connection the Hamilton Times makes the suggestion that "a law should be passed to forbid carrying axes, swords and other deadly weapons, which, in the hands of such fellows as Toronto appears to abound in, menace the public safety." We suppose it will leave to come to that if there are to be repetitions of the Hamilton experience with lawless Torontonians. Men armed with loaded revolvers in their possession are liable to severe penalties, and yet they are not likely to be more dangerous to the public than drunken blackguards who go careering through a crowded street with a heavy axe or a sharp sword ready to be aimed at any person who interferes with their liberty to do as they please.

SIR FRED'S REVELATIONS.

Sir Fred Middleton has issued a parting address to the people of Canada, defending himself against the charge of looting in the Northwest which led to his resignation of the command of the militia. The general now confesses that he was in error when he ordered the confiscation of the whole of Bremner's farm and agreed to the distribution of a portion among members of his staff. He founds his reason for so agreeing on a recollection that looting had been sanctioned in the Indian mutiny in which he took a part, and also on the fact that Commissioner Hayter Reed, who was sent to him as Dominion Government legal agent, advised or concurred in the confiscation. But the most interesting statement which the General makes is entirely new. It implicates the Minister of Militia, who had first ordered the General to do as he liked with other looted property, and then telegraphed, under date June 12, 1885, when the "war" was still in progress: "I should like you to bring back some mementoes of your campaign for Sir John, Sir Hector and myself - leave to you to select whatever you consider of interest."

The knowledge that this telegram existed may have had something to do with the remarkable reluctance of the Dominion Government in ordering an investigation into the charges of looting which were on record for years before the Ministers could be prevailed upon to take the matter up. Such broad requests, coupled with Hayter Reed's advice and subsequent conduct, tell a good part of the story.

It is to be regretted that when the matter was finally adjudicated upon Sir Fred Middleton was more anxious to save his employees than his own good name. They testified him to save themselves, and they will now claim vindication just as they asked the people to condone their grievous wrongdoing because they hanged Risk.

CROPS AND LIVE STOCK IN ONTARIO.

The latest bulletin issued by Secretary Blue of the Ontario Bureau of Statistics is replete with information of great interest to farmers, merchants and manufacturers and the people generally. Indeed, no matter in which walk of life we move, we are all dependent upon the success of the farmer for good times. The report shows the condition of the crops and the estimated yields of the cereals based upon the reports of 793 correspondents at date. The acreage of fall wheat is taken from the assessment rolls, while all other areas and statistics are compiled from returns made by farmers under date of July 1, 1890.

As the ADVERTISER has, in a measure, anticipated, the agricultural and business outlook is brightened by these official reports. The significance of the changes in the crops over those of the last two years will be gleaned from the following table:

Crops.	Acres.	Bushels.	Value per acre.
Fall Wheat.....	1890.....720,101	14,832,240	20.9
	1889.....822,115	13,004,860	15.8
	1888.....932,309	15,056,669	19.4
Spring Wheat.....	1890.....601,733	9,628,190	16.0
	1889.....598,610	9,627,714	11.5
	1888.....565,355	8,804,318	12.5
Barley.....	1890.....701,339	16,311,370	23.3
	1889.....875,292	22,286,338	26.7
	1888.....774,245	20,215,539	26.2
Oats.....	1890.....1,523,992	35,713,301	31.1
	1889.....1,523,444	34,346,393	32.5
	1888.....1,613,613	37,041,030	33.3
Rye.....	1890.....100,081	1,017,525	15.7
	1889.....101,195	1,015,074	15.9
	1888.....108,179	1,066,767	16.3
Peas.....	1890.....781,506	16,000,323	20.6
	1889.....708,008	13,509,237	19.1
	1888.....644,496	13,174,720	20.4
Beans.....	1890.....29,432	880,018	21.3
	1889.....31,520	971,857	17.0
	1888.....22,170	451,850	20.4
Hay and Clover.....	1890.....2,402,002	4,205,015	7.5
	1889.....2,398,225	3,728,313	5.6
	1888.....2,348,622	3,004,071	4.8

The corn area is 41,000 acres more than the average of the previous eight years and the buckwheat area more by 29,000 acres. The root crops have an area of 22,000 acres above the average, the principal increases being in turnips, mangels, wurzels and potatoes, but no estimate of the yield of these crops has yet been received.

Fall wheat in Western Ontario is generally a fine crop. In the eastern counties, where comparatively little fall is sown, about one-half of the crop was winter-killed. There was little or no injury from drought or insects, but the weevil, midge and rusts effected some injury in almost every county. Because of the drought of last fall the grain appears to have been generally sown late, especially on heavy clay, many fields of which were bare during the winter. With the excessive rain of spring, followed by great heat, came such a rush of plants that much rust and shriveling were expected, but the damage is slight and will not materially affect the sample. The berry is generally reported plump, the straw bright, and the crop the best for years. Spring wheat is a fair crop, but on low-lying land, owing to the wet spring, the yield is poor. The bearded varieties, especially Colorado, are most praised throughout the Province, and White Russian, French Imperial and Wild Goose are rather more commended than the Pyre seed wheats, whether of Scotch or Manitoba growth.

