

Elgin County, Ont.

Seldom have we seen all farm crops so uniformly successful. Thanks to the abundance of rain, and a moderation of temperature, the harvest of 1905 denotes that a generous portion of prosperity is in store for the farmer.

Hay was unusually heavy in this section, in many cases occupying all the available barn room, making it necessary to stack the whole of the grain crop. A drive through almost any portion of the county will convince one how common has been the necessity of this practice. Even as late as the first of August there were fields of timothy still uncut, owing to scarcity of labor, and the wheat ripening before the meadows could be cleared. The side-delivery rake and hay-loader were introduced on many of the larger farms with very satisfactory results; in fact, it was principally owing to the use of these labor-saving implements that so large a percentage of the season's hay crop escaped damage by rain.

Fall wheat has yielded well. Many farmers have ceased to grow it, owing largely to the uncertainty of this crop. However, with the return of the old-time yields, of from 35 to 40 bushels per acre, for this season at least, many cannot resist the temptation to risk a few acres; hence the indications are that an increased acreage will be sown this fall. Barley and oats are largely sown together as a feeding mixture; experience showing that slightly larger yields per acre of grain are obtained than when sown separately. Very few, if any, peas have been grown in this locality for several years, owing to the ravages of the pea weevil. Quite a number have this season renewed their efforts in this direction, and a good yield is being secured, while the weevil, which has been so prominent heretofore, is conspicuous by its absence.

The potato crop promises to be satisfactory, both as regards quantity and quality. The bug being present in unusually large numbers, necessitated a frequent use of Paris green. Blight appears not to be serious this year, but where trouble is anticipated from this source excellent results may be had from using Bordeaux along with the Paris green. The first spraying should be done when the plants are about six inches in height, and the second and third sprayings at intervals of from ten to fifteen days.

All kinds of roots look well, especially mangels and sugar beets. Here, again, is seen the result of too little help on the farm, and many fields are not so clean of weeds as they might otherwise have been.

The early outlook for corn was rather discouraging, owing to cold, wet weather, but July being more favorable the growth was very rapid. Much of this crop is nearly matured, and no doubt will have a fine chance to escape the frost. Blue-blade, Longfellow and Smut-nose are favorite varieties of flint corn in this section, while among the dents our faith is pinned chiefly to Improved Leaming and White Cap Yellow Dent, both of which ripen with us in an average season. It is better to grow a variety of corn that will mature, even if only producing a gross yield of from 12 to 15 tons per acre, of which there will be about three tons of well-filled ears, rather than to produce from 15 to 20 tons of immature stocks, on which are only about two tons of soft and partially-filled ears. Placed in the silo this insures an abundant supply of cheap winter food, that is rapidly gaining prominence in the feeding operations of "beef farmers," as well as being a valuable food for milk cows. The majority of the silos in this county have been erected during the last ten years, and the experience gained during that time is resulting in a considerable improvement of details. Many in the first place, by way of experiment, built small silos nine or ten feet in diameter, and twenty feet in height. It was found that this size was too small to preserve the silage in a perfect condition, as the weight of the contents was not sufficient to entirely exclude the air. Endeavoring to improve this, they went to the other extreme, and built the silo sixteen to eighteen feet in diameter, which proved to be too large for warm-weather feeding. If not fed down constantly and uni-

formly on the surface more or less silage became damaged. It has now come to be the general opinion, that two medium-sized silos, say from twelve to fourteen feet in diameter, and thirty feet in height, will give the best satisfaction. As the staves rot down, they are in many cases being replaced with cement, which, though more costly at first, will last a lifetime, and is doubtless the coming silo material. M.

Drouth and Frost in N. B.

After a season of good growing weather and promise of unusually large crops of hay, grain, roots and garden stuff as well, this part of the Province suffered a long drouth, such as does not often fall to our lot. At date of writing, August 19th, grain is all ripening up, both early and late sown. The ground is so hard and dry that the grain is not filling at all as it should, and is, as a consequence, very light in weight. Buckwheat came on well, but suffered so with dry, hot weather as to make it almost a failure, and to finish it in some places the frost of August 14th came and blackened it right up. The frost also struck many fields of corn, about killing it. In some low places water froze to the depth of a half inch. Roots are suffering badly, and making no growth. Potatoes are very small and dying down. Onions are small, but well formed. Pastures are so dry that cows where not well fed are falling off fast in their milk. Apples will not be so good a crop as usual. The pea crop was a good one, but quite full of worms. Beans are now being picked. Some would be quite well satisfied with these crops if pickers could be procured when wanted. Forest fires are doing terrible damage in many places; in one part of the county a stretch of twenty miles has been devastated, and many other places badly burned, making it very smoky. Beef and lambs are now being gathered up at usual prices, 4c. to 6c., and 7c. to 8c. Pork is not offering to any amount as yet; sells at 7c. and 7½c. dressed. A number are interested in chicken-raising, but not killing to any extent; local price 14c. for chickens and 10c. for fowls. Guaranteed eggs not less than 20c. per dozen. Help, scarce and high. King's Co., N.B. H. T. HAYES.

