

actually harvested is less. The area under crop is put down at 1,084,483 acres, against 1,104,392 acres last year, showing a falling off of 19,909 acres. This, however, is still 115,121 acres more than in 1882-3. The total yield is given at 10,290,338 bushels, which is 5,279,407 bushels less than that of last year. In 1882-3 the yield was 8,751,454, so that the present one is an increase on that year of 1,539,384 bushels. From the full particulars which are given at foot, it will be seen that many of the shires where the crop was good last year have been very seriously affected this year, while very few show any increase. The average per acre this year is 9.49 bushels, against 14.10 bushels last year, and 9.03 bushels the previous year. It may be considered an average yield, and gives the second largest crop yet harvested in Victoria. From the total yield will have to be deducted 5,335,000 bushels for home consumption, allowing 5½ bushels per head for an estimated mean population of 970,000 during the year. For seed for 1,200,000 acres, at the rate of 1½ bushels an acre, 1,500,000 bushels will be required. We have already exported, up to the 7th inst., 1,455,040 bushels. These items together aggregate 8,290,040 bushels, which, deducted from the gross yield of 10,290,338 bushels, still leaves 2,000,798 bushels, equal to 53,590 tons, available for export. Thus, though not nearly so large a surplus as that of last year, there is still a fair quantity to be sent away. With regard to the oats, the acreage is given at 186,439 acres, against 188,161 acres last year, while the total yield is 4,363,391 bushels, against 4,717,624, and the average is 13.40 bushels, against 25.07 bushels last year. This is a considerable decline, which will be felt in the trade. The acreage under potato crop is 38,635 acres, being a falling off of 1,560 acres, while the yield is 159,115 tons, against 161,088 tons last year. The acreage for hay is put down at 334,762 acres, against 302,957 acres last year. The actual crop is given at 365,977 tons, against 433,143 tons last year, which shows a considerable falling off, and the effect of the drought has been very serious. The statistics are not yet completed, and only those for the above-mentioned products are at hand.

CURING AND STORING CLOVER.

From the Farmers' Review.

Clover hay properly cured is one of the best of our stock foods. When the influence of clover as a renovator of the soil is also taken into account, it places this plant in the front rank of profitable crops to be grown by the farmer. Its harvest comes first in order in the list of crops grown for forage purposes and is now not far off. While one of the most valuable of our forage crops, it is most easily spoiled or injured by bad methods of curing. It should be cut as soon as it reaches the full flowering stage. At this stage some heads will already have turned brown, and some not yet come into full bloom. If allowed to stand after reaching this stage it deteriorates rapidly. The stalks become woody and indigestible, and the lower leaves dry and fall off. The curing is more difficult and requires more care than in case of the grasses. If allowed to sun-dry there is a heavy loss of the leaves in the subsequent handling. If wet by rains or heavy dews it deteriorates in quality. The true method for preserving all its qualities unimpaired is by the use of the silo, or what comes next to it and involves to some extent the same principle, storing in a tight barn. In the first case if cut when free from moisture by rain or dew, it can be carted at once to the silo and stored. In the latter case, if cut on a

drying day after the dew is off, it can be stored in the afternoon, when well wilted but not dry. But it is only in a tight barn which can be shut up tight to exclude air that it is safe to store it under such conditions, and it should never be so stored with a stable or other air space underneath. Neither can it be stacked green unless with the method adopted last year in France of heavily weighting at the rate of 200 pounds per square foot, in which case the French experiments report it as only injured on the outside. To cure for stacking or storing in the ordinary barn we would cut in the afternoon, and the next day, commencing at noon, rake and cock. If supplied with hay caps to cover we would let the cocks stand two days to sweat. Then they will only require tipping over to air the under side, and a slight opening to fit them for storage. If without hay caps we open them the next morning after the dew is off, and haul in the afternoon. It is difficult to build a stack of clover so that it will shed rain. It needs a protection of some kind. A board cover can be easily made in a manner given by one of our correspondents last year. In this case it should be put up in racks instead of round stacks. Cut several wires long enough to reach over the stack from the ground on one side to the other. Lay a wide board lengthwise on the top of the stack and fasten the wires in their centre to it by staples. Then slip a board on each side under the edge of this, bend the wires down over its lower edge and also fasten with staples, and other boards on each side till a sufficient amount of roof is on, which need not extend far down the sides, and you have a secure roof of boards, each of which overlaps the edge of the one below. Suspend weights (stones) to the lower end of the wires on each side, high enough to allow for the settling of the stack, and you have it so securely housed that it can be summered over if needed without much damage from the weather.

