

British Grain Trade.

Sir John Lawes, in his review of the agricultural situation, warns agriculturists against expecting an improvement soon. The *Mark Lane Express* endorses this view. The imperial average for English wheat up to Nov. 27 has been, the *Mark Lane Express* says, from 10s to 10s 1d lower than in 1891, and 2s 3d lower than in any other November in the present century. October's low average has been reduced 8d a quarter, and the situation is 1,643,642 quarters worse than on the 1st of September. At the Annandale Agricultural Society's meeting, held at Lockerbie, it was resolved that a modified fair trade policy was the only means to remedy the present depressed trade and benefit the country at large. This, added to the recent expressions at farmers' meetings in various parts of the country, indicates a wave of the sentiment in behalf of protection that is already beginning to alarm the liberal leaders, while it is evidently fostered and encouraged by the Tories.

Crops and Live Stock in Ontario.

The last Ontario crop bulletin of the department of agriculture has been received, from which the following is taken:

CROPS IN GENERAL.—In the August bulletin we drew attention to the fact that the yields of grain then given were "based upon observation in the field." We also stated, "It is greatly to be feared that more exact determinations made subsequently will prove the estimated yields of the grains in this bulletin too high rather than too low." We were correct; the results of thrashing given in this bulletin show yields very much lower than those given in August. Fall wheat is only six per cent below our previous estimate and still remains as one of the most successful crops of the year, having averaged 21.2 bushels per acre. Spring wheat has turned out very poor, yielding 12.7 bushels per acre; from no part of the province have we received any very favorable reports. Barley is under the average in yield and the quality on the whole is not first-class. It has been a poor season for two-rowed barley and very little has been said in its favor. Oats, although over ten million bushels less in quantity than last year, are still above the average in total yield. Rye has done fairly well. Peas are under the average; the "bugs" have been unusually destructive; but the increased acreage has brought up the total yield to a fair amount. Unfortunately many of the earlier indications of good crops have proven misleading, and we are compelled to admit that the yield or farm produce this past year has been disappointing. From best to poorest we may average the crops thus: Hay and clover, fall wheat, roots, oats, buckwheat, rye, barley, corn, peas, spring wheat, potatoes.

CORN.—The past season was less favorable for corn than 1891. The crop was planted late owing to spring rains and the early growth was retarded, though the late growth was satisfactory. The result is that there is a limited crop of seed corn but it is of fair quality. Corn on low land was slightly touched by frost in many districts. The acreage of corn planted was greater than in the preceding year and the amount of corn produced for fodder only 10.38 tons per acre.

BEANS.—Owing to late planting and drouth of midsummer the crop is limited in acreage and light in quality.

BUCKWHEAT. This crop has turned out fairly well, in some sections extra well. It has been somewhat extensively produced in the Lake Ontario district with good yields. Very little injury from early frosts is reported.

ROOTS.—Rain, drouth and rot, in the order named, have been playing havoc with potatoes. Owing to early rains much late planting and re-planting had to be done, and later on the exceedingly dry weather prevailing prevented a normal development of the tubers. There are consequently many small potatoes. Rot has appeared in almost every locality, and in some instances farmers have left their potatoes

undug as not being worth the trouble. Odd fields on high, well drained sandy soils have done well, but there are not many such. Several correspondents say that there will not be enough potatoes for seed in their neighborhoods. Owing to the tendency to rot in cellar and in pit the average yield per acre presented in the table must be discounted to a considerable degree. Mangels and carrots were each reported in good condition generally, but correspondents do not say so much regarding these crops as in former years. The planting of turnips was delayed by rains, but apart from injury from "caterpillars" in some quarters and a tendency to become "rooty" on low lands, the crop is considered to be in fair condition. The storing of turnips was not completed when correspondents wrote and operations were then being interfered with by broken weather.

FRUIT AND FRUIT TREES.—With the exception of the cherry and the plum, which are rapidly being thinned out by black knot, fruit trees appear to be healthy, and have suffered but little from blight or storms. The curculio has also helped to keep down the yield of plums. The reports on apples show a great variation in different localities. The yield was light in most of the Lake Erie counties and also in Lambton, but in Huron, Bruce, Grey and Simcoe and several of the West Midland, Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence and Ottawa counties a surplus was reported. Several correspondents in the county of Grey report that buyers could not get enough barrels to pack the fruit in and hundreds of bushels of apples had to be fed to hogs or to lie rotting in piles which had been made ready for the packers. Prices for selected apples were from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per barrel, though farmers were selling as low as 25 cents a bag in several quarters. There appear to be too many fall or early apples grown. The codling moth was worse than usual and wormy fruit is common. There is also a large proportion of spotted or scabby apples. Unless packers have been very careful Ontario apples will hardly keep up their reputation this year for first-class appearance and quality. Pears, notwithstanding blight in some sections, yielded well and will be of good form and size. Grapes suffered but little from mildew and bore fairly well. The absence of fall frosts enabled the fruit to hang on the vines till an unusually late period, thus ensuring perfect ripening. Small fruits were only moderate in yield, excepting wild raspberries, which were plentiful. However, the fall has permitted the new wood to ripen well, and the bushes enter the winter in good condition.

