

things will soon be found to hold good in not a few other sections. To my mind it is one of the most difficult problems that has to be dealt with in this country. The Government is moving as far in the matter as it would seem possible for it to go. The laws bearing on it are wisely framed; and these laws, I am told, are enforced to an extent as far as it is reasonable to go. Very many farmers are in no way backward in co-operating with the Government and in trying to check the spread of these noxious weeds, and yet withal the state of things spoken of is becoming intensified. This appears to be more chargeable to the system of farming followed than to the farmers. So long as grain growing prevails in such a large measure in preference to a system of mixed farming, whereby stock-raising along some line will be carried out, whether it be meat producing, cheese or butter making, so long will the weeds go on increasing. Once let there be a necessity for raising large quantities of autumn, late fall and winter feed for stock—and certainly the successful farmer of the future is going to be the man who does that—then it will be found that more labor can be profitably employed all the year round, and the hoed crops which it will be found absolutely necessary to grow will, if properly handled, be a very valuable factor in clearing the land from these noxious weeds.

While there is no manner of doubt that it is very desirable that a change of system in many localities and by many farmers be gone into, we need not lose sight of the fact that there is many a farmer in Manitoba to-day who has got his farm paid for and who is in comfortable circumstances who would not have been so if it had not been for the large amount obtained from cheaply-grown grain. We might even go further, judging from what we have seen, and say that they cannot be blamed if they pursue the system a few years longer. They are simply not in a position to go all at once into mixed farming—they must grow into it gradually; but certainly the sooner they can get into it the better for themselves and the country they live in.

Perhaps after theorizing as I have done it might be well to give reasons for the conclusions arrived at. They are these: Firstly, the indications all tend to show that there are likely to be higher prices for farm stock for some years to come. Already prices have gone up at least five dollars a head on the ranch cattle; and no better evidence can be required than the great demand for stockers, and in some quarters where Canadian stockers were never wanted before. Thousands and tens of thousands have been taken from Ontario during the last eight or ten months by the feeders in the States of Pennsylvania and New York on the one hand and to Iowa and the country tributary to the Chicago market on the other. Then again, to localize it more, unquestionably there will be great developments in the mining country both east and west of Manitoba. There will be to a certainty in the near future, and to no small extent is now, a large number of people in these mining districts who will not produce a single article of food, and Manitoba and the Territories, from their geographical position, will have much of that trade.

JOHN I. HOBSON.

Crop Prospects.

Taking the Dominion as a whole, the prospects for this year's crops are decidedly favorable. With regard to some of the Provinces it is yet too early to make a forecast that may be considered reliable, while of others it may be made with considerable confidence. The late and cold spring which prevailed in all the eastern Provinces delayed seeding and made it later than usual. In consequence of this harvesting may be late, and probably will be so in the Maritime Provinces especially.

ONTARIO.

In Western Ontario the hay crop has been abundant, and new meadows have yielded immensely. In most sections the bulk of the hay was secured in first-class condition, but in some localities showers have been so frequent as to delay the work and damage the quality of the crop considerably, and in some cases ruinously. In Eastern Ontario, as reported by Mr. Joseph Yuill, Lanark Co., the conditions in regard to the hay crop have been reversed. In the last two years hay was abundant in the east, and large quantities were sold for shipment to the west. This year there is probably less than half an average crop, with no new meadows, a considerable acreage of hay land having been plowed up and sown to millet and other fodder crops.

The winter wheat crop in Western Ontario especially, and generally in the central counties, is magnificent. A full average yield is assured, as harvesting is now practically over, and the condition of the crop is all that could be desired, there being no appearance of rust or blight, the straw bright and clean and the grain plump and sound. The winter wheat plots on the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, proved a complete failure, being killed out.

Spring crops of grain, oats, peas and barley are a full crop in nearly all sections, the exceptions being limited to areas where drainage was insufficient and water lay upon the land after seeding. Wheat in the shock, oats and other uncut grains in Western Ontario were seriously damaged by heavy rain.

