

almost unexampled degree, a tenth of the crop being due to the extreme length and propitious character of the autumnal season. The acreage of sea-island cotton in Texas has been increased.

CORN.

The returns relative to corn, though desultory and partial, indicate an average condition. Systematic and complete data for all the States up to July 1, will be given in the next report.

BARLEY.

Winter barley has nearly the same breadth as last year; the spring sowing has been increased. Its condition is fine in the States west of the Mississippi, except Missouri and California, but is subject to the same reduction as wheat in the Ohio Valley.

OATS.

There has been everywhere an increase of acreage. The condition of this crop is superior on the Atlantic coast from Maine to North Carolina, with the exception of Massachusetts and New York; in the dry sections of the West and South it is unpromising.

GRASSES.

The grasses are generally flourishing on the Atlantic coast, the Alleghanian range into Tennessee, and in Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska; elsewhere below an average. Clover, in a less marked degree, is thriving in the same sections. It is more sown than usual, and is reported favorably in Mississippi and Alabama, and some other southern States.

FRUITS.

The promise is very general for an abundant supply of apples, pears, peaches, and other fruits, especially in the New England and in the middle States.

Frost, in some portions of the West, and in some of the southern States, has injured the peach crop, but Kentucky, Illinois, and Michigan report more than an average prospect. A full crop of peaches, with the aid of young orchards coming into bearing, which will give fruit of superior quality, may be expected in Maryland and Delaware. Some complaint exists of the blossoms blighting in Virginia. Frost injured peaches somewhat in North Carolina; and in the Gulf coast States frosts in February and March were very destructive. In Missouri and Illinois great losses were incurred by frosts in April, amounting to nearly total destruction at several points. In parts of Illinois, however, a fair crop will be gathered; and a fine crop may be expected in Michigan. The peach regions mostly depended on for market supplies will harvest fully an average crop.

It is a great apple year in New England; even in Aroostook, Maine, where the trees in blossom were covered with ice, moderate weather, without sunshine,

saved the fruit. The amount of bloom was also extraordinary in New York, and the promise of a fine crop is excellent, as in all the middle States, with some drawbacks from heavy rains and falling of blossoms in Pennsylvania and Maryland. In Virginia the same difficulty exists in an intensified form, and in many places the twigs on the extreme ends of the branches are dying from some unknown cause. The reports from West Virginia and Kentucky are variable, from the best crop ever known to failure from frost.—In Michigan favorable reports greatly predominate. In the Ohio Valley, Missouri, and Kansas, the frost which killed peaches also injured the apples greatly.

The pear crop, comparatively limited in area and quantity as it always is, promises to average quite favorably with former years. Some correspondents claim that the September gale on the New England coast facilitated fruiting; and one instance is given of a pear tree in Bristol, Massachusetts, which was nearly torn up by the roots, and bloomed in the spring profusely, and is maturing a fine crop of fruit. In parts of Pennsylvania pear blossoms were less abundant than the bloom of other fruits. In Luzerne County pear orchards are rapidly increasing, and this fruit is becoming a staple. Pears are a failure in St. Clare County, Michigan, while apples will be abundant.

The small fruits have been comparatively abundant. Immense quantities were sent to Chicago and other cities from Southern Illinois, and very low prices were reached. The San Francisco market was very abundantly supplied; twenty tons per day were sent from one county, Contra Costa, and sold at eight to twelve cents per quart at retail. In Washington and Baltimore similar rates prevailed in the height of the season.—*Commissioner's Report, U. S. A.*

Communications.

FARM IMPLEMENTS—THEIR USE AND ABUSE.

SIR,—In these days of dear labour, when farmers, even in more thickly settled countries are driven to their wits ends to multiply labour-saving appliances, it seems but right that we in Nova Scotia should give more than a passing thought to farm implements.

Some three years since, I was shewing a newly hired man his work, and the lay of my farm buildings, so that he might know where to find what he wanted. He expressed his approval of my arrangements as a whole, but remarked that at home, meaning on his father's farm, they had a much larger cart shed; as I had seen the homestead he referred to, I expressed my surprise at not having

noticed the building. He then told me it had no roof. He meant everything was left out in the open. This is far too common a fault in this country. Ploughs and harrows are left in the field where last used, until again wanted. A coat of paint is not an expensive thing on a cart or waggon, it is worth more than its cost in the saving of the wood—it is worth something for its appearance, yet it is very rarely applied. Again, a little grease can well be spared from the soap tub, yet metal is left to rust all the winter on the understanding that it will soon clean itself again when taken into use in the spring.

So much for the care of what we have, but how are our wants satisfied. Ploughs are, it is true, made by many of the country mechanics, and some good patterns have been introduced and copied, but the patterns are those of 20 years since; there is also, I understand, a plough factory at Bridgewater, and this I believe ends the list of Agricultural Implement manufactories in the Province. (If I have omitted the names of any manufactories, it is because they and their products are not advertised to the public.) This is not as it should be; even New Brunswick is ahead of us, and very fair mowing machines come from there. Already there must be a tolerably large demand for threshing machines, chaff cutters, seed drills, horse-rakes, potato ploughs, &c. Will no spirited firm take up the business? If our manufacturers will not touch it, perhaps some enterprising importer would venture to bring in a few such implements as samples, and it is a matter for consideration whether the Central Board of Agriculture should not encourage the formation of such an establishment.

Improvements are constantly being made in all such implements, yet we never hear of any dating from here; must a Nova Scotian of necessity go abroad before he can unite the thinking head with the skilful hand. We have practice enough with the implements we possess, but we are too apt to take it for granted that they will do the work as well as is required, and we are satisfied with the performance. I hold that we should never be "satisfied" with the produce of our farms. I mean that we should never think that we get enough from them; our constant cry should be "more, more," and to this end we must study to improve the tools with which we work; and here again I think the Central Board might benefit the farming interest by giving premiums for useful inventions and improvements in implements, provided that inventors thus rewarded would undertake to supply the articles at prices suitable to the farmer's means. It was discreditable, both to