PASTURES AND LIVE STOCK.—Correspondents generally have a good word to say of fall pastures. Live stock came off the grass in pretty good condition, although here and there reported a trifle thin. More fat mutton than usual will probably appear in the market at the holidays. An unusually large number of hogs were sold on foot during the fall. Swine-breeders report peas scarce, but think that the low prices or other grains will enable them to fatten plenty of pork for the winter market. The supply of fodder is abundant, hay being a crop with a big surplus, and straw being plentiful also, although much of the latter has been badly damaged by frequent rains. The silo is becoming more common in the dairy districts of the West Midland and St. Lawrence and Ottawa groups, but elsewhere farmers appear to be chary regarding corn ensilage.

THE DAIRY.—The season has been a fair one for the dairy, pastures generally being in good condition, and the flow of milk being pretty steady. Cheese factories have been well patronized on the whole, although the cheese industry appears to be declining in favor in the Lake Erie district. Butter making appears to have taken an onward stride during the year, and the revival in this branch of dairying has been ascribed by several correspondents to the practical experimental work of the Travelling Dairies. An improvement in quality is reported from nearly every section of the province, and an advance in price, ranging from one to

three cents per pound is noted by several correspondents. The Shorthorn grade is the cow most often found on the Ontario farm, although the Ayrshire is a favorite in the counties along the St. Lawrence. Holsteins and Jerseys are being introduced in various districts.

AREA AND YIELD OF FIELD CROPS.—The following revised statistics of the crops have been compiled from careful estimates, based upon actual results, each in his own locality, by nearly 1,400 correspondents in all parts of the province for 1892, while the statistics of 1891 and the averages for eleven years 1882-92 are given for comparison:—

Crops.	Acres.	Bushels.	Yield per acre.
Fall wheat	{ 1892 ... 900,622	20,402,497	21.2
	{ 1891 ... 840,050	21,372,488	25.7
	{ 1882-92 ... 908,035	18,280,440	20.1
Spring wheat...	{ 1892 ... 651,302	8,290,305	12.7
	{ 1891 ... 610,034	10,711,638	21.0
	{ 1882-92 ... 671,625	8,820,125	15.4
Barley.....	{ 1892 ... 400,225	12,274,318	24.6
	{ 1891 ... 553,100	10,141,004	29.2
	{ 1882-92 ... 721,002	16,700,106	26.9
Oats.....	{ 1892 ... 1,801,469	61,768,053	34.8
	{ 1891 ... 1,810,016	76,000,642	40.8
	{ 1882-92 ... 1,021,220	23,987,044	35.1
Rye.....	{ 1892 ... 76,231	1,177,822	15.7
	{ 1891 ... 67,805	1,144,630	16.7
	{ 1882-92 ... 101,053	1,637,908	16.2
Peas.....	{ 1892 ... 774,732	14,494,430	18.7
	{ 1891 ... 752,463	13,329,450	24.4
	{ 1882-92 ... 678,678	13,061,070	20.6
Buckwheat.....	{ 1892 ... 125,104	2,521,214	20.2
	{ 1891 ... 107,870	2,048,142	24.2
	{ 1882-92 ... 74,000	1,000,022	22.2
Beans.....	{ 1892 ... 33,249	635,031	16.1
	{ 1891 ... 41,451	709,000	18.6
	{ 1882-92 ... 20,035	622,080	19.4
Potatoes.....	{ 1892 ... 145,703	12,280,817	84.3
	{ 1891 ... 160,218	24,055,836	160.1
	{ 1882-92 ... 151,663	18,245,150	118.0
Mangel-wurzels.	{ 1892 ... 22,026	10,850,474	470.
	{ 1891 ... 22,001	11,770,443	513.
	{ 1882-92 ... 19,772	8,702,857	440.
Carrots..	{ 1892 ... 9,041	3,927,301	385.
	{ 1891 ... 9,853	3,314,016	337.
	{ 1882-92 ... 10,370	3,074,021	354.
Turnips.....	{ 1892 ... 129,027	63,641,611	490.
	{ 1891 ... 120,075	68,853,452	546.
	{ 1882-92 ... 107,137	44,850,404	418.
Hay and Clover	{ 1892 ... 2,615,367	Tons. 4,384,833	1.74
	{ 1891 ... 2,549,075	3,992,798	.94
	{ 1882-92 ... 2,310,938	3,210,788	1.39

THE NEW FALL WHEAT CROP. Owing to the protracted harvesting of the spring-sown crops and varying conditions of weather, sowing of the new fall wheat crop was spread over a larger period of time than usual. Most of the sowing was done September 1st to 15th. The early sown looks better than the late sown. Although the growth has not been as heavy as might be desired, on the whole the condition is very good. Very little damaged has been observed from any source. While it is difficult to accurately estimate the acreage, the reports indicate about the same acreage sown as last year; there may be a slight decrease.

IMPLEMENTS.—Marked improvement is being made in fencing. The old "snake fence" is being transformed into a straight railed fence with the aid of wire, and wire fencing of various designs is also in favor. With the change of fencing there is a noticeable tendency to larger fields.

The well known wholesale dry goods firm of MacKay Bros., Montreal, after an existence of nearly fifty-three years, is about to close up business. Mr. Robert MacKay, sole member of the MacKay family now in the business, retiring. This firm was established in 1840 by the late Joseph MacKay, founder of the MacKay Institute. A few years after, Edward MacKay, his brother, was taken into the firm and afterwards the Hon. Hugh MacKay and James MacKay, nephews of the founder. All are now dead. The present member of the firm was also a nephew of Joseph MacKay. The late Hon. Hugh MacKay was gazetted legislative councillor by the Mercier government in 1888, but soon resigned. The process of winding up the firm's business is now in progress and a sale of the stock and goods will take place during the present month.