The barley crop is not up to the average, a decreased acreage being sown and the wet spring, followed by dry, hot weather, being against it. Reports respecting the imported two-rowed barley—of which small samples were sown by many farmers—are perhaps about equally divided for and against. It has been ascertained that this variety is from a week to ten days later in maturing than the ordinary six-rowed barley, but as it had been cut in hardly a single instance it was difficult to express a definite or reliable opinion upon it, and the reports are very guarded in this respect.

The oat crop, as a whole, is a short one. It suffered severely from the early climatic changes as also from a red, rusty blight. From Huron, Bruce, Grey and Simcoe, however, there are reports that the crop will be up to the average. Early varieties on well-drained land have been most successful. Professor Pantou of the Agricultural College was consulted respecting the blight on oats, and in a report on the subject to the Bureau he says:

Some time ago samples of affected grain were sent to me from the eastern part of the Province, and I also noticed similar conditions elsewhere. At first I appeared as if an insect was the cause of the trouble, but in the specimens examined I saw none. Some observers have noticed in samples the pupa case of the Hessian fly, but not in such numbers as to account for so general a blight upon the grain. In the cases where rust affected the blight, it is likely that this resulted after the plant had become weakened and its vitality so impaired as to render it liable to attack by a parasite plant like rust. It seems to me that the trouble is due more to climatic conditions, such as frost or excessive moisture, than to insects or to parasite plants, and at present I am inclined to the view that excessive moisture was largely to blame. As far as I can learn no definite conclusion has been arrived at regarding the cause of the blight, although it has commanded a good deal of attention both in Canada and the United States.

Rye is a fairly good crop, and of peas there seems to be a fair but uneven yield. The latter crop suffered from almost the same causes as barley and oats, especially in the Lake Erie district. The peas have perhaps suffered more from bugs this year in the older portions of the Province than usual, notably in Essex and Kent and parts of Middlesex, but the pest has not extended its operations into other sections to any marked degree. Worms have also done some injury in Huron, Bruce and Grey. The area of the bean crop in Kent has been largely increased this year. Taken as a whole, except on clay soils, which lacked moisture in July, the crop will be a good one. The hay yield is abundant all along the line, and many correspondents report that a crop of so great abundance has never before been known. It has been harvested in good condition. The midge did considerable damage to the clover crop.

A favorable crop of corn is promised in Essex and Kent, and in parts of Elgin

Lambton and Middlesex. In the southern central counties of the western peninsula the indications are not so good, but elsewhere, and especially in the eastern part of the Province, there will probably be an abundant supply of fodder for the winter.

Reports as to roots vary according to the nature of the soil and the situation. On low lands a great deal of the seed rotted, but on well-drained or high ground better results followed. Turnips suffered from the fly, and all the root crops, owing to the wet, were beset by a great crop of weeds that were hard to combat.

It is perhaps a pity to report that the apple crop is a big failure. Only about one-third the average yield is promised. An ADVERTISER representative, who spent a couple of weeks in Grey county, found an average crop there, but from almost every other part of the Province the reports are depressing. The pear crop also is poor, and plums are a comparative failure, the black-knot and curculio are doing deadly work. Peaches will be very scarce, but there is a trifle of balm in Gilead in the report that grapes will be a "glorious yield."

Particular mention being made of the big crop in the Lake Erie region. Pasture and live stock are in fair condition, and it is probable that feed will be pretty plentiful for the ensuing winter. There will not be as many animals as usual for fattening. Some correspondents in the Western part of the Province complain of the low price of milk. The general health of bees has been good, and the average yield of honey per hive will be 40 pounds. The supply of farm labor has been about equal to the demand, but very rarely in excess of it. Year by year the demand for outside help is gradually falling off with the more general use of binders and other labor-saving machinery, so that many farmers with their sons (if they are fortunate enough to have sons who will stay on the farm) now do the whole of the work themselves, and hardly find the work of harvest heavier than that of any other season. The rate of wages has ranged from \$1 to \$1.50 by the day, and from \$15 to \$25 by the week, according to the efficiency and supply of labor. The rate was slightly lower in the eastern part of the Province than elsewhere.

PERSONAL AND GENERAL.

—If, as is reported, the "sun kink" was responsible for the latest railway disaster, it is high time that a reward was offered for a device to prevent rail-spreading through heat.

—Toronto merchants do not seem to take much stock in the attempt to extend Canadian trade with other countries while retaining a high tariff on imports. Only about fifteen members of the Board of Trade of that city attended the meeting called to hear the views of Mr. Adam Brown, M.P., Dominion Commissioner to the forthcoming exhibition in the island of Jamaica.

—It is announced that Sir Henry Tyler, president of the Grand Trunk Railway, who is now on a periodical inspection of the great road's property in this country, will participate in the coming opening of the international tunnel at Sarnia. This enterprise, which owed its inception to the Grand Trunk managers, promises to be a thorough success. Paradoxical though it may seem, it will continue to be regarded as a big bore.

—It is announced that Hon. Mr. Bowell will take a trip through the Rocky Mountains by a route of which no information seems to be obtainable. Thus, while some of Mr. Bowell's colleagues meditate taking to a fat office and others to the woods, the Minister of Customs flies to the mountains. Salt Creek will, however, be the common rendezvous when the electors get a fair chance to pronounce upon the mismanagement of public affairs.

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