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Crop and Live Stock Conditions in Ontario

The June crop bulletin of the Department of Agriculture for Ontario shows on the whole a favorable state of affairs in grain and live-stock in the province. Fall wheat is in good condition. Some injury to the crop was caused by ice in low places during the later part of March, but only a comparatively small area was plowed up. There is little difference in the condition of the crop in the various districts, although the Lake Erie counties are at present making the best showing. The spring crop is not reported on. Clover and hay in some places is given as excellent, in others poor.

The condition of live-stock while not all it might be, is better than was expected. All classes of live-stock faced the winter with a poor prospect of fodder supply, as hay and grain were both scarce and dear. In order to meet the situation a large number of horses, cattle, and swine were sold at sacrifice prices but even then fears were expressed by some as to the possibility of bringing the remaining animals through in any form better than that of mere sustenance. Fat stock are scarce, and store cattle are not as plentiful as in more recent years, although a few correspondents claim to have the usual supply of stockers on hand. One return is to the effect that it will be another year before Ontario cattle conditions will right themselves. Sheep have done better than any other class of farm animals, and have been fortunate in lambing. Swine are thin, and are not to be found in as large numbers as last year. So many brood sows were sold just before the winter, owing to the scarcity of feed, that it is doubtful if the fall delivery of bacon hogs will be anything near the record of more recent years. A form of crippling among swine, by some correspondents attributed to rheumatism, is reported in various localities. The good growing weather of the middle of May was greatly welcomed by owners of live-stock, and many young animals were then on the grass.

Hay was so scarce and dear last fall that much anxiety was felt by many as to whether they could pull along until the new growth was available. Some farmers were forced to buy hay, but the bulk of those owning live-stock, by careful feeding, came through the winter without having to resort to purchasing and a number of persons who were holding surplus hay over for famine prices are now willing to sell at from \$4 to \$6 a ton less than was offered for it in the fall. Oats have not been so scarce and high in price for years, although here and there a few farmers report a fair supply on hand. Most of the wheat has been sold, and the supply in the barns is much less than is usual at this time of the year. More farmers than ever are buying flour, and are feeding or selling all their wheat.

Fruit prospects are given as unusually excellent. Orchards came through the winter in good shape and the weather thus far has been favorable for blooming and setting of the fruit.

Spring seeding in most parts was completed by May 15th, though in the extreme east heavy rains delayed work seriously. On the whole the spring crop got away to a fairly good start.

British Columbia Problems

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

There is in this country some agricultural land, and the possibilities of this agricultural land will some day "stagger humanity," if I may be permitted to adopt the phrase of our esteemed and late lamented friend, one, Paul Kruger, of notorious memory.

Meanwhile, be it noted that our ambitious friend "Dick" McBride is too busy looking out for federal honors to hear the call of duty in this connection. Incidentally he thinks, or seems to think—for amid the gentle patter of the summer rain I would be generous—that the paths of glory lead over the thorn-strewn track of race and federal jealousy. "Dick"—and there is always a danger in the man whom the "common people" address as "Dick"—may dream to himself that Geo. Brown and Sir John A. Macdonald rose to giddy heights over such a contest, but I would remind the hon. gentleman that these men became great and loved and honored in this land because they sought to remove these causes of strife and bitterness and not incite the people to greater strife.

I am coming to the subject:—There should be a forward policy in agricultural lines. There should be a physical and chemical analysis of the soil in the different valleys of British Columbia. The unoccupied agricultural land should be surveyed, explored and thrown upon the market. The problem of irrigation should be tackled so that we may not find ourselves, some cold day, with the water rights gone and the ground needing a drink. Then the climate conditions should be studied and definite data published. Dairying should be stimulated in a thousand and one different ways, and lastly and most important, something should be done to stimulate inter-provincial trade; I mean trade between the provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan and British Columbia. This isn't derelict thought drifted from nowhere and hitched on to this piece of paper to waste the ink. I am in earnest.

L.C.C.

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Have taken the ADVOCATE for upwards of twenty years and am better pleased than ever with it.
Ridgeway Farm, Wolsley, Sask. A. B. BOMPES.

