

Manitoba Crops.

Bulletin No. 31, report on crops and live stock in Manitoba during the past season, has been issued by the Manitoba department of agriculture and immigration, and it is a gratifying one, showing that in Manitoba alone the estimated wheat yield is over 23,000,000 bushels. For the purpose of compilation the province has been divided into districts, as before, namely: Northwestern, Central, Southwestern, South Central, North Central and Eastern.

Great difficulty has been experienced in getting returns as the pressure of work in securing the enormous crop has been almost unprecedented. Out of 500 correspondents, only one hundred and eighty have replied to the circulars asking for information. Fortunately, however, the reports are fairly representative, most of the divisions having sent in a fair proportion of reports. It is, on the other hand, rather unfortunate that the exceptions, though few, comprise two such districts as North Brandon and Morden. There is every reason to believe that contrary to the usual result, the threshers' yield will be greatly in excess of the estimated yield by the crop correspondents. In view of this fact it is the intention of the department to issue a supplementary bulletin later in the season when these returns are in.

THE COMPARATIVE YIELDS.

The following statement of comparative yields are based on the returns of acreage and average yields for the respective years of 1890 and 1891:

	1890. Bushels.	1891. Bushels.
Estimated average yield of wheat	21.1	25.3
Estimated average yield in oats	41.3	49.3
Estimated average yield in barley	32.1	35.6
Estimated average yield in potatoes	235.0	193.4
Estimated product of wheat	14,065,769	32,101,599
Estimated product of oats	9,513,433	14,762,005
Estimated product of barley	2,069,415	3,197,875
Estimated product of potatoes	2,540,820	2,191,982

The following table shows the average yield of the various districts of the principal crops grown:

Districts	Wheat	Oats	Barley	Potatoes	Turnips
	Bus.	Bus.	Bus.	Bus.	Bus.
Northwestern	22.2	45.6	30.8	186.6	276.7
Central	24.4	43.3	34.2	117.2	300.0
Southwestern	27.8	49.6	36.0	162.7	363.7
South Central	20.8	52.2	40.4	245.8	418.7
North Central	26.5	48.7	36.6	200.0	540.0
Eastern	24.3	45.9	36.0	180.5	242.4
Province	25.3	48.3	35.6	180.4	355.9

OATS.

The oat crop has been very satisfactory. The average yield is above that of the past two years, and 3.9 bushels per acre above the August estimate of correspondents. Owing to the vast amount of crop to be saved, the oats have suffered somewhat from exposure.

BARLEY.

Barley has suffered in some sections from wet, but is on the whole a fair crop. The yield is within one per cent. of the estimate of August last. The berry is good; but as it is in many instances the first crop cut and one of the last to be stacked, the color is not good.

PEAS, RYE AND FLAX.

These crops do not seem to be grown in sufficient quantities to be of general interest, and

the returns are very meagre, so much so that it is impossible to form a safe estimates of the yield. No reports of peas are below eighteen bushels to the acre, while rye goes from twenty to thirty-five. Flax is reported by only one correspondent who places it at 16.5 bushels per acre.

POTATOES.

Potatoes have not done so well as last season. Many correspondents report the yield as very small on account of the wet weather of early summer which rotted the tubers. The aggregate yield is much less than last year, although a much greater average was planted. In some instances, however, the yield was enormous, over four hundred bushels per acre being reported.

TURNIPS.

This crop is not largely grown, but has been on the whole fairly good. Many correspondents report none grown, others as high as eight hundred bushels per acre.

It is quite evident from this that the country is well adapted to their growth, but the scarcity of farm help militates very strongly against their production.

An accompanying table shows the aggregate yield (estimated) of the different districts.

The weather during early harvest, or that portion of the season in which harvesting operations are usually completed, was very good; but the unusually heavy crop and great scarcity of farm help, protracted the harvest until wet weather set in in September, which retarded the work in all parts of the province. Crops were slow in ripening on account of the very favorable conditions existing for continued growth in the month of August. From the reports of western observers rain fell on twenty-eight days at some points in the province in the month of August, the average fall for the month being 2.59. In September rain fell on twenty-three days the average for the month being 1.19 inches.

HAY.

Much more hay has been put up than last year, and in most instances in good condition. In some townships the amount is reported 100 per cent. over last year. The yield was heavy and the late harvest allowed time for cutting and caring for it. The quality as well is better than last year.

FARM HELP.

The absence of suitable help has been the bane of the farmer this season, says the bulletin. In almost every township there has been a dearth of farm laborers, and the inconvenience and loss arising from this source has been very great. The large numbers brought into the province on the farm laborers' excursion seems to have been but a drop in the bucket, and it is safe to assume that twice as many could have found employment for three months or more from the beginning of harvest. It is noticeable that in the northwestern district, where more stock is kept and mixed farming followed, that the supply of labor has been much nearer equal to the demand. Laborers are still in demand in many parts of the province, in fact in all parts except the northwestern district, and will be as long as the weather is such as will admit of threshing being done.

BINDING TWINE.

The supply of twine has been adequate in every township reported, with one exception. That no inconvenience should have been experienced in this matter is most remarkable, con-

sidering the fact that 2,548,325 lbs were used on wheat alone, 886,387 on oats and 260,501 on barley, or a total of 3,795,193 on the assumption that oats and barley require on an average the same amount per acre as wheat. At 15 cents per pound, which is probably the average price to the farmer this season, this makes \$569,278.95 paid out by the farmers of the province for twine for this season's crop. The amount used varies from 2.5 to 4 lbs., being an average of 2.9 lbs. per acre, being 0.6 more than last season.

MARKETING GRAIN.

The pressure of harvest work and threshing has retarded marketing very much. A great majority of the correspondents say there is very little marketed yet. Threshing is very much behind, some correspondents claiming that there has not been sufficient threshing done in their township to warrant them making an estimate. Many townships report a scarcity of threshing machines. Dennis reports a vast amount marketed, which is largely due to the fact that that county was among the first to begin harvesting.

FALL PLOUGHING.

While in some townships a fair amount of ploughing has been done, there is on the whole much less than at the same time last year, for the same reasons that the grain is not threshed and marketed, viz., heavy crop to harvest with a scarcity of help.

STOCK.

In almost every township the cattle are in a much better condition than usual. Grass has been abundant, and water of comparatively easy access. The grass throughout the season seems to have contained a maximum of nutriment; and with the exception of flies in some instances being rather numerous, the season has been very favorable to stock-raising. Some correspondents claim that cattle have done much better from the fact that they have been enclosed in fields, and not worried by herdboys and dogs.

BEEF CATTLE.

Along the line of the M. & N. W. railway there has been a great number of cattle sold for beef. In other districts the number has not been as great. In most instances fully 75 per cent. of the beef cattle have been sold, and in some cases even more. In many districts beef cattle are receiving more attention than in former years.

DAIRYING.

The year has been a very favorable one for dairying; and, as very few complaints are made as to prices secured, it is fair to assume that they have been reasonably satisfactory. Some townships report little dairying done; but in no instance has the season been pronounced unfavorable.

BUILDING.

The amount of building done has varied very much. Some divisions report a considerable amount of building and a good proportion of them substantial structures. Denais, North Brandon, Brandon City, Mountain, Souris, Turtle Mountain, Killarney, Cypress, Manitou, Lorne, Portage la Prairie, Lakeside, Norfolk and Beautiful Plains report a considerable amount of building. In other parts less has been done.

CULTIVATED AREA.

The last question in the circular sent out for this report was: "Do you think the farmers of your district are cultivating more land than they can properly attend to?" About one