

much less. Timothy and mixed grasses were very heavy, and the uniform report from all sections is that no better crop has been gathered in twenty years.

"Throughout the western half of the Province, fall wheat has been remarkably heavy, but it has not escaped the dangers incident to a late season of ripening. Owing to a rank growth of straw and occasional rain storms, the crop lodged badly in many localities just as the grain was beginning to harden, and about the same time, unfortunately, it was struck with rust. As a consequence, the sample is not generally as good as was looked for; it is lacking in plumpness and colour. The worst effects from those causes are reported from the loamy lands of the south-western counties—from Essex, and the basins of the Thames and Sydenham rivers. In some sections the whole crop has been reaped and saved in good condition, but the bulk of it was either standing or in shock when work was interrupted last week by a rain storm of several days' duration. Late reports say that in many fields the grain has sprouted, but the full extent of the damage will not be known for some time. The storm was local, and confined chiefly to the western counties. In the Georgian Bay counties a large acreage has been saved in good order, and the sample is prime. In the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence and Ottawa counties the crop was badly winter-killed, and what remains will yield less than an average. In the East Midland counties a good crop will be harvested, but not equal to last year's. In the Lake Erie counties, where some grain has been threshed, it is found to yield from 20 to 80 bushels per acre, and correspondents in all counties west of Toronto estimate the yield at not less than 20 bushels per acre. Spring wheat in the eastern half of the Province, where it is extensively grown, gives promise of an abundant harvest, but in some districts it is being attacked by the midge, the Hessian fly and rust. It will be ready for reaping generally about the 20th of this month.

"Barley is everywhere a heavy crop, and a large acreage has been grown, especially in the Lake Ontario and East Midland counties. The grain is uniformly plump, and of good colour, with a few exceptions where it ripened too rapidly owing to the drought, or where it lodged and rusted. In the western counties the yield is good, but the harvesting season has been unfavourable.

"There is a large area under oats, and with the one exception of the Georgian Bay counties, the crop is reported good all over. The estimates of correspondents range from 35 to 60 bushels per acre. Peas are a good crop in all the northern counties, but elsewhere they have been injured by the bug.

"The corn crop is everywhere pronounced a failure. The season has been too wet and cold for it, and though it has made good growth during the past three weeks, there is little chance now of its attaining to half an average crop. Beans are chiefly grown in the counties of Kent, Norfolk, Brant and Renfrew. They are generally reported good, but in some localities the crop is worthless.

"Potatoes were injured by too much rain early in the season, and later on by the drought. The beetle, too, is about as troublesome as ever. Turnips, mangolds and carrots have only partially come up, and a good crop is rare; turnips especially are late, and are badly injured by the fly.

"The fruit crop is poor in all the best fruit-growing districts. Apples are good only in the Lake Ontario and River St. Lawrence counties, and there they will not be more than half a crop. Peaches and plums are almost a total failure, pears and grapes are fairly good, and small fruit alone is abundant.

"Pastures were good throughout June and the first half of July, but recently they have become parched and bare in many parts of the Province. This has been especially the case in the Lake Ontario counties, where in some districts cattle had to be given extra fodder. For this purpose soiling came in good where it could be availed of. Fat cattle are scarce, particularly in the finer classes suitable for export, and there is a disposition to force young cattle prematurely into the market. The dairying interest is less flourishing now than it was earlier in the season, and the milk supply is falling off. The recent

raains, however, will doubtless make the pastures good again.

"Farm labourers have been scarce, and the demand for them was increased by the general heaviness of the harvest. Wages ran from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per day, and from \$25 to \$40 per month with board, and even at these high figures it was difficult to procure men.

"The statistics of live stock are as complete as they could be obtained. No estimates have been made of thoroughbreds for sections for which returns were not received, owing to the difficulty of finding an average. It is certain that the full number has not been reported, but it is almost equally certain that some animals entered in the schedules of farmers as thoroughbreds would never obtain registration in a Herd Book. Following are the returns for the Province:

HORSES.		The Province.
Working horses.....		339,481
Breeding mares.....		72,065
Unbroken horses.....		100,605
CATTLE.		
Thoroughbred.....		23,297
Working oxen.....		14,245
Milch cows.....		680,662
Store cattle, over two years.....		272,861
Other cattle.....		617,001
Total milch cows, all breeds.....		687,037
" cattle, all classes and breeds.....		1,608,056
SHEEP.		
Coarse woolled, one year and over.....		941,744
" " under one year.....		686,610
Fine woolled, one year and over.....		183,022
" " under one year.....		131,404
PIGS.		
One year and over.....		257,406
Under one year.....		609,589
POULTRY.		
Number of turkeys.....		317,784
" geese.....		538,922
" other fowls.....		4,521,899."

