

It is difficult at this time to say what the fruit crop will be. All kinds seldom made a more general and better appearance of blossoms; but the cherries, plums, and pears were materially injured by the severe frost in May, and in many places were totally destroyed. From what I can hear the apple crop will not be an average one. The seasonable rains may, however, produce a larger growth of fruit. The interest manifested by almost all persons in extending the cultivation of the apple is surprising. The demand for apple trees cannot be supplied either by our own nurseries or even those of Ontario or the U. States, as far as I can learn. As a proof of this I am told that the price of fruit trees in the United States and Ontario has greatly increased within two years, and are difficult to be had. The apple crop must now be looked upon as one of the staple productions of the country, and every encouragement given to it which its importance demands. I hope we will be able to make a good show of fruit at our exhibition which is to be held in Wolfville in October next. The premium list is the most extensive yet put forth, and will have a new feature attached to it—viz., the voluntary offering of premiums on collections of apples, &c., by several gentlemen of the city of Halifax and of some from the country.

CHAS. C. HAMILTON.

CONDITION OF THE CROPS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The season, thus far, has been very favorable to vegetable growth, except in the single element of moisture. The average heat in April and May has been greater in nearly all the States than in 1869, (in the West by a difference of 6° to 7°.) There has been a due proportion of sunlight, with few occurrences of destructive storms, but the rain-fall has been deficient in New England, in New York, between the Ohio River and the northern lakes as far west as Lake Michigan, on the west side of the Mississippi south of Iowa, and in the cotton States from South Carolina to Louisiana. A moderate amount, three to four inches in May, is noted in Texas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Kansas, Iowa, and Wisconsin; and four to six inches in May, a very good supply, in the seaboard States from New Jersey to North Carolina, and in Minnesota and Nebraska. The rain in May was mostly in the latter portion of the month.

The heat of April in the West was remarkable. Minnesota exhibited an excess of 10° over the mean temperature of April, 1869. The average increase of 7° is shown for the entire district west of Ohio, north of the Ohio River, and east of the Missouri. Ohio and Kentucky

were only 2° warmer, while Tennessee and the Gulf Coast States were cooler than last year by about 2°. In the rainy district south of New York and north of South Carolina, the mean temperature was about the same as last year; while in New England and New York it was higher—in New York by 4°. In May nearly the same excess above the mean temperature of the preceding May is observed throughout the West, the greatest difference being observed in Michigan. In the New England States, with the exception of Massachusetts, the temperature is somewhat higher, and in New York 4° higher. In the other Atlantic States, and in the cotton States, the temperature of May has also been higher by about 4°.

Future returns will reveal the truth or falsity of predictions of the weatherwise that the present will be a season of unusual heat and drought.

WHEAT.

The estimates of acreage, compared with the area of 1869, is as follows:—Reduction in winter wheat, in New Hampshire, 1 per cent.; Vermont 3, Massachusetts 4, New York 4, Maryland 10, South Carolina 1, Georgia 1, Alabama 6, Mississippi 20, Texas 6, Arkansas 2, Missouri 7, Illinois 15, Indiana 6, Ohio 4, Michigan 5, Wisconsin 5, Iowa 10. In spring wheat, Vermont 2, Massachusetts 5, New York 3, Pennsylvania 1, Missouri 3, Illinois 18, Indiana 20, Ohio 7, Michigan 1, Wisconsin 8, Iowa 8, Nebraska 3, Oregon 7. Increase in winter wheat:—New Jersey 3, North Carolina 5, West Virginia 8, Kentucky 2, Minnesota 2, Kansas 17, Nebraska 25, California 5. The following States report no change in acreage of winter wheat; Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, Tennessee, Oregon. Increase in spring wheat: Maine 2, New Hampshire 4, Minnesota 2, Kansas 14, California 5. The average decrease throughout the country is placed at 930,000 acres, or nearly 5 per cent.

The following States report conditions of winter grain above an average: New Hampshire, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, West Virginia, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Oregon. The percentage of reduction in leading States reporting unfavorably is as follows: Illinois 15, Indiana 13, Ohio 13, Michigan 24, Iowa 11, Missouri 16, Kansas 6, California 8, New York 10, Pennsylvania 6, Texas 3. In spring wheat, the States above an average are Maine, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Minnesota; of those below, the principal are, Illinois 9 per cent., Missouri 15, Indiana 14, Ohio 10, Michigan 12, Wisconsin 7, Iowa 2, Nebraska 4, California 20.

The superiority of early-sown winter wheat, manifested at the opening of spring, is fully maintained to the present time. In deep and mellow soils, notwithstanding a lack of rain and a mean temperature unusually high, it has a vigorous appearance, and if the straw is shorter than usual, the head is plump and well filled. In some poor soils, where the surface is as hard as a roadway, plants stand thin, with short straw, and heads irregularly formed. Such is the case in many places in the Ohio Valley, and to some extent in the Gulf States. Throughout the dry sections the straw is shorter than usual. Fields seeded with the drill uniformly appear better than those sown broadcast. Where the plant has succumbed to freezing in winter or drought in spring, it has generally been, except in very wet or very poor locations, upon land roughly or carelessly prepared.

Among the diseases and casualties reported, rust has had a very limited range; hail storms have caused damage in the Ohio Valley; driving rains have beaten down some fields in Virginia and North Carolina; Utah has been ravaged by grasshoppers; and in Contra Costa County, California, squirrels have taken wheat "by the acre daily," until public meetings have been called to repel the invaders.

COTTON.

The cotton-growers seem determined this year to reduce the price to fifteen cents, with every prospect of doing it. The acreage is materially increased in every State, while that of wheat (and probably of corn, though the county estimates of the entire country do not come in till July 1.) has decreased. If neglect of all other interests can only be cured by cheap cotton, the sooner the reduction comes the better. The condition of the growing crop in North Carolina is good; in South Carolina it is looking well, except that some complaint of bad stands is made; in Georgia it is late, and smaller than usual from effects of a drought of five weeks which terminated May 25, but is growing vigorously now; the dry term was shorter in Florida and Alabama, and cotton is generally in good condition; reports from Mississippi are still more favorable; in Texas Parish, Louisiana, where the greatest cotton yield of 1869 was made, the condition of the crop is twenty per cent better than last year, and the acreage is increased one-fifth; from Texas come reports of a backward spring, with cotton late but thrifty and promising; and no State makes more favorable returns than Arkansas. The average condition of cotton is better than last year at this time—a fact desirable and gratifying in itself, but of no controlling force in determining the ultimate result. Last season was unpropitious to August, and afterward favorable to an