

£1 6s. 8d per acre. It would cost 50 per cent. more now.

In my own case, after draining a piece of wretched pasture, I pared and burned it, and for the last twenty-four years it has yielded abundant crops of wheat, mangolds, beans, clover, &c.

I could greatly multiply these instances of the individual and national advantages of passing from a pastoral to a mixed arable husbandry, but it is unnecessary, for it is so obvious that none can doubt it who read Mr. John C. Morton's elaborate prize essay "On Increasing our Supplies of Animal Food," vol. x, p. 341, Royal Agricultural Society's Journal.—*Agricultural Gazette*.

CONDITION OF THE CROPS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES IN OCTOBER, 1868.

WHEAT.—The full promise of the early summer has not been realized in the wheat harvest. The increase of area over that of last year, in its effect upon the aggregate production, is nearly neutralized by a small diminution in some of the principal wheat-growing States, in the yield per acre; so that the increase in the total quantity, as shown by our October returns, is scarcely more than three per cent., and that is obtained mainly from the Pacific coast.

The progress of wheat culture westward is somewhat remarkable, and its history is not altogether unlike that of cotton, in its occupancy of new lands, and their desertion after a few years' use, not indeed to grow up in sedge or forest, but to be laid down in grass or employed in a more varied range of production. Not only does it go with population westward, but its movement is in an accelerating ratio, yielding results in bushels to each inhabitant surprising to eastern farmers. Thus has the territory between the Mississippi river and the Pacific ocean, which in 1859 yielded about 25,000,000 of bushels, harvested about 65,000,000; while the country east of the Mississippi, with its accession of population and wide distribution of agricultural implements, has made no increase, as a whole, a few of the western States barely making up the deficiency suffered in Virginia and Kentucky. It is a remarkable fact that a region which nine years ago produced only one-seventh of the wheat in the country, now supplies nearly one-third of it. A similar progress in another decade will carry the centre of wheat production beyond the Mississippi, and were it possible for the Pacific coast again to quadruple its yield, that distant wheat field will give a larger product than the aggregate production of the United States in 1850. Well may the East imagine the supply of bread-

stuff's decreasing, and naturally enough the west may deem their harvests golden; but when twenty more years shall pass and the virgin soils of California shall be despoiled of their fatness, and their yield shall be reduced to ten or twelve bushels per acre, where will the spoiler go for new wheat fields to ruin?

The averages for October appear to show a decrease in production in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and Texas, the latter having only half a crop. The other States indicate an increase, in most of those east of the Mississippi very slight; in Minnesota, 13 per cent.; in Iowa, 6; in Missouri, 8; in Nebraska, 13; in Kansas, 23; and in California, 25 per cent.

Many places in different parts of the country, especially in Maryland and Wisconsin, report a disappointment in the yield of grain in threshing. The disappointment, however, is sometimes in the other direction, as in the following case:

Erie county, Ohio.—From extended observations, after threshing of wheat had been more general, I have made in this return the average higher, as I am borne out in the larger estimates, and the quality of the wheat is better than last year.

The following items illustrate the tenor of many reports in favored districts:

Brown county, Minnesota.—Threshing commenced three weeks ago; wheat will average 26 bushels to the acre. This is above the average for the last five years. The grain was all put in the stack in good order and the quality is good.

Winnebago county, Iowa.—Wheat will average full 23 bushels in this county, some as high as 35 to 38, and but a few go under 20.

Bates county, Missouri.—There never was a better crop of wheat harvested in our country. Some fields went as high as 35 bushels per acre, and one 37, and this in a region where it was said wheat could not be grown profitably until the Yankee invaded the country.

McCracken county, Kentucky.—Our crops will probably average one-fourth better than usual.

Coryell county, Texas.—The grasshoppers made their appearance yesterday, in vast numbers, and if they continue with us as long as they did last fall, there will be another entire failure of wheat. The prospect was never more favorable for wheat sowing than now, if it were not for the grasshoppers.

OATS.—This crop is light in the eastern, middle, and southern Atlantic States; is not a full average in Michigan, Wisconsin, and Iowa; in the other States the product is above the average, the largest increase being 21 per cent. in Nebraska. In Wisconsin the deficiency is

9 per cent. Our Green county correspondent says; "The oat crop of this vicinity has been considered almost a certainty, but owing to very hot weather just as the oats were beginning to fill, the crop was materially injured. Fields that bid fair from 40 to 75 bushels per acre, when harvested, actually produced from 20 to 30. From many inquiries, I have heard of but one field producing over 30 bushels per acre. As a whole, the crop has been quite as large as that of last year."

RYE. In most of the States, is marked by figures very similar to those which show the relative products of oats.

BARLEY.—The barley crop is somewhat deficient in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and in most of the Atlantic States. It will scarcely make so large an aggregate in bushels as last year.

CORN.—Considerable injury from frost is reported in northern Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and more northern latitudes. In some portions of Iowa an estimate of two-fifths of soft corn is made. From southern Indiana, southern Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania, come complaints of immaturity in consequence of wet weather, and few accounts of injury from drought are received. No general or very severe droughts have been reported. The high temperature of July was favorable to the growth of corn, but the unusual coolness of the later summer gave a sudden and injurious check at the critical period of earing, resulting in late ripening, smut, and other evidences of abnormal conditions. Yet the acreage is undeniably large in most of the States, and nowhere is there very serious failure. The total product will be, therefore, not what was hoped in the early season, or what is needed for a country with a rapidly increasing population, but a somewhat larger quantity than last year, which was a season peculiarly adverse to corn production. A good crop should exceed one thousand millions of bushels. Last year's production was little more than three-fourths of that quantity, and the present, though not yet fully harvested, and the material for a final estimate returned, does not promise to reach that figure by 10 or 15 per cent.

COTTON.—The area in cotton is somewhat less than last year; its culture has been better; the preparation for planting more complete; and labor more regular and reliable, as a general rule. Early the season the promise was fine; serious losses have of late been incurred, however, principally from depredations of the cotton caterpillar, or army worm, which have proved more general and severe in Georgia than elsewhere, very troublesome in portions of Alabama and Mississippi, and somewhat prevalent in the Carolinas and in Arkansas. Heavy rains in Tennessee and the south-west have caused