Corn is not a uniformly good crop, but has been improving latterly and will probably turn out better than anticipated. The late, cold spring delayed planting, and in many cases necessitated replanting. Some really good fields are seen, for example, in parts of Middlesex Co., Ont., where the prospect is nearly equal to 1896; but generally the crop is not up to the standard, and in some instances it cannot be written down other than a partial failure. This to not a few in the dairy districts especially will be regarded as a greater loss than that of the hay crop, and we regret to say that in some of the eastern counties, as Mr. Yuill writes us, both are deficient. Root crops are promising well in all sections of the Province.

Apples will probably not be half a crop. The bloom was abundant, but the trees have not fruited. Cherries and all small fruits have been abundant, and plums and pears promise well, especially the former. Several report peaches a failure, but a fine crop in the Niagara district.

QUEBEC.

Of the prospects in this Province, Mr. Robert Ness, of Chateaugay Co., reports the hay harvest some two weeks later than usual, there being no clover, it being wholly killed out by the frost of last winter; but timothy has picked up wonderfully in the last two weeks and is strong and of great length, especially first and second cuts. Oats, barley and peas are really splendid, and corn and roots good. Fruit will be below the average. With the late rains pastures are greatly improved, which was much needed.

Mr. John Racey, Jr., Sherbrooke Co., writes

are not as plentiful as usual. Plums and cherries are a failure, as are most of the small fruits."

NOVA SCOTIA.

Mr. G. W. Forest, Superintendent of the Experimental Farm for the Maritime Provinces, reports that owing to the cold, wet spring, seeding was the latest for 25 years. We have had two weeks of very warm weather, and all crops have made very rapid growth. Hay will be about an average crop. All kinds of grain are late, but growing very fast and promise an average crop. The apple crop will be less than half. Plums and cherries a complete failure.

Prof. E. E. Faville, Director of the Nova Scotia School of Horticulture, who has recently made a tour through Cape Breton and the eastern portions of the Province, says the hay crop is badly impaired by the great growth of buttercups and Ox-eye daisies; otherwise the crop is large and above the average. Root crops are promising very good. Corn fodder crop poor—a backward spring the cause. Cereals below the average. Apples less than one half of last year's crop; plums very light, almost a failure; pears exceedingly good; cherries and peaches, scarcely any at all.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Mr. William Clark, Queen's Co., speaking for the Island Province, says: "Hay, taken as a whole, will be a good average crop. Old meadows were badly winter-killed, but we have had a phenomenally wet spring up to July 5th, and it brought the grass along finely, considering the prospect in May. New meadows escaped unharmed, and are a grand crop all through the Province. The various grain crops never promised better at this date on all high, dry land, but a great many fields of low to flat land will be from a partial to a total failure. Winter wheat is not grown on the Island. Root crops have done grandly the last fortnight, and promise well. The spring was very hard on the corn crop; a great deal missed all over, owing to wet and cold, but the outlook is all right for those who sowed thick, for where thick enough it looks fine, having made great growth in the last two weeks. Fruit of all kinds will be a short crop."

MANITOBA AND THE NORTHWEST.

The prospects for the crops in Manitoba are very good both for wheat and coarse grains, and a largely increased acreage has been sown. The growth was slow in the early months after seeding, and in some sections drouth prevailed for a time, but rains have been frequent of late and the weather warm, and crops have grown and developed rapidly. The probability is that the yield of the wheat crop will be equal to the average of the best years, other crops are all fairly good, and the outlook for all the West is decidedly encouraging.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Thos. A. Sharpe, Superintendent Experimental Farm, Agassiz, B. C., writes: "Small fruits were an abundant crop, but strawberries suffered from the very excessive and continued rains, which seriously injured the crop; but raspberries, currants, and blackberries are a fine crop. Cherries were injured by the continued wet weather, causing the fruit to crack and spoil. Plums will be a fair crop, while apples and pears will be the heaviest crop for some years. Hay has been a very heavy crop, but the rains have made curing rather difficult. Grains are looking very well in most places, but in some localities oats are reported lodged, which may reduce the yield somewhat, and will increase the labor of harvesting. The cold, wet weather in June has retarded the growth of corn fodder somewhat, but with warm weather it will soon pick up. Roots, in most places, promise an abundant yield. Potatoes look exceedingly well. On the whole, if prices are fair, this promises to be a prosperous year for farmers all over B. C."

