

Manitoba Crop Report.

The official crop bulletin prepared by the Manitoba government, from information received up to June 1, was issued on Monday last.

The system of dividing the province into groups of counties for the purpose of collecting statistics has been discontinued, districts now being made up of Minnedosa, Shoal Lake, Birtle, Russell, as the northwestern; the central—Dunnison, Lansdowne, North Brandon and Brandon City; the southwestern—Souris, Turtle Mountains, South Brandon and Killarney; the south central—Cypress, Mountain, Manitou, Lorne, Dufferin and Morden; the north central—Portage la Prairie, Lakeside, Norfolk, Westbourne and Beautiful Plains; the eastern—Woodlands, Rockwood, St. Andrews, Kildonan, Springfield, St. Bonifacio, Cartier, Morris, Carillon, La Verandrye, Emerson and Rosenfeldt.

THE AREA

The total acreage put under crop this season—assuming that the area under flax is the same as last year—is shown to be 1,350,201 acres, being an increase of 267,407 over that of 1890. Of this increased area 170,707 acres are devoted to wheat; 70,110 to oats and 23,793 to barley. The remainder of 2,898 acres are divided among the potato, root and rye areas.

The subjoined statement, for the convenience of reference, gives comparisons with 1890, of a number of items dealt with in the report:—

	1890.	1891.
Acres under Wheat.....	746,053	916,664
" " Oats.....	235,534	305,644
" " Barley.....	68,035	89,828
" " Peas.....	1,170	535
" " Potatoes.....	10,812	12,705
" " Roots.....	7,977	9,301
" Followed for crop of.....	180,792	205,232
" Fall plowed for crop of.....	550,101	509,138

WEATHER.

Correspondents reported the weather admirably suited for carrying on seeding operations. The snow left the ground at a very early date and seeding was at once begun and carried on without interruption until the close. Seeding was general over the province during the second week in April, and plowing was very general before that date. Throughout April the weather continued dry and unusually warm, and vegetation was rapid. May opened with a few frosty nights which gave a set-back to the growing plants of all kinds. The entire month continued cool and vegetation was materially checked. During May but little rain fell until the end of the month, and the loss was felt in many places. Reports sent in after the rainfall of the last day of the month showed how much appreciated the rain was. High winds were prevalent and the usual damage to the sown fields prevailed. No damage was reported as caused by the frosts in May beyond a set-back of a few days to the growing grains.

FALLOWING AND PLOWING.

The respective quantities of land prepared for crop by fallowing and fall ploughing are respectively 205,232 and 509,138 acres. The quantity fallowed exceeds that of the previous year 24,440 acres. Fallowing appears to be pretty generally carried out over the province, as the areas each year are on the increase. The quantities fall plowed show a falling off from the previous year of 41,023 acres. Considering the lateness of the harvest last season and the very unfavorable weather which followed, this can hardly be wondered at, and the

area plowed appears extremely large when compared with that done the year before under most favorable conditions.

WHEAT.

The seeding season just past has been very favorable for putting in the wheat crop, and the reports of acreage show that every advantage was taken of it to get in the largest possible area. Seeding was general over the province about the 10th of April and the crop was almost entirely put into the ground during that month. During April growth was very rapid and the opening of May found the crop covering the ground, but a few nights of continuous frosts in the early part of the month cut the blades down and the growth was considerably retarded. Rain was wanted in several places too, as the crop was beginning to show signs of want of moisture. The high winds, which are so prevalent, caused the soil to blow off the grain in some instances and a few cases are reported where the crop was plowed up and sown with other grains. Considering the drawbacks, however, from frost and want of moisture the reports of the general appearance of this crop, as given elsewhere in this report, show that on June 1, the wheat crop with but few exceptions was most promising.

