

the House. Nevertheless, the settlement is looked upon generally as a marked triumph for the Germans, to whom, it is rumored, important commercial concessions in Morocco will be assured once the "independence" of the kingdom has been assured by the conference. France evidently, now that her ally, Russia, has been broken, is not desirous of running the risk of a second Franco-German war.

THE FARM BULLETIN

Mr. William Whyte, Second Vice-President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, says that thirty thousand men will be required to harvest the hundred million bushel wheat crop of the Northwest.

Stormont Co., Ont., is bound to have good roads. \$30,000 are to be raised by the county to be expended on them. Road-making is being rapidly pushed in New Ontario, where about 3,000 men are at work, constructing roads, bridges, etc.

Prof. Jas. W. Robertson, who will be at the head of the new Sir William Macdonald School of Agriculture, at St. Anne de Bellevue, recently received the distinction of a Companionship in the order of St. Michael and St. George, and can now affix "C. M. G." to his name.

A convention of United States farmers and stockmen will be held at Chicago, Ill., August 15th and 16th, with a view to inducing the Government to adopt a reciprocal policy in relation to other countries, where a market for U. S. animal and other farm products may be developed.

The rapid rise of our public men in the eyes of the Yankees is very well indicated by the following introductory reference to a letter in the Watertown, N. Y., Times: "Mrs. Helen Wells is now making a tour of Canada, speaking at farmers' institutes, under the direction of Hon. G. A. Putnam, Superintendent of the Agricultural Department of Ontario."

Twelve head of cattle owned by James Devlin, Madoc, Ont., were killed by lightning recently, and in the same storm eight horses belonging to a farmer in Rawdon township perished. This again shows the tendency for stock to bunch together during a storm, and is a reminder to all farmers who have wire fences to see that they are properly grounded.

Mr. W. A. McKinnon, Canadian Commercial Agent in Bristol, England, reports that the manufacturers in Great Britain have organized somewhat on the lines of the Canadian manufacturers. They call themselves the British Manufacturers' Association to Promote Colonial and Foreign Trade. They are appointing correspondents in all parts of the world, and will do their best to disseminate information regarding the conditions in the outside markets.

A Montreal despatch, of July 10th, reported F. W. Thompson, Vice-President of the Ogilvie Flour Mills Co., as saying that if present conditions are maintained for the balance of the season, a nominal wheat yield in the Canadian Pacific West would be 70,000,000 bushels, which would be 15,000,000 bushels more than last year. He had also learned that with good weather until harvest the spring wheat crop of Minnesota and North and South Dakota would reach 170,000,000 bushels.

"The County Calendar" is the name of a new publication issued by the Review of Reviews Book Company, New York, elaborately designed and executed to cater to wealthy town people who are now everywhere getting interested in country life, its pursuits, and, more particularly, its pleasures. The articles are excellent, mainly of a descriptive character, and the illustrations are as beautiful as they are profuse. This paper is issued monthly, at \$3.00 per year. It is bound to be appreciated, and will do good.

Development and Selection.

"Favorable conditions of environment are essential to maximum excellence," was the topic brought out by Prof. J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, in a paper read last month before the Canadian Seed-growers' convention. To produce good seed the land should be in good tilth and rich; for this reason the stockmen, of all the members of the Association, would succeed in growing the best pedigreed seed.

A common principle underlying the breeding of animals and plants is the necessity of providing favorable conditions for development, in order to facilitate selection among individuals. With cattle, for instance, it is difficult to judge beef-carrying capacity and quality without bringing the animals up into good flesh by comparatively high feeding and care. Until we know the best that an animal or plant can do, it is useless to strive to effect improvement in strains or breeds by variation. Favorable conditions, by accentuating minor differences of individuals, facilitate selection, which, in both animals and plants, is the great means of improvement. Selection and the use of the best are the key to success in breeding.

Notes from the Farmers' Institute Field.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

June is a very favorable month to visit any farming district, but this is especially true of New Ontario. During a trip extending over five weeks in the Algoma, Manitoulin and Nipissing districts, one should learn something of the farmers' condition.