The Weather Report, which is furnished by the Meteorological Office, is a register of important facts for the farmer. The addition of eight sunshine recorders to the two heretofore in use will add materially to the value of future reports.

FRUIT-GROWING IN EUROPE.

As recently stated in the RURAL CANADIAN, Mr. Charles Gibb, who has long been the leading spirit in the Montreal Horticultural Society, is now on a tour in the old world, accompanied by Prof. Budd, of Iowa, in search of new and valuable fruit. Mr. Gibb has sent the following brief communication to Mr. N. S. Whitney, President of the Montreal Horticultural Society:—

"VIENNA, 28th July, 1882.

"Journey interesting so far. In France and Germany many of the promising new apples are in leaf semi-Astrachanica. In the Jardin des Plantes many of the pears showed they were crosses with the pears of North or South China or India. The German oider or cooking pears are semi-North Chinese, many of them, and a different race to those of West France. Some varieties of vinifera have leaves as thick as Adirondack and even Concord. Bad year for fruit so far. We will soon strike northward into Galicia and Poland. Many Eastern forms of trees in Germany not known in United States, England or France.—Yours, etc.,

"O. GIBB."

SKETCHES OF CANADIAN WILD BIRDS.

By W. L. KELLS, LISTOWEL, ONT.

THE CANADIAN GROSBEAK.

In its nesting and general habits this species resembles the tanager, but it is larger in size, and its notes and plumage are very different. Its bill is short and thick, and of an ivory colour. It feeds on grain, various kinds of seeds, and also on insects. The male grosbeak is not only a beautiful bird, but a fine songster. Its length from the end

of the beak to that of the tail is seven inches, and its wings, when spread, measure twelve inches. The head, throat, upper parts of the back, wings, and tail are of a black colour; the abdomen and lower part of the back is white; there are also two bars of white on each wing; and three feathers on each side of the tail—which consists of twelve—are marked with white. Part of the breast and under each wing is deep crimson. The general colour of the female is grayish-brown above—each feather being marked with a dark spot—and the under parts of its wings are of a yellow hue. In the spring season these birds appear pretty numerous in the newly-sown fields bordering on the woods, where they feed upon the grain left uncovered by the harrow. As the season advances, they separate in pairs, and retire into the thickest woods, where they are chiefly found during the summer months. In the harvest, when the breeding season is over, they again assemble in small flocks, and feed upon the standing grain in the vicinity of the woods. The female makes her nest on the spreading branch of a tree, or among the thick branches of under-brush; this is formed of brambles and dry weeds, lined with finer material. The eggs are four in number, of a light blue colour, mottled with brown. The song of the grosbeak, which consists of several melodious notes, warbled in a clear, distinct and powerful tone, is heard in the woods where it makes its home from early in May until the latter part of August. In September it leaves for the south. The male assists his consort in the duty of incubation, and providing the young with food.

THE PINE GROSBEAK.

This beautiful and interesting bird is rather a winter than a summer visitor in the south or central parts of Ontario. Occasionally, during severe cold weather, they assemble in small flocks, come down from the more northern wilderness, where they make their summer homes, and visit the farm yard, and surroundings of human habitations, in search of food. On one occasion, in the winter season, I saw a beautiful specimen of the male grosbeak that had been caught in a trap set for small birds. It was kept, and for a short time it seemed to enjoy its cage life, freely eating the small grain and crumbs that were given to it, and at times chattering a few cheery notes. But, as spring approached, it appeared to become weary of its captivity, and pined away and died. The native homes of this bird appear to be the extensive pine and cedar forests of the old Canadian provinces and the North-west. Here it chiefly subsists on the seeds of the evergreens, and its southern migrations depend on the severity of the winter season in its summer haunts. At this season, they often visit the New England States, where they feed much on the berries of the red cedar, and in the neighbourhood of Toronto they are said to feed on the buds of flowering shrubs and fruit trees. The length of the adult male is six or seven inches; his plumage is carmine on the back, paler below, striped with black; the wings are dark, with white edgings. The female is ashy gray, with yellow markings. Its nest is built in the branch of a small tree, and formed of bramble and small roots. The number and colour of its eggs are similar to those of the Canadian, or rose-breasted grosbeak. Its song is rich and musical, but not often heard except in those wild regions where it generally makes its home.

MR. ALEX. SMITH, of the River road, near St. Marys, says that the Hessian fly is very bad in his grain. He will not sow so early again, as this has been a lesson to him. He believes that this pest is the cause of so much grain lying down, as the insect attacks the straw near the ground.