The area shown under crop in the province is a decided increase over that of last season, being a total of 916,664 acres, or an advance of over 22 per cent. With the exception of two or three divisions in the northwestern portion of the province increased areas are noted throughout. These increases are considerable in some cases and in others very large. The smallest increase in any district is 7,574 acres in the northwestern. In arriving at the area given under wheat, reports from 140 townships were included, and these all showed such a general increase that the large addition of 170,606 acres over that of last year, is in this way accounted for.

OATS.

This crop is not so far advanced as it might have been, the cold weather of May having kept it rather backward. Correspondents generally say but little about the crop, and their remarks differed very much as to its condition in different localities. Generally speaking, warm weather with rain was required to stimulate the growth and help make up the drawbacks received by the check from frosts. The area under crop is shown to be 305,644 acres, being an increase of 70,110 acres over that of last year. This increase is shown in every district, and in the majority of the townships. The increases in the several districts vary from 7,489 acres in the eastern, which is the smallest, to 16,380 acres in the north central, which is the largest.

BARLEY.

This crop, through the favorable weather that prevailed, was put into the ground at a comparatively early date, with the result that it received quite a set back from the night frosts of May. Like oats, warm weather with rain was needed to freshen the growth of the crop. The area put under barley shows a marked increase over that of last year, in the addition of 23,793 acres. All the districts show marked increases in area, the principal one being 8,503 acres in the north central division. The smallest increase is in the central division, that being 2,314 acres.

POTATOES, ETC.

The area planted in potatoes shows a

marked increase over that of last season. In all the districts there are increased areas, the total being 1,893 acres over that of 1890. The total area planted in potatoes is 12,705 acres as compared with 10,812 last year. The area put under root crops, like that of potatoes, shows also a gratifying increase. The total area shown devoted to root crops is 9,301 acres, being an increase of 1,324 acres over last season.

ESTIMATED ACREAGE.

The following is given as the estimated acreage under crop for this year:—

Districts.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.
North Western.....	53,693	33,005	13,100	1,426
Central	157,219	41,870	7,993	1,490
South Western	202,733	57,949	11,190	2,020
South Central.....	189,222	60,899	23,688	1,013
North Central	178,796	52,292	17,059	2,124
Eastern	135,055	54,639	16,789	3,723

Totals 916,664 305,644 89,828 12,705

The estimated acreage of rye, 921 acres; peas, 555 acres; buckwheat, 30 acres; and corn, 133 acres. Reports as to the flax crop are incomplete.

LIVE STOCK.

The condition of stock generally on June 1, was better than for some time past, owing largely to the very mild winter and to the abundance of fodder that has been provided, as well as the early date at which the grass became sufficient for feeding. Over and above what was required to feed the stock during the winter, there appears to be a goodly supply of hay and other feed still on hand. In a few cases horses, on account of having more than an ordinary amount of work to perform, are reported rather thin. No special mention is made of sheep and hogs. Among cattle there have been a few isolated cases of anthrax but comparatively few deaths have occurred. With these exceptions no other disease is reported among cattle, which were spoken of as in a good healthy condition. Glanders exist among horses in a few localities, but every effort is being put forth by the department to stamp out the disease by strictly quarantining all suspicious cases and destroying all animals affected.

GRAIN, ETC., ON HAND.

Reports go to show that comparatively small quantities of wheat are held in farmers' hands over and above what is required for consumption. In oats there appears to be a considerable quantity held in many places, but no reasons have been given why they have not been disposed of. The reports of the numbers of fat and store cattle in the hands of farmers to be disposed of are most gratifying. In almost every township there are a few at least being prepared for sale, and in many instances the numbers are quite large.

LABOR AND WAGES.

In reply to the question "Is there a sufficient supply of farm laborers now or a scarcity?" correspondents reply very fully. In places the supply is quite equal to the demand that exists, but there are a great many localities in which help is wanted. At the present time several hundred men could find employment as farm hands in different parts of the province. A table appended gives the numbers at present employed as well as the numbers that will be further required. The numbers considerably exceed those at the corresponding date last year. Although a great many correspondents