

Among the Farmers.

Letters from practical farmers stating briefly the conditions of crops, sales, quotations and similar items of interest are welcomed short, pithy accounts of farmers' meetings and the helpful points brought out may be included. New ideas and short cuts in farm work are especially solicited. Where future prospects for a special crop are unusually bright, our readers want to know it. We have space for short, crisp, newsy settings from each province.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

In St Croix and nearby parishes, hay, oats, buckwheat, barley and somewhat is raised. Not much wheat as it does not do well. Some fodder corn is grown, and many potatoes. Better oats and buckwheat are raised than can be grown in the interior, some oats weigh 35 and 40 lbs p bu, but there is not as much hay or oats grown as will supply the local markets. Hay a light crop this year because of the dry weather. Very little hay cut to July 27. The grain crop all depends on the weather, with plenty of rain it will be good. Potatoes and turnips are looking well. Stock is not red to any extent, no more than will supply local markets. Very few thoroughbred of any kind. Sir William Vanhorn has made extensive preparations for breeding thoroughbred stock, has built large barns and silos, and has all the appliances for that purpose. He has also gone largely into the poultry business, having a large number of different kinds of fowl.

The largest and best paying crop raised in the parishes of St Andrews, St Croix and vicinity is the turnip crop. Thousands of barrels are grown every year in these places. St Andrews turnips used to be famed for their good quality, so much so that vessels going into Boston from other places with turnips sold them for the St Andrews article. They are not so good now owing to the manure they are raised on. Formerly when mussels, seaweed and barn manure were used the turnips were good, but when the acreage was increased fish pomace and phosphate had to be added. Although a large crop of large turnips is grown they have deteriorated in quality.

Another industry carried on around St Andrews, Chamcook, St Patrick, Deer Island and Campo Bello, and pays well, is the weir fishing for herring, which is sold to the sardine factories. These factories are in Lubec, Eastport, Perry and Robbinston, Me. Some of these weirs caught from \$2000 to 4000 worth of herring last summer. Herring always go where fresh water is running out of lakes or rivers into salt water. The catch was so good last summer that many more weirs were built this spring. Even Sir William Vanhorn built two on the back of Ministers Island on which he has his summer residence. So far there have been very few fish caught this year in any of the weirs.—[John Fryer.

ONTARIO CROP CONDITIONS.

The outlook as a whole over the province is generally regarded as exceptionally bright to Aug 1. Weather has been most favorable for growth of all crops and grain is abundant and of fine quality. Early spring was essentially a growing time and wheat fields show the effect of frequent rains in a strong growth of straw and heavy well-filled heads.

Rains were frequent in Wellington Co. which have resulted in a fine hay crop and wheat is in prime condition for the harvest. Oats, peas, and other coarse grains present a most favorable appearance. Much of the rough feed raised in the county is fed to thoroughbred stock. During the year many Hereford and Galloway cattle have been sent to the states and to the northwest territories for breeding purposes. Hog raising has assumed considerable proportions. One firm at Guelph paid \$17,000 for hogs during June. A single day's transaction in live stock of \$30,000 is also reported.

Pasture and coarse grains abundant in Perth and Wellington counties. Dairying and stock feeding are now more profitable than for several seasons. Cheese has ruled 1 1/2c higher than a year ago and in hogs and cattle there has been a marked advance. The 40 cheese factories of Perth Co are expected to produce from 350,000 to 400,000 boxes. Prices have ranged from 9 to 11 1/2c, the highest average since 1885.

The Lambton Co wheat harvest be-

gan in early Aug and is a very fair crop. The hay crop is also of average size and quality.

Nova Scotia—The hay crop for Annapolis Co is estimated by Sec'y Chipman in the July provincial crop report as 85 per cent on upland, 97 per cent on diked land and 91 per cent on intervale. Potatoes and roots average 98 per cent, oats and other grains 95 and silage corn 97. Guysboro Co hay, on land in good heart, promises well, but on poor land is a short crop. Oats unusually well and wheat outlook encouraging. Pasturage good since early June. Outlook for potatoes only fair. Frost retarded and injured fruit bloom so the crop is backward. Cape Breton crops below an average condition, caused by a cold, wet spring. Upland hay 80 per cent of an average crop, intervale 90; potatoes, other roots, oats and grains not over 90 per cent the usual crop.

Quebec—Heavy rains during July made haying backward in Compton Co, although an average crop is reported. The grain crop is anticipated to be greater than ever before as more knowledge is being disseminated as to the proper fertilizing of fields.—Hay an average crop in Huntingdon Co similar to that of last year and all harvested Aug 1. Grain is looking fine and gives every appearance of an extra large harvest. Corn held back by cold wet weather of early June improved rapidly during July so there will be an average crop. Potatoes an ordinary crop. Apples small around Keelo, but in some parts of the county the yield will be larger. The year was suitable for bees and where properly cared for by the improved methods a large yield of honey is being received. Creamery butter sells at 20c, cheese 9 1/2c, spring hogs 5 to 5 1/2c in Montreal market, but farmers receive 4 to 4 1/2c p lb from cattle drovers.

