

Ontario Crops.

The following notes from the last official crop bulletin, will give an idea of Ontario crops this year :

Fall wheat—In western Ontario, the yield in most cases has been really magnificent. It has ranged all the way from 15 to 53 bushels per acre. In the eastern part of the province, especially in those counties stretching from Durham to Stormont, a light yield is the rule, some times falling as low as eight bushels to the acre although even here some correspondents are rejoicing in a yield of 30 bushels per acre. The average yield for the province is estimated at 21 4 bushels to the acre, while for the nine years, 1882-90, the average was but 19 4 bushels to the acre. Nearly every correspondent has a favorable word to say regarding the plumpness and general quality of the berry, and instances are given of the grain weighing 63, 64 and 65 pounds per bushel. The straw was thin on the ground and was much shorter than usual, owing to cold weather and drought during May and June, but the quality is reported as good. There was hardly any rust, and smut is spoken of in but two or three instances. Scarcely any mention has been made of injury by insects, except scattering complaints about the Hessian fly from Essex, Welland, Lambton and Peterboro' and an odd reference to grasshoppers. Cutting began in Essex on the 6th of July, but was hardly general throughout the province until the second last week of the month. The crop was got into the barn with little or no injury.

Spring wheat—The reports regarding this crop are generally of a most favorable character. When correspondents wrote, however, only a few fields of spring wheat had been cut and harvesting was not expected to be general for about a week. The crop will go considerably over the average in yield, and a plump and clean berry is assured. Casual mention only is made of rust or smut, and the Hessian fly has been heard of but rarely. The midge is spoken of in Grey, York, Durham and Renfrew, but only in a single instance in each county. One Victoria correspondent complains of damage by a green louse and another reports the weevil as at work. It can be safely said, however, that it is many a year since so large a yield of spring wheat so generally free from injury from any cause has been reported upon. White Russian appears to be the most popular variety, while Colorado comes a good second. In the west goose is much in favor while all over the province the old white and red Fyies are still largely grown.

Barley—In some localities it is reported as all cut and under cover, while in other places reaping has just started. In the case of two-rowed barley, however, little, if any, had been cut. While in several localities the crop appears to have suffered discoloration from wet weather, it is pleasing to know that the greater part of the cut was got into the barn untouched by rain and is of good color. Much difference of opinion is manifested by correspondents as to the benefits of growing the two-rowed barley. Some who have experimented with the samples sent out by the Ottawa government are delighted with the result, while others speak very slightly of the new barley as compared with the old six-rowed. It is worthy of notice that while much of the six-rowed barley was cut and housed as correspondents wrote, a week or two

more was needed to ripen the two-rowed variety. But while later the two-rowed sort this year gives promise of a greater yield than its six-rowed competitor, a comparison of quality cannot be given until the next bulletin.

Oats, rye and peas—The reports regarding the oat crop are favorable on the whole. For the province the average yield will, it is expected, reach 37.1 bushels. The crop may be said to have had almost complete immunity from every form of blight or pest. Very little rye is now cultivated, but where it is grown the crop is reported fully up to the average. The reports indicate an exceptionally good pea crop throughout the province, the yield promising to be the best in many years.

Hay, clover and roots—This crop has been unusually light all over the province. The drought was doubtless the chief cause of the deficiency, but in addition to this, clover in some instances suffered from winter-killing and from the frosts of May. The prospects for all root crops have been seriously impaired by drought. A large yield of potatoes of good quality is expected. Turnips are likely to average a very fair crop, but neither mangels nor carrots will be quite so good.

Fruit—The yield of apples will this year probably be light so far as Ontario is concerned lighter even than last year. The quality of the fruit is, however, very fair, and the sample generally well shaped and free from blemishes. Harvest apples have yielded somewhat better than the later varieties. Pears are also a light yield. The causes of the deficiency are stated to be frosts at the time of blossoming and the general drought. There has been a fairly good yield of other tree fruits. Cherries have been unusually abundant. Plum trees are well loaded with fruit, but their number has now been so greatly diminished by the black-knot scourge that the yield of fruit cannot be a large one. Grapes and peaches were slightly injured by late frosts, but the yield of both is good. Small fruits have been very plentiful almost everywhere, but least so in lake Eric district. Raspberries were unusually plentiful in some of the more northern counties. Strawberries yielded fairly well, but the fruit was rather undersized. On the Niagara peninsula there has been a good yield of all varieties. Plums are yielding well, and so are peaches, with the exception perhaps of Crawford's. Grapes will also yield well, and both peaches and grapes are pretty free from blight and mildew.

Vermicelli.

Much of the vermicelli exported from Chefoo is not vermicelli in the European sense of the word. We are wont to associate vermicelli with wheat; but the bales of beautiful, clear white strings, which are classed as vermicelli in the customs returns, are manufactured not from wheat but from beans. It very much resembles isinglass, for which, unfortunately for the consumer, it has occasionally been sold. Clear though it is, it is impossible to melt it down by boiling. Being neither isinglass nor vermicelli, it has found very little favor in Europe, but it is largely consumed in China, and finds its way to the homes of Chinese emigrants in Canada the United States, Australia and other lands—*British Acting-Consul at Chefoo, China.*

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