

## Crop Conditions In Manitoba and the Northwest

The following communication has been received from the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa:

The information received during the past few days by the Director of Experimental Farms, regarding the condition of the crops in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, is very encouraging.

Mr. S. A. Bedford, Superintendent of Experimental Farm, Brandon, Manitoba, says that the crops at present look remarkably well, and that grass everywhere is unusually good. Mr. Bedford had just returned from attending a series of meetings in different parts of Manitoba when this was written.

Dr. Fletcher, who has spent the past fortnight in addressing meetings of farmers in some of the best grain growing sections of Manitoba and the Territories, says that the crops everywhere are magnificent. Some of those best able to judge say that there has never been better promise of an abundant harvest.

Mr. A. Mackay, Superintendent of the Experimental Farm at Indian Head, N.W.T., writes, under date of July 14th, as follows: "The weather continues warm and favorable for the crops. For the past week it has been 80 to 83° in the shade, with no storms or winds. Nearly all the six-rowed barley is in head, and about a dozen varieties of wheat. Red Fife is just starting to come out. We began cutting Brome grass yesterday. This is a good crop. The grass cut yesterday will give about three tons to the acre."

## More About the Crops The Outlook in the United States and European Countries

The crop circular for July issued by the United States Department of Agriculture on the whole does not show as favorable a condition of the growing crop as that for June, a summary of which was given in FARMING for June 27th. The average condition of the corn crop is 4 points below the condition on July 1st, 1898, and 4.6 points below the mean of the July averages for the last ten years. The present average is, with the exception of those of 1892 and 1897, the lowest July average in the last fourteen years.

The condition of the winter wheat is 1.7 points below what it was on June 1st, 20.1 points below July, 1898, and 16.8 below the mean of the July averages of the last ten years. The average condition of spring wheat is 91.7, which is 0.3 point higher than last month, 3.3 lower than on July 1st, 1898, and 3 points higher than the mean of the July averages of the past ten years. The average condition of spring and winter wheat combined is 13.2 points below the condition on July 1st, 1898. The proportion of the 1898 wheat crop reported as still in the hands of the farmers on July 1st, 1899, is 9.49 per cent., or a little over 61,000,000 bushels.

The average condition of oats is 1.3 points higher than last month, 2.8 points lower than on July 1st, 1898, and 2.3 points above the mean of the July averages for the last ten years. Barley is a little higher than the last month and 3.7 points above the mean of the averages for the past ten years. The present condition of barley is the highest July condition for the past fourteen years. Both winter and spring rye are below last month and several points below the mean of the July averages for the past ten years.

There is an increase of 1 per cent. in the acreage of potatoes planted. The average condition is 1.7 points below that of July, 1898. There are very few States in which the condition of clover had not declined during the month of June. Except in the North Central States the condition of timothy is below the ten-year average. In the North Central group of States pastures are generally in fine condition. The reports from the entire Pacific Slope are above the average, but in the North and South Atlantic groups the condition is more or less unfavorable.

The outlook for fruit is very unfavorable, and in many places the peach crop will be all but a failure. There has been a general decline in the condition of apples during June and there are few important apple States in which the condition is not considerably below the average of the past fifteen years. The department has no previous record of so general a failure of the peach crop as the condition on July 1st foreshadows. There is not a State that is likely to have an average crop, while in many States the indications point to a total failure. New York will have about half a crop, and California less than three-fourths. The condition of other fruits is so extremely unfavorable that correspondents seem to have taken peculiar satisfaction in emphasizing the promising outlook for grapes. Careful comparison with the average for the past fifteen years, however, shows of the eight States having the largest acreage in bearing vines New York alone reports an average condition.

Some information is given regarding crops in other countries. Crop news from Russia is on the whole decidedly unfavorable. Taking Russia as a whole the deficiency in the wheat crop has been estimated at from 85,000,000 to 120,000,000 bushels as compared with last year; and a point of special importance is that the deficiency is serious in the very region which is most favorably situated for exportation. The German wheat crop is in fair condition. The outlook in Austria is on the whole good, but in Hungary the crop shows a little falling off. The French wheat crop is reported as presenting a satisfactory appearance, though it is generally agreed that the crop will be considerably smaller than that of 1898. The British crops are reported as fair, in spite of bad weather recently. Some definite information has been received of the wheat crop in India, harvested a few months ago. The acreage in 1899 was 23,200,627 as compared with 22,771,219 acres in 1898, and the yield for 1899 is estimated at 231,806,177 bushels of 60 lbs. each, as compared with 248,464,571 bushels in 1898.

## The Poultry Department Ontario Agricultural College

### A Short Description of the Buildings and the Plan of Work Under the New Management

Herewith we produce some engravings illustrating the poultry department of the Ontario Agricultural College. As we announced in FARMING of April 25th a change has taken place in the management of this department, which is now under the direction of W. R. Graham, B.S.A., and whose previous training eminently fits him for carrying on advanced work in poultry culture. Mr. Graham was brought up on a farm near Belleville, Ont., and was a lover



Poultry House No. 1, Ontario Agricultural College, showing small Summer House in the foreground.