U. S. Increasing her Arable Acreage

At the conference of forestry experts, congressmen, senators and others at the White House the other day, the draining of the swamp lands of the United States was discussed at some length. The United States has the largest swamp area of any country in the world. In the state of Louisiana alone, there are something like 30,000,000 acres over which the overflowing rivers have been depositing organic matter and debris for countless ages. An area six or eight times that of Holland which supports a population of five millions. All told the swamp area of the United States amounts to something like 70,000,000 acres. The draining of this vast area will be a tremendous undertaking even in these days of great engineering feats, but that it will be ultimately undertaken and carried out seems a foregone conclusion. As the land available for settlement in the United States becomes less, and the areas in the west which may be rendered fit for agricultural purposes by irrigation becomes exhausted, and as the population continues to increase it will become possible to drain these large swamp areas and make them fit for grain and stock production. The soil itself is the richest in the world, deep, black alluvial deposits of the ages. Swamp drainage along with the plans now being worked out for controlling river flow, and the reforestation of huge areas in the mountains and about river beds seems likely to furnish American engineers with problems of a high order. President Roosevelt is now definitely committed to all these undertakings, and while there is small chance of his being at the head of affairs in the Republic in the immediate future, he will have considerable influence in such matters.

Second International Horse Show.

The International horse show at the Olympia, London, last week was attended by over two hundred thousand visitors, society people from all over Europe, from America as well as from the British metropolis attending to witness the magnificent show of thoroughbred horse-flesh offered by the second International. The Olympia grounds, the place where athletic contests of every description will be held this summer, with competitors from every quarter of the world, were transformed to represent a garden set in a forest. Royalty graced the function with its presence, the British aristocracy, the American aristocrats of wealth and society from a score of nations rubbed shoulders with each other as they gazed down upon the monarchs and aristocrats of the equine world. The function throughout was a success. Fewer American horses were entered than last year but the display of British stock is equal if not larger than last year. The cost of flowers to decorate the grounds for the nine days show is placed at \$150,000, on each successive day the arena representing English, Dutch, Italian, French and Belgian flower gardens, arranged on as lavish a scale as is consistent with good taste.

Grain Acreage in Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture has just issued an estimate of the acreage sown to grain in the province. The returns indicate the acreage sown in wheat this year to be 2,374,058, as compared with an estimated average of 2,017,724 at this time last year, an increase of 326,324, or 16 per cent. The acreage of oats is 1,117,452, as compared with the estimated acreage of 801,810 at this time last year. This is an increase of 368,642, or 46 per cent. The acreage in barley is 101,033, as compared with an acreage of 79,339 last year, the increase being 21,694, or 27 per cent. The acreage in flax is 141,451, compared with an acreage in flax 128,528 at this time last year, the increase being 12,923, or 10 per cent. The total area under the four principal grains is 3,786,994, compared with an estimated acreage last year of 3,057,401; last year the increase being 729,593, or 24 per cent.

MARKETS

The opening of July has brought no change in the market situation of the world's first cereal. From the American Southern winter wheat states report comes that harvesting and threshing are proceeding apace and that already some of this year's crop has been taken to market, threshing returns are fair, but so far neither favorable returns nor the wheat itself has had any appreciable effect on the market. Prices continue firm with little fluctuation. In the early part of last week some weakness was manifest in the market, but on the second day of the month wheat went soaring again, advancing from a cent to a cent and a half in Winnipeg and the same in Chicago. This sharp advance came on the strength of unfavorable news from all over the territory where harvesting operations are in progress and from an unusually strong foreign demand. Drenching rains were falling all over the wheat belt, delaying harvesting and

threshing and threatening to injure the grain. The report was used by the bulls as a pretext for boosting prices and when the market opened Thursday morning there was about as lively a demand for wheat in most American markets as has been seen for some time. Export demand tended further to increase bullish enthusiasm. Liverpool was strong, closing cables being up $\frac{1}{4}$ to 14d.

