

be paid to fall plowing and early seeding, and as a result the wheat crop has been put in from seven to ten days earlier than in 1883. Ground plowed in the fall retains the moisture much longer than spring-plowed ground, hence the advantages to the wheat crop during the dry month of May have been most beneficial. The crop was reported from several points, though not suffering, to be in want of rain to give it fresh impetus. Of the quality of the grain used for seed it will be seen that in one hundred and ninety-seven townships the average of frozen wheat sown was fifty per cent. Though almost all the seed sown was more or less touched by frost the seed was of that quality which was graded as No. 1, frozen. At the time the reports were sent in no perceptible difference was observable in the appearance of the fields where frozen and unfrozen seed had been sown side by side. A few reported the frosted seed as looking better than what had not been touched by frost. From only one point, viz., Township 2, Range 10, west, has the report come in that the seed failed to germinate and had to be resown. From all points the feeling is expressed that fall plowing is necessary for successful wheat raising, as it secures early seeding, a good and substantial bottom for the grain, a sufficiency of moisture during the usually dry month of May, and also early harvesting, which has come to be looked upon as so important. The average per centage of the 1883 wheat crop still in the hands of the farmers is thirty per cent. for the whole Province. This is much larger than last year, and can be accounted for by the much larger yield, the quality being impaired by frost, and the want of railways and markets in several places. The total acreage made up from three hundred and twenty-three townships is 247,306 acres, an increase of nearly 40,000 acres over 1883. The average dates of the beginning and ending of seeding were April 24 and May 17 respectively. The average quantity sown per acre was 1.80 bushels. Of the several varieties Red Fyfe has been sown in 242 townships; Fyfe in 36; Lost Nation in 3; Red Chaff in 2; Golden Drop in 20; White Fyfe in 34, and White Russian in 18.

OATS.

Reports generally spoke of the oat crop as being in want of rain and a few spoke of them as suffering severely from drought. The several late rains no doubt have done very much to refresh and strengthen the crop and as rain was what was required the outlook will be now much brighter. With one or two exceptions no complaint was made of the seed sown, but where in one or two cases mistakes had been made and frosted seed sown the ground had to be resown. Unlike frozen

wheat, frozen oats do not appear to be fit for seed and have failed where they have been tried. The acreage under crop this season in oats is not so large as last year, the reason given being the unsatisfactory condition of the markets and the want of railway facilities in many localities. The acreage will no doubt be further increased as a larger amount has no doubt been sown during the early part of June on new breaking. The total acreage reported from 328 townships is 108,972 acres, being a decrease of nearly 40 per cent. from that sown last year. The percentage of the 1883 crop still on hand appears to be 15 per cent. The average quantity sown per acre was 2.55 bushels.

BARLEY,

like oats, appeared to be in want of rain at the time reports were sent in, but the anxiety which then existed will have been materially removed by the frequent showers which have since fallen so universally throughout the Province. The crop was generally reported in a backward state, but the cause was attributed to the want of rain. The seeding time runs on quite a distance in June and in consequence the acreage is only given imperfectly. The acreage shows a falling off from that reported last year of about 33 per cent., the causes being the same as those given for the decrease in the oats acreage. The total acreage reported from 299 townships is 32,963 acres. The average quantity sown per acre was 2.26 bushels.

FLAX,

as reported this season, shows a large falling off in acreage but from what reason is not known. No remarks have been made by correspondents in reference to the flax area, consequently the falling off in the quantity sown cannot be now accounted for. The acreage reported is 4,180 acres against 10,817 last season. The respective dates of the beginning and ending of seeding were May 14 and May 18 and the average quantity of seed .49 bushels.

POTATOES

also show a falling off in acreage, but this may be accounted for by the fact that several correspondents did not report potatoes while there must certainly have been quantities planted in the townships and again that potatoes would be planted after reports were sent in on June 1. The total acreage reported is 8,847 acres as compared with 12,168 acres last year. The average dates of the beginning and ending of seeding were May 4 and May 24 and the average quantity of seed used per acre was 12.38 bushels.

FIELD ROOTS

show a falling off in acreage as compared with last season. The total acreage

reported is 2,180 acres, being made up as follows: Turnips 1,585 acres; beets 120; mangolds 275 and carrots 200 acres.

GENERAL PROSPECTS AND CONDITION.

With respect to the condition and prospects of the crops the same reports have come in from all points. The early sown grains invariably looked well, they having benefitted by the moisture of the ground in the absence of rain. Wheat, being generally sown earliest, was reported looking well and at least ten days ahead of last season. Though, at the time when reports were mailed to the Department, none of the crops were actually suffering, still a desire for rain to freshen and infuse vigor into them was expressed from all points. Since May 30th several rains have fallen pretty generally throughout the Province, and all reports received since speak of the great good they have wrought on the crops. Oats and barley did not seem so promising as wheat, but all those crops appeared to want was a sufficiency of rain to renew their growth and color.

HAY AND CLOVER.

The general appearance of the hay and clover meadows, considering the very dry weather of May, is very encouraging. In some places the frost interfered to a certain extent in destroying the clover, but the cases were very few. The reports of timothy meadows vary from "poor" to "promising," "good," and "splendid." The native hay is promising, and taken altogether, there does not appear to be any reason to doubt there being a good crop when haying time arrives. From almost every point a surplus of old hay is reported. As the season had been so dry no very definite idea could be given of the prospects of the hay and clover crops on June 1, but no doubt from the quantity of rain that has fallen during the present month the reports which will come in on July 1 will be much more satisfactory.

LIVE STOCK.

The reports received of the condition of live stock are of a most satisfactory character. With but a few exceptions they were invariably housed during the winter, and where they were not the cattle were young ones. Fodder of the very best kind seems to have been in abundance, and so universal has this been the case that from only three points has a scarcity been reported, and all those cases were occasioned by the hay being destroyed by prairie fires last fall. Stock is reported from all points as being in excellent condition and as not having suffered in any degree from the severity of the past winter. Another source of gratitude is the absence of anything approaching a dangerous disease existing