I find that most of those who are farming in these districts have come in as poor men, with scarcely any means to start with. They shantied or mined in the winter, and made some clearance in the summer. They got good wages, and where they saved their wages they have in 15 or 20 years become quite comfortably fixed. The lumber and mining camps have furnished them with good markets, especially for hay, oats, potatoes and meat products. Farmers who are now the best off, and who are replacing the log cabins and log barns by the more commodious frame or brick structures (and there are many who are doing so), are those who are getting down to farming in earnest. They do little or no shanty work now, but find it pays to work their land better, and feed more of their hay and coarse grains to stock, instead of selling off all their fertility.

There is a certain fascination about lumber and mining camps which is very dissipating to the farming interests. Many stick to it because it is sure cash and ready money.

It is true that one can travel through miles and miles of rich forest wealth of both hard and soft woods, which, if taken proper care of, will be a source of perennial wealth to their owners; yet in many farming districts the best has been removed, and sooner or later the farmer must depend upon his land alone.

While there are many things to encourage the farmer in these newer districts, there are a number of drawbacks, as compared with farming in old Ontario.

The good land which can be plowed is limited in area, and very much broken by rocky outcrops and deposition of innumerable boulders. The soil is quite variable, even in localities. In Algoma clay soils predominate. This year the season was even more backward than in older Ontario, where we were a week to ten days behind. Some of the grain had a struggle to get through the hard clay. Recent rains have worked a revolution in the crop outlook, however. The hay crop in many parts will be heavy. In the moister bottom land especially is this true. On the uplands and lighter soils it is thickening up in the bottom, and will make a first-class quality of hay if properly harvested. The pasture has been excellent so far. The rich June grass and white clover, which flourishes even on the rocks, has made the stock look well. On Manitoulin Island, where they are giving a good deal of attention to grazing stock of late, they are especially thrifty. On the island there are thousands and thousands of acres unfit for anything else except pasture, which make excellent summer runs. Many farmers are buying up this land at 20 cents per acre and fencing it in. Usually enough fencing material can be obtained on the land, and in many parts good water is available. The farmers grow enough hay, roots and grain to carry their stock through the winter, and in summer turn them out on the ranges. There is only one factory for manufacturing milk, on the north shore, to my knowledge. That one is at Mindemoya, Manitoulin Island, owned and operated by Mr. Wagg, an O. A. C. graduate. Although it has been running for five years, this season is the first that is giving satisfaction to both owner and patrons, I believe. It is a creamery run on the cream-gathering plan; others have been started, but they have failed. The growing market for milk and butter at the Soo has been the chief cause for failure, coupled with the big expense in hauling the milk or cream. Most of the butter is produced in the home dairy. Many have cream separators, which are giving general satisfaction.

The lumbering interests seem to be in a healthy condition. A few mills were shut down, however.

One is everywhere struck with the gigantic water-power now going to waste on the large rivers which are the lumberman's highways. At Slate Falls, on the Mississauga River, occurred a log jam, where it was estimated that between three and five million feet of lumber was involved. These falls and rapids represent in all one hundred feet of a fall for water-power. This is only one of many such power sites, of greater or less value, and which may be harnessed one of these days to produce electricity.

One is struck with the quality of the horses on the North Shore. They are mostly heavy draft, and Clydesdale bred. Of course, one would expect that the lumberman would bring in such horses. The farmers are awake to their interest, and they have some excellent brood mares. There has been quite a mortality among the colts in some localities, due to navel ill.

In cattle, especially in Algoma and Nipissing, the farmers are making the serious blunder of mixing the breeds and getting mongrels. On the roadside one can easily observe a nondescript of

Shorthorn, Jersey and Ayrshire mixture, or something else. There are entirely too many scrub bulls on the public highway. On Manitoulin Island, I am glad to say, they are doing much better. There they have an eye to beef, and Shorthorn blood is in strong evidence. Some Aberdeen-Angus are also noticeable, and the young stock are doing well. As the farmers become better off better stock will follow.