DO BEES DESTROY FRUIT.

Journal of Agriculture (Kansas City.)

The Californians think they have settled the question as to the destructiveness of bees. Some of our exchanges seem to agree with them that bees do really destroy fruit. In the case reported in a California paper as given below, the grapes probably burst at the stems when very ripe as they must become in raisin culture, and in that case the bees will find the juice exuding and will carry it off. The question of how to meet the difficulty will be a serious one. Bees cannot be fenced against, and to poison them without endangering the fruit, is no easy task. There is no danger to grapes on the vine when not punctured by other insects, if so punctured, bees will follow up the advantage and gather the juice from the grape. The paper alluded to says:—

"A complaint has been filed in the Superior Court of San Diego county, in which the plaintiff recites the expense he has been under to improve his land, and states that he is engaged in the business of fruit growing; that among other fruits and vines he has about thirty acres of Muscat grapes raised for the express purpose of being made into raisins; that in order to accomplish this object it is necessary that the grapes be taken from the vine and exposed to the sun and air for about one month in order to cure and dry for the market. He alleges that defendant resides near Viejas, about thirty miles from plaintiff's premises, and is engaged in the business of keeping bees, that he does now and has for two years continuously kept upon a piece of government land (embraced in the railway grant) a part of section 23 and

about three-quarters of a mile from plaintiff's premises, several hundred stands of bees. He further alleges that defendant has no interest in the land, but wilfully and maliciously keeps the bees thereon for the purpose of letting them eat up and destroy the fruits of the labor of citizens living in that vicinity, and are a great nuisance; that during the two years past the bees of defendant have destroyed and eaten up large quantities of the fruit to the value of \$1,000, and are still engaged in eating up and destroying plaintiff's said property; that during said time defendant has known of the depredations, and has often been requested to abate said nuisance, but has and still refuses to do so. Plaintiff alleges it is his belief that the bees are wilfully and maliciously maintained at their present location, intending to damage and destroy his property in order to compel him to pay defendant a large sum of money to have them moved. The prayer of the plaintiff is that he may have judgment and decree of the Court that the keeping of said bees is a nuisance and that it be abated, and that he may recover from defendant, as damages for injury done, the sum of \$1,000."

SPECIAL CROPS FOR POULTRY.

A writer in the *American Agriculturist*, R. G. Newton, gives some hints as to the crops in the poultry yard and also valuable suggestions as to winter care of fowls. Every poultry breeder understands, says the writer, the value of having a variety of food, and that it is essential for the health of fowls, and the production of fertile eggs, from which he can expect strong, healthy chickens. One can imagine the result to a community who would try to live exclusively on corn; yet probably nine out of ten who raise poultry think their duty done when they have scattered before them their quart of corn and gathered the eggs. This treatment may appear to fulfil all necessary obligations when fowls have unrestricted range through the summer season, as nature seems to provide means for sustaining life for feathered as well as human tramps. The necessity of providing corn, sometimes with wheat and oats for winter food, is generally understood, but if to these were added a supply of the other grains and vegetables of which fowls are fond, we would not hear so much complaint as now of stock "running out," and producing nothing but scallions.

As to the special grains, we may name buckwheat as one of the most valuable for the production of eggs. Sunflower seeds should also be included in the bill of fare of all well-regulated poultry yards. The large amount of oil they contain seems to be especially valuable for young, growing chickens. I think the finest developed flock I ever raised was one that had free access to a quantity of well-ripened sunflower seeds. They also give a gloss and brilliancy to the feathers, probably unequalled by any other food. Even when fed in large quantities, I have seen no bad effects therefrom, as the husk or shell must be taken with the meat. I made an experiment one winter with two flocks, one of five pullets, and a cockerel of Plymouth Rocks, the other of twelve pullets, and a cock of Light Brahmas, these latter having a well appointed house, with all the modern improvements, sunlight, dust-bath, etc. The former were in a small coop about four feet square, with a covered run formed by throwing cornstalks on some poles, and standing my hot-bed sash up against the south side. The food for the two coops was scalded Indian meal. They were both fed from the same dish, and in proportion according to their numbers. The P. Rocks laid well, and