Winnipeg deliveries have been fair. C. P. R. and C. N. R. reports all over the West indicate favorable crop conditions. There is a tendency in some quarters to place too much emphasis on favorable crop reports emanating from C. N. and C. P. sources. Crops may be well advanced and conditions in every way indicative of a bountiful harvest, but it's some weeks yet before the hum of the binders will be heard in the wheat fields, or the thresher gets to work converting the wheat crop of 1908 into a marketable commodity, and in those weeks experience has shown a good many different kind of things can happen. Crop reports gotten out by railway companies whose first aim anyway, is to boom the country, are not always as free from coloring to gratify selfish ends, as they might be. There is ample indications that it's wheat, not prospects of wheat, that's going to be a pretty strong element in fixing prices this year.

Winnipeg prices as we go to press are as follows:

1 hard.....	103
1 northern.....	102
2 northern.....	99
3 northern.....	95
No. 4.....	87 $\frac{1}{2}$
No. 5.....	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
No. 6.....	69 $\frac{1}{2}$
Feed 1.....	58
Feed 2.....	52 $\frac{1}{2}$
No. 2 white oats.....	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
No. 3 white.....	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
No. 4 barley.....	44
Feed.....	40 $\frac{1}{2}$
Flax.....	118

OPTION QUOTATIONS

	Aug.	Oct	Dec
Wheat.....	102 $\frac{1}{2}$	87	85
Oats.....			
No. 2 white.....	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	34	
No. 3.....	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	

PRODUCE AND MILL FEED

Net, per ton—	
Bran.....	\$19.00
Shorts.....	21.00
Chopped Feeds—	
Barley and oats.....	26.00
Barley.....	25.00
Oats.....	28.00
Oatmeal mill feed.....	19.00
Wheat chop.....	22.00
Hay per ton (cars on track, Winni- peg) prairie hay.....	\$ 6.00 @ \$ 8.00
Timothy.....	12.00 @ 14.00
Loads.....	8.00 @ 9.00

BUTTER AND EGGS

Fancy fresh made creamery bricks.....	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	@	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
Boxes, 28 to 14 lbs.....	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	@	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
DAIRY BUTTER—			
Extra fancy prints.....	14	@	15
Dairy in Tubs.....	15		
CHEESE—			
Manitoba cheese at Winnipeg.....	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	@	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eastern cheese.....	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	@	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Eastern cheese.....	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	@	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
EGGS—			
Manitoba fresh gathered f.o.b. Winnipeg.....	14	@	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
VEGETABLES—			
Potatoes, car lots.....	65		
Potatoes, smaller lots.....	65		
Beets, per cwt.....	\$3.00		
Carrots, per cwt.....	2.00		
Celery, per doz.....	.80	@	\$1.00
Onions, per cwt.....	3.50		
New Cabbage, per cwt.....	2.00	@	3.00

LIVE STOCK, WINNIPEG

Export steers, \$4.75 to \$5.00; steers and heifers, over 1000 lbs., \$4.00 to \$5.00; Cows, \$4.00 to \$4.50; butchers stock, \$3.00 to \$3.50; calves \$4.50 to \$5.00; spring lamb, \$4.00 to \$5.00 each; hogs, 160 to 220 lbs., \$5.25; heavy weights, \$4.25. There has not been an error supply of live stock at the yards this week. All classes are in good demand. Hogs fairly active.

CHICAGO

Native beef cattle, \$4.50 to \$8.25; fat cows, \$3.10 to \$6.25; heifers, \$2.75 to \$6.75; bulls, \$2.50 to \$5.25; canners and cutters, \$1.70 to \$2.00; calves, \$3.00 to \$6.25; stockers and feeders, \$3.00 to \$4.50; milkers and springers, \$20.00 to \$50.00 each. Sheep native ewes, \$2.00 to \$4.25; yearlings, \$4.25 to \$5.60; bucks, \$2.00 to \$3.00; lambs, \$4.50 to \$6.65; Hogs, mixed packing, \$6.00 to \$6.65; heavy packing, \$6.00 to \$6.60; light packing, \$6.00 to \$6.60.

TORONTO

Export steers, \$6.00 to \$6.00; export bulls, \$4.75 to \$5.00; best beef, prime, \$5.00 to \$5.75; medium, \$4.75 to \$5.00; common, \$4.00 to \$4.50; cows, \$2.50 to \$3.50; export hogs, \$4.00 to \$4.25; lambs, \$6.00 to \$6.00. H—