

the disastrous years following, paying in full the heavy losses incurred at the Boston fire of 1872. Of late years it has been found impossible to continue the payment of dividends.

—From a state of panic, a few weeks ago, the New York banks are now described as "the personification of health and strength." Recuperation is going on. The severe contraction of credit, if unpleasant in its operation, has had a good effect. The deposits in the savings banks are increasing. The yield of wheat is expected to be 500,000,000 bushels, against 400,000,000 last year; and the estimated surplus for exportation is 150,000,000 bushels. Farmers would be better off if they received 80 cents this year than \$1 last year would have made them. The actual price is about twenty cents lower than last year; but then speculation had sent it up abnormally, whereas it is now at a figure which admits of exportation. Short time has improved the position of the coal trade; a very doubtful improvement for the general public. Speculation is not now active, and future trouble from that source need not be dreaded. On the whole, things look fairly well for our neighbors.

—Overproduction in cotton goods is not confined to Canada. Some of the cotton manufacturers of New England, tried to bring about a common understanding to restrict production; but the consent of the owners of less than half the spindles—3,500,000 out of 8,000,000—only could be got; and now several mills, without a general agreement, are going to shut down for thirty days in August and September. This shut-down will probably represent the 3,500,000 spindles.

THE NEW CROP.

Frequent rains having interfered with the wheat harvest in this neighborhood during the past few days, not a few merchants, bankers, and manufacturers, became anxious to learn whether such rains were general, or whether they prevented the safe garnering of the crops. We have therefore obtained information from a variety of points in Ontario, mostly dated August 5th, which shows that the injury by rain is but slight. A good deal of barley has been discolored. Hay is frequently thin. Root crops, having profited much by recent rains, promise well.

SARNIA.

The weather for the past few days has been cool and showery. The rain in this neighborhood has done no injury, on the contrary, it has benefitted meadows and root crops.

CHATHAM.

The past week has been one of heavy rains through almost the entire western country. A good deal of wheat is as yet standing out, too wet to be hauled in. Taken on the whole the damage up to the present time is about counterbalanced by the benefit to growing crops, but if we have much more rain a good deal of wheat will be sprouted.

LONDON.

We have had little rain in this section, and the quantity that fell benefitted the crops. What grain has been cut is saved in good condition. The weather has been variable, but withal pleasant.

GODERICH.

Weather cool and pleasant, but continues very dry through this section. Rain is needed very much. However, crops are not suffering from drought.

SEAFORTH.

No damage to crops so far in this section, with the exception of barley, which will be a little off color. All the fall wheat is cut, but very little housed yet. The weather has been showery and cool for the past three days, and is still very threatening and cold.

KINCARDINE.

During the past few days the weather has been comparatively cool with occasional showers of rain, which has not been at all injurious to the crops in this section, but quite the reverse, and more would greatly benefit the late crops, especially roots.

BRUSSELS.

We have had no rain to injure crops in this section. To-day it is cool and cloudy with raw south winds and no rain.

OWEN SOUND.

The late rains have done no damage, but seem to have improved all crops. On low lands at the further end of the county, we hear of light damage done.

ST. THOMAS.

The late rains have not injured the crops any in this vicinity as yet. Weather cool and cloudy to-day, with a very light shower.

BRANTFORD.

Not heard of any damage to crops by rain. Weather cool and cloudy, with a few light showers.

GALT.

The weather here is clear and cooler. Temperature 69° in the shade. The late rains have not been excessive in this section, and will have a beneficial effect, especially upon root crops.

LINDSAY.

No serious damage to crops has been reported here from the district surrounding. The cut of barley has been large, and saved in excellent condition. That cut in the early part of the week is reported to be a trifle off in color. The hay crop is a fair average, and the wheat is expected to be the best for several seasons. Fall wheat will not reach an average crop, but the spring wheat has exceeded expectations.

KINGSTON.

The rain up to the present had helped, rather than injured the crops in this vicinity. The yield of hay is greater than anticipated, and the quality is first-class. The barley has been slightly discolored, but it will be very plump, and the yield about 75 per cent. Oats are thriving, and will be very heavy. The root crops which were famishing for rain, now promise to be excellent.