Cape Breton—The hay harvest is not so encouraging this year as last. It will come in 7 to 10 days later than usual June was cold throughout, often with cold winds. There were few nights in June without frosts on highland areas. The prospects improved greatly during late July. Then the weather turned quite warm, and there were copious falls of rain. So although the hay crop will not come up to last year's, yet there will be a fair yield. Other crops such as oats and potatoes look very well. The spring was late, but these crops are now very promising.

Manitoba's Harvest began in middle Aug in the Ninga district, an average yield of 15 bu p a is expected and of fine quality. Harvest hands short. Yield is above expectations in Elkhorn and of good average in McDonald. Harvest help in great demand in Souris at \$35 p mo. Showers and rains frequent during early August. About 1700 harvest hands expected from the east; last year 8000 came on.

Alberta—The country for from 100 to 150 miles in every direction from the town of Edmonton possesses as rich natural resources as any part of the continent, the soil being fertile and lasting, the timber and water abundant, climate salubrious, and a good cash market for everything which the farmer can produce. The beef finds its way in part to Liverpool, more largely, perhaps, into the mining markets of Kootenay, B C. The latter markets take all the butter, small meats, vegetables, etc. which we can grow. There are three flour mills at Edmonton, one on the opposite side of the river in Strathcona and in the latter place an oatmeal mill and five grain elevators. Alberta has settlers from almost every state in the union.

New Brunswick—Haying in full blast all over the province, Aug 8. Owing to late spring hay was late and where clover was heavy last year the crop will be light. Oat straw in many places short, but grain looks well. Potatoes look fine and at this date no appearance of rust or blight. Fertilizers are used on N B farms to a much larger extent than in former years and with good results. Farmers are beginning to understand that heavy crops cannot be raised on poor soil. Horn fly has been a great pest to the cattle and many are spraying. Strawberries were

generally a light crop, but blueberries, especially along the St John river, will turn off a very heavy crop.

Trade and Commerce—The value of products exported from Dominion points for the 12 mos ending June 30, 1900, are classified by the dept of trade and commerce as follows. Product of mines \$13,563,000, fisheries 2,951,000, forests 28,114,000, animals and their produce 48,025,000, agricultural products 37,402,000, manufactures 12,824,000.

The past year the value of all animals and their produce and of agricultural productions exported from Canada was \$69,696,000. Great Britain took of this amount 60,053,000 and the United States 5,779,000.

A fine market is afforded for well bred cattle in the states. According to the Dominion dept of trade and commerce, more Canadian cattle were sold over the line last year than ever before. Periods of high water mark trading have been 36,671 in '74, 67,738 in '85, 45,756 in '87, 37,360 in '89, then followed 7 yrs with but comparatively few exports, 36,000 in '97, 87,900 in '98 and 92,834 during '99.

Only in three previous years have as many sheep been sent to the states as last year, in '87, '88 and '93. Last year Americans took nearly 335,000 sheep valued at \$1,777,000, which was considerably more than was paid even in the above 3 yrs of greater purchases.

Of the 20,140,000 lbs butter exported last year Great Britain took 19,120,000 lbs at an average value of nearly 18 1/2c p lb.

Practically all the cheese, bacon, eggs, ham, pork and grain sold abroad from Canada are marketed in Great Britain.

Value of Windbreaks—Many of the correspondents of the Ont bureau of industries, in reporting on fall wheat for the past year, call attention to the fact that where the field was protected by trees on the north and west, preventing snow blowing into drifts, the wheat crop was a good one, but where not so protected was a failure. An increasing number are planting windbreaks for this purpose, but very few are planting trees in mass.—[Thomas Southworth, Ont.

For Better Roads the N B government a year ago purchased a road-making plant consisting of a rock crusher and engine, a road roller, two spreading carts, etc, and began work on one of the roads leading out of the city of St John. The venture proved a success and instead of mud holes and rocks, as the road formerly was, it is one of the finest roads in the province.

The Big Fairs will be held as follows: Industrial at Toronto, Ont, Aug 27-Sept 8, Great Eastern at Sherbrooke, Que, Sept 3-5, Western at London, Ont, Sept 6-15, New Brunswick at St John, Sept 10, Nova Scotia at Halifax, Sept 12-20, Central Canada at Ottawa, Sept 14-22. Other fairs are: Agricole Du District, at Three Rivers, Que, Sept 5-15; Ontario fairs during Sept, Brantford, 15-22, Richmond, 12-13, Peterboro 18-20, Paisley, 25-26, Aylmer, 18-20, Coldingwood, 18-21, Almonte, 25-27, Woodstock, 26-28, Picton, 26-27, Prescott, 18-20, Bowmanville, 13-14.

Under date of Aug 8, Prof Dean of the Ont agr'l college writes F & H he has just returned from a drive of 200 miles in the counties of Wellington, Waterloo, Brant and Oxford and reports he never saw finer crops. Farmers are much pleased at the prospects of a good harvest. Frequent showers have made excellent pasture, consequently live stock is looking well. In dairy sections, especially cheese, the prices have been so high that farmers are exceedingly well pleased. Creamery butter sells at 20 to 21c and cheddar has not gone below 9 1/2c this season.



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