Sheep are frequently seen upon the farms up here; in fact, more so than in old Ontario. They are not, however, as a rule, keeping up the vigor of their flocks by the purchase of pure-bred rams, and there is too much indiscriminate breeding.

Pigs are not a plentiful stock. For the most part they are of the bacon type, and look healthy and quite thrifty. They have not grown enough hogs to induce outside buyers to come in, and are, therefore, at the mercy of the local trade, which is fair, notwithstanding. There does not appear to be very much of an awakening in the poultry interest either. It appears to me that New Ontario is the poor man's Paradise; but, for the farmer with some means, the West holds out much greater inducements. Wherever the secretaries of the farmers' institutes have done their duty in advertising and working up the meetings, we have had good meetings, which shows that the people continue to be interested in the work. Where missionary institute meetings have been held among the Indians, the French, and remote settlements, as at Ganlois Bay, on the shore of Lake Superior, it is surprising the interest that was taken.

The time of year being favorable for demonstration work, our afternoon meetings were largely given up to that class of work. Horses and cows served the men's purpose, while Miss L. D. Gray interested the ladies, who turned out in large numbers, with cooking demonstrations. In many places they were ripe for organization. Mr. Farmer, the energetic secretary for C. Algoma, organized a number of judging contests which proved very satisfactory.

The institute work is by no means dead on the North Shore,
T. G. RAYNOR.

A Rosy Outlook in Kent County.

After two or three seasons of dismal failure, the crop prospects of Kent were never brighter than at the present moment, and our farmers can be excused for wearing "the smile that won't come off." Although the early spring was cold and backward, the warm rainy weather of the past month has rushed plant growth at a marvellous rate, and the only fellow now who is really suffering is he with the poorly-drained farm. Pasture is abundant, stock of all kinds are consequently looking fine; creameries and cheese factories are doing a land-office business, and, as a result, good dairy butter is bringing only 18c. and 14c. per pound. Hay is an enormous crop. Haying operations are well advanced, but great difficulty is experienced in saving the crop, owing to the unsettled state of the weather. Wheat harvesting has begun, and promises a yield of from 25 to 40 bushels per acre. In some places rust may affect the yield. Barley, oats and other spring grain all look promising, are all out in head, and are so heavy that they will lodge badly unless the weather is favorable for the next two weeks or so.

The spring-sown clover in both spring and fall grains has made such a remarkable growth that it will prevent the rapid curing of sheaves. Owing to the heavy and continuous rains during the latter part of May a great percentage of our corn and beans were planted late, but both crops are making such wonderful growth that they will probably mature just as early as ever. The acreage of the former crop has greatly increased, while the latter has decreased.

In addition to the above, Kent's tobacco crop is one that is rapidly growing in importance, along with the sugar-beet industry. Some of our leading farmers are growing as high as 100 acres for the Wallaceburg factory. We have small fruits in abundance. Strawberry season is nearly over, with fruit large and good quality, and the price seldom below six cents per quart. Prospects are good for a bumper crop of all other small fruits. Apples are rather an irregular crop, with odd orchards heavily laden with Baldwin and Spy, while others apparently have none. Our Fruit-growers Association sprayed some 4,000 trees, both for scale and scab, with our power sprayer, and the trees never before looked so thrifty as the present season.

Owing to scarcity of feed in the spring, the supply of hogs for present delivery seems limited. Prices have reached as high as \$6.50 per cwt., but have lowered to \$6 at time of writing. Butchers' stuff seems scarce and dear, particularly sheep, lambs and calves, the latter commanding fabulous prices. Milch cows are a little lower, ranging from \$30 to \$45. Horses are in good demand, at strong prices; buyers from eastern points constantly scouring the country for suitable animals.

No better indication of the prosperity of the country is required than the remarkable growth of our city, Chatham. Over half a million dollars will be spent in building operations in the city alone the present season. This, together with the fact that two big electric railway companies are making the city their headquarters, and spending hundreds of thousands of dollars in power-houses, tracks and equipment, makes this quarter of the globe a particularly lively one at the present time.

W. A. McGEACHY.