BROCKVILLE.

The weather is bright and warm. The rain does not affect the crops in this locality.

—Our principal imports of glass and glassware for the fiscal year 1883, are thus given in the *Blue Book*. The largest share of them was from Belgium, as will be seen; Germany and France ranking next:

	VALUE OF GLASS IMPORTED FROM		
	France.	Germany.	Belgium.
N.E.S.	\$18,855	\$21,448	\$
Porcelain shades ..	63	6,085
Plate glass.....	1,300	7,321	7,739
Silvered glass.....	1,041	25,250
Colored "	2,276
Window "	3,328	2,572	217,352
Stained "	290	339	1,069
Enamel'd "	691
Lamp shades.....	749	3,449
Bottles, &c.....	8,992	25,176	7,882
	\$24,708	\$91,640	\$237,009

ONTARIO BUREAU OF INDUSTRIES.

The second annual report of the Ontario Bureau of Industries has been issued and contains, in addition to agricultural information, much that is of interest in connection with trade and commerce. We learn from it that 414,976 acres was added within the year, to the area of cleared land, the figures 10,587,688 acres against 19,172,712 acres in 1882. The number of acres in the province under different crops is shown by the following table:

	Acres, 1883.	Acres, 1882.
Fall Wheat	1,091,467	1,188,520
Spring Wheat.....	586,410	586,817
Barley	757,156	848,617
Oats	1,418,309	1,387,487
Rye	188,111	185,276
Peas	542,771	560,770
Potatoes	166,823	160,700
Mangolds.....	17,219	15,791
Carrots.....	11,270	9,955
Turnips	98,429	78,823
Corn	214,237	206,755
Buckwheat	67,802	50,035
Beans	25,907	19,787
Hay and Clover	2,350,969	1,825,890
Total Acres.....	7,536,880	7,125,223

This table of crops accounts for only three-fourths of the cleared land. The remainder, of 3,050,808 acres this year and about the same in 1882, is the area of land devoted to pasture and to the growth of such as flax, tobacco, hops, etc. The area under orchard and garden, as returned by assessors in 1883, is 201,185 acres.

The operations of the dairy are being stimulated in Canada during the past two years, says the report, by good pastures and a good demand. "Ontario cheese is no longer an article of doubtful quality in the mind of the English consumer; accordingly it finds ready sale in the English markets. When Ontario butter has obtained for itself as good a name, the dairy interest of the Province will hold a place second to no other of our industrial occupations." The Bureau had information of 471 cheese factories in operation in the season 1882, besides a number not reported. The total number in 1880, as shown by the census, was 551; but it varies from year to year, with the state of the market. If prices are low one season, fewer factories are operated in the next; and if high a larger number and new ones are built. Last year the number in running order was ascertained to be 635, some of which were built in spring and opened late. Of the 471 factories reported in operation in 1882 returns were obtained by the Bureau for 306, and of the 635 in 1883 returns have been obtained for 440. An estimate based on those returns gives the following result for all the factories for each year:

	1883.	1882.
Pounds of Milk used..	539,695,197	409,144,701
Pounds of Cheese made.	53,513,032	89,346,095
Value of Cheese.....	\$5,589,339	\$4,259,141

Of the 385 factories giving detailed returns as to last year's business the aggregate results are shown as below: The number of patrons was 19,797; number of cows 117,577; average yield of milk per cow 2,784 lbs.; average value of product per cow \$28.89 (against \$28.18 in 1882) 10½ lbs. of milk went to one pound of cheese, the average price of cheese realized being 10½ cents.

Turning now to butter, the contrast is remarkable. The Bureau has knowledge of only 27 creameries, and prints returns from 13, which make butter, only five of these are in the County of Huron, four each in Waterloo and Leeds, three each in Dundas and Bruce, two each in Russell and Perth, one each in Elgin, Grey, Middlesex and Prescott, while there are three factories which make both butter and cheese. The quantity of butter produced in these thirteen