of his district: Hay a fair crop; on some farms very good, on others light; some fields being badly hurt by frost last winter. Grain is doing well, but has suffered in low places from the wet weather. At present it is growing rapidly, and much of it will probably lodge. Corn and roots are very promising. Taking it all through we shall not have much to complain of.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

Mr. Julius L. Inches, Secretary for Agriculture, of Fredericton, reports grass much winter-killed. Cold, backward weather continued through May and part of June, followed by very warm weather, which made a marvellous change in all growth and enabled sowing and planting to proceed with unusual rapidity. The grass was greatly improved. Hay promises a fair crop on all good land. Grain looking well, but too early to report crop. Roots doing well, but late.

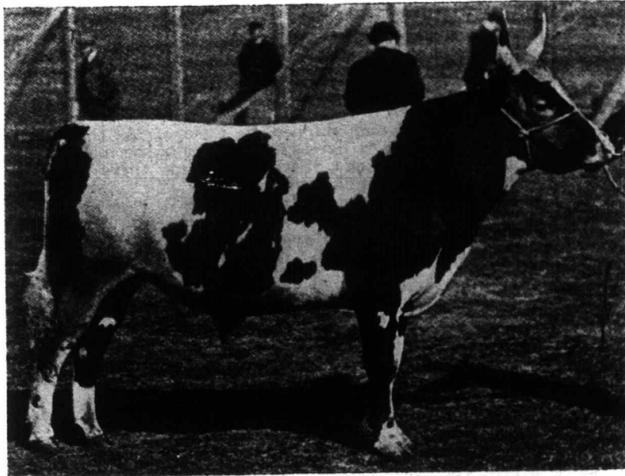
Dairying doing well, and the quantity of cheese larger than last year. Make nearly all sold as soon as ready to ship at good prices.

Wm. G. Cameron, Kent Co., writes: "In Kent County the hay was badly winter-killed, but being a wet spring it will be better than it looked likely to be at first, and if not too much hot weather for a few days will be a fair crop in some places, but in most places will be very light. As a consequence of the wet spring, grain seeding on wet land was only finished the first week of July, so that it is too soon to form an idea what it would be like, but grain sown in good time on dry land promises a heavy crop of straw and grain also. Fodder corn where sown looks well, but there is not much of it grown. Potatoes are looking very well, and the bug did not come as early as usual. Turnips and other root crops where sown early are doing well, but a good many do not sow till July, and the hot weather we have had keeps them back. Apples

Champions at the Highland Society's Show.

The following is a list of championship winners in the cattle classes at the recent show of the H. & A. S. at Glasgow: *Shorthorns*.—Bull any age—Earl of Caledon, for Sign of Riches, bred by W. S. Marr, Uppermill; cow any age—Lord Polwarth, for Wave Mist, bred by exhibitor. *Aberdeen Angus*.—Bull—Sir Geo. Macpherson Grant, for Prince Ito; cow—Wm. Nimmo, for Rose of Benton. *Galloway*.—Bull—John Cunningham, for Standard Bearer; cow—John Cunningham, for Dora. *Ayrshires*.—Bull—Robert Montgomery, for Sensation of Lessnessock; cow—Wm. Howie, for Nellie Grey, the first prize three-year-old, a white.

John Spurrell, of Sac Co., Ill., writes that the use of 1 1/2-inch hose is the surest and safest way to relieve bloat. Trim the outer sharp edge of the end of hose and open the mouth and shove it down the throat clear into the stomach, and when it reaches the stomach the bloat will come out a great deal quicker than it takes me to tell it. The hose should be about seven feet long, and one must be careful not to let the animal get hold of it with his grinders, as they will break down the hose so that it will not be stiff enough to force down the throat.



AYRSHIRE BULL, SENSATION OF LESSNESSOCK (3647).
Calved March, 1895; bred by Thomas Lindsay, Reidston, Ochiltree, Scotland.
Property of Robert Montgomery; 1st at Glasgow and the Highland,
and champion at the Highland, Glasgow, 1897.