Prof. Harcourt's Conclusions re Grading Northwest Wheat.

At the request of the Territorial Department of Agriculture, Prof. Harcourt, of Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, undertook and has now completed a series of experiments to discover the value of the different grades into which the Western wheat is commercially classified. Figuring from the percentage yield of flour and the yield of bread from 100 lbs. of flour, he finds that, so far as quantity is concerned, No. 4 northern is as valuable as No. 1 hard. But the color of the flour and bread from the low grades was not equal to the higher grades, though not so dark as to constitute a serious defect. Also, it was found that the lower grades had not the keeping qualities of the higher. The conclusion arrived at by Prof. Harcourt was that while a difference in prices of the various grades should be held out as an encouragement to the farmer to grow the best, yet the spread in price is greater than the real difference in the wheats would warrant.

A Little Agricultural History.

Clover is said to have been introduced into England in the year 1645 by Sir Richard Weston, and its cultivation soon spread over the whole country.

Turnips seem also to have been first planted in the same year in that country, introduced by the same enterprising landowner.

Potatoes were first brought into Ireland by Sir John Hawkins, in the year 1565. The honor of making this useful plant known to England belongs to Sir Walter Raleigh, who is also responsible for introducing the use of tobacco.

Tomatoes are natives of South America, and were brought to Europe by the Spaniards in the year 1583. They were introduced into England about twelve to thirteen years later.—[Mark Lane Express.]

The Toronto Exhibition.

"Greater and better than ever," is the general verdict respecting the Canadian National Exhibition, now in progress. Toronto may well be proud of its exhibition, which easily ranks at the head of annual exhibitions in America, if not in the world, for excellence in all its departments, which are numerous and varied beyond those of any similar institution within our ken. The attendance up to Thursday night in the first week of the show this year largely exceeded the record of any former years in the history of the fair, and Monday of the second week, Labor Day, was a record day in its history. The exhibition was formally opened by Prince Louis of Battenberg and Hon. J. P. Whitney, Premier of Ontario. To the latter the honor had been delegated, but at the inaugural moment he tactfully requested the Prince to press the button.

The live stock in all departments this year in point of quality and uniform excellence of quality and type, is well up to the standard of the best of its kind. The judging in the dairy breeds, which is completed at this writing, has been unusually satisfactory, fewer complaints being heard than perhaps on any other occasion. Our artists present elsewhere a few of the prize-winning herds of dairy cattle. The horse department is very full and the exhibits of high-class character, and the entries very numerous. The weather, for the most part, has been ideal, and owing to the bountiful harvest just reaped, and the good prices prevailing for most classes of stock and farm products, the farmers attending the show are in the best of spirits and full of hope for the future. An extended report of the various departments of the exhibition will appear in our next issue.

Apple Crop and Market Prospects.

The Trade Bulletin (Montreal) says: The short crop of apples in Great Britain and on the continent of Europe, as well as in the United States and Ontario, has stimulated buyers of winter stock into action, contracts having been made during the past week in the West at \$1.50 to \$1.75 for the fruit, and advances just to hand report that contracts for the fruit alone have been made at \$2.00 in the orchard. In New York State a number of orchards have been contracted at \$2 to \$2.25 per bbl. for the fruit. Of course, barrels are cheaper than they were, being now obtainable at 30c. to 35c., against 40c. to 45c. last year, and 50c. two years ago. It is the opinion of some in the trade that the mistakes of former years will be repeated, and that buyers will lose their heads and rush up prices to an unprofitable basis, if they have not done so already. It is now stated that the crop in Ontario will only be about one-half of that of a year ago; but the quality will be good. The crop in this Province (Quebec) is good, and already supplies of Duchess, Alexanders and Astrachans are in excess of demand, and prices in consequence are easier, Duchess being quoted at \$1.60 to \$1.75, and Astrachans at \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Prof. Macoun Remains at Ottawa.

Prof. W. T. Macoun, widely known for many years past through his work as horticulturist at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, was recently offered and accepted a similar position at Sir Wm. Macdonald's new agricultural college, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, but owing to sudden and serious illness in his family, he has been obliged to decline, and will remain in Ottawa and retain his present position.



Prizewinning Ayrshire Herds, National Exhibition, Toronto, 1905.