

CORRESPONDENCE

NEW ZEALAND.

A COLD SNAP—PROSPECTS FOR NEXT HARVEST—INCREASED CULTIVATION—GRAIN STORAGE.

Our correspondent in Ashburton, New Zealand, writes under date of August 8th, as follows:—

To the Editor of MASSEY'S ILLUSTRATED.

A COLD SNAP.

Such I believe would be the heading a Canadian or a Yankee writer would put over a paragraph similar to that I am now penning, that is if he were penning it in New Zealand. If he were writing in Canada in the winter of such weather as we in these "Islands of the Blest" have experienced since last I wrote you, he would very probably dilate upon the extraordinary mildness of the season and wind up with a hint to those religionists who are continually on the outlook for the Second Advent, that at least the millenium could not be very far off. But we are so accustomed to exceptionally mild winters that we look upon two days' skating on genuine ice as something to be written down in the historical ledger of the province. When I wrote you last I did so in my shirt sleeves, in a room without a fire, with a warm sun gladdening the whole earth. The skylarks were "lilting," as the Scotch would say, a jubilate high in the cloudless sky and the eye could but descry them as specks on the curtain of immaculate blue. The air was clear and softly warm, and made man feel happy and thankful for being alive.

But when I wrote that letter I "halloed" before I was out of the wood. Just as the mail left that took my letter away to you the temperature fell, and for two days we had ice on our ornamental waters quite an inch thick. I suppose about half a dozen pairs of Acme skates were produced and a spin on the ice indulged in by a few of the settlers who had learnt the art elsewhere, but of course poor "cornstalk" was not in it. It was a matter of astonishment to me whence all the skates came, as certainly there is no use for them on the Plains of Canterbury. It is quite ten years since I saw ice before strong enough to bear. Then for six weeks after that skating "snap" we had pretty hard night frosts with warm days but now has come again the genial weather that precedes our spring. The frosts have done a lot of good in the gardens and orchards, slaying much of insect life both on the fruit trees and among the flower borders; and on the heavier land in the country pulverizing the soil in grand style.

PROSPECTS.

We are looking for an early spring finding all farm work well forward. The winter sowing of cereals is all over, and farmers are hard at work getting their soil in fettle for the spring wheat. Prices of wheat are not so high as they were some time ago, California having stepped in with large cargoes of grain to supply the deficiency in New South Wales, so that the Sydney market is now glutted, and we must wait for a rise there or at home before we can sell at anything like prices we hoped for. Still, farmers need not sell even now at an un-remunerative figure as three shillings per bushel can be obtained for anything like good grain. Wool is keeping up to fair value and so is frozen mutton. Both these items bulk largely in our list of exports, and while they are fetching good prices of course sheep are a good property. Dairy factories are beginning to crop up here and there, and more attention is being paid to this industry than formerly.

INCREASED CULTIVATION.

From what I can gather from friends and neighbours, and from my own observation, a very considerable increase of the area under white crop will take place this year. I hope I am not misunderstood when I say "white" crop. I am not sure if you in Canada use the term to indicate wheat, oats and barley: but we do here. The better prices realized this year will have the effect of causing this increase, and a good deal of usually uncropped land has already gone under the plough this year, for wheat and oats. The more area the more grain, the more grain the more harvesting, the more harvesting the more Massey machines and others.

GRAIN STORAGE

Our correspondent goes on to describe at length the immense granaries of Messrs Friedlander Bros., at Ashburton, for which we regret we have not space in this issue, and concludes as follows:

"It is to the enterprise of this firm, who very early saw the merit of the Massey machines, that their energetic introduction

to the colony is owing. The Friedlander Bros. are the sole agents for the Massey in the colony and by the wise way in which they organised trials and piloted the experts Messrs. McLeod, McClain and George Kilfoyle—each in turn to just the right district at the right time, they have popularised the machines in a very high degree, and brought their actual merits before the farmers' eyes."

ONTARIO'S CROPS.

CONSIDERABLE DECREASE IN THE ESTIMATED PRODUCTION—STATISTICS COMPUTED FROM REPORTS MADE ON SEPTEMBER 13TH.

In our last issue statistics taken from the August Bulletin of the Ontario Bureau of Industries as to the areas, yield etc. of field crops, as computed from reports made on July 20th, were published. A subsequent Bulletin gives the area and production of field crops as computed from reports made on 13th September by 500 correspondents of the Bureau and it is to be regretted that there is a considerable decrease as compared with the July estimate. The Bulletin states that the abundant rainfall of May, June, and July caused a rank growth of hay and all cereal crops and reports made to the Bureau on 20th July gave promise of a bountiful harvest. The hay crop was at that time well saved but wheat, oats, and other grain crops were subsequently stricken with rust and were, besides, affected in their ripening stage by excessive heat. The July estimate of fall wheat is now lowered by nearly 7 bushels per acre, or an aggregate of 5,600,000 bushels, and the grain is of a very ordinary sample. Spring wheat was less affected and the quality of the grain is finer, but the estimate has been reduced by nearly 4 bushels per acre. The total yield of wheat, as now estimated is 19,772,081 bushels, being 7,000,000 bushels less than the promise of the crop on the 20th July; 500,000 bushels less than last year, and 8,250,000 bushels less than the average of the seven years 1882-8. The yield of barley is fair, and it is generally plump and of a good bright color. The yield is less than the July estimate by 3,000,000 bushels, but the aggregate is 3,750,000 above the average of the seven years 1882-8. The crop has been generally secured in first-rate condition. The yield of oats, as now estimated, is a little below the average per acre of the past seven years; but in the aggregate it is greater by 11,670,000 bushels, and greater than last year's crop by 2,200,000 bushels. Rye has turned out well all over the province. The yield of pease per acre is only 1.4 bush. less than the average of the past seven years, and the aggregate is greater than the average of those years by half a million bushels—the area in crop being greater by 74,000 acres. Corn is still unpromising and the total estimate is less than one-half of the crop of last year. The yield per acre of buckwheat is over the average. The yield per acre of beans is three bushels less than last year but the aggregate is nearly equal to the average of the past seven years. The root crops have been widely affected by extremes of moisture and drouth, and the promise is not hopeful. The drouth which has prevailed over the western part of the province for six weeks, and over the whole province for a month, has left pastures very brown and bare, and live stock have fallen off in flesh. The milk supply has also been affected, and the dairy industry is suffering. But the most serious effect of the drouth this month is seen in the delay it has caused to seeding operations. The land has been

too hard to plow or cultivate, fall wheat is going into the ground very slowly, and the seed bed is in poor condition.

The following table gives the areas of all field crops computed from reports made to the Bureau on the 20th July, together with estimates of production computed from reports made on 13th September:—

Crops.	Acres.	Bushels.	Yield per acre. Bush.
Fall Wheat—			
1889	822,115	13,534,498	16.5
1888	826,537	13,830,787	16.7
1882-8.....	948,041	18,778,659	19.8
Spring Wheat—			
1889	398,610	6,237,583	15.6
1888	367,850	6,453,559	17.5
1882-8.....	589,210	9,248,119	15.7
Barley—			
1889	875,286	23,516,030	26.9
1888	895,432	23,366,569	26.1
1882-8.....	757,525	19,766,436	26.1
Oats—			
1889	1,927,115	67,666,053	35.1
1888	1,849,368	65,466,911	35.4
1882-8.....	1,569,371	55,997,425	35.7
Rye—			
1889	90,106	1,568,455	17.4
1888	84,087	1,295,302	15.4
1882-8.....	110,761	1,814,636	16.4
Pease—			
1889	709,385	13,669,519	19.3
1888	696,653	14,269,863	20.5
1882-8.....	635,414	13,123,509	20.7
Corn (in ear)—			
1889	187,116	8,499,950	45.4
1888	222,971	17,436,780	78.2
1882-8.....	182,084	12,290,797	67.5
Buckwheat—			
1889	56,398	1,312,237	23.3
1888	57,528	1,222,283	21.2
1882-8.....	61,685	1,367,427	22.2
Beans—			
1889	21,830	442,736	20.3
1888	22,700	534,526	23.5
1882-8.....	22,227	465,182	20.9
Potatoes—			
1889	145,812	14,240,392	97.7
1888	153,915	22,273,607	144.7
1882-8.....	155,766	18,919,185	121.5
Mangel-wurzels—			
1889	21,211	7,457,954	351.6
1888	21,459	10,020,659	467.0
1882-8.....	17,906	7,826,216	437.1
Carrots—			
1889	11,261	3,449,389	306.3
1888	11,524	3,898,584	338.3
1882-8.....	10,162	3,590,993	353.4
Turnips—			
1889	111,103	41,413,333	372.7
1888	113,188	47,640,237	420.9
1882-8.....	100,171	39,556,790	394.9

Fall Fairs.

THE few remaining fall fairs are as follows:—

ONTARIO.		
NAME.	PLACE.	DATE.
Acton Union	Acton	Oct. 8 and 9.
Howard Branch	Ridgetown	Oct. 8 to 10.
West York and Vaughan, Woodbridge		Oct. 9 and 10.
Co. Wellington	Fergus	Oct. 10 and 11.
Peroy Township	Warkworth	Oct. 10 and 11.
Scarboro'	Danforth	Oct. 10.
Norfolk Union	Simcoe	Oct. 15 and 16.
NORTH-WEST.		
Calgary,		Oct. 9 and 10.