

richer lands and making fortunes easier elsewhere. Large numbers of Ontario farmers have sold out and gone to the North-West and to the western States, no doubt believing that they were going to improve their circumstances by growing better crops. But it is more than doubtful if their expectations have been realized. Last year was a good year for grain crops in the United States, wheat yielding a bushel and a half above the average. Yet the best States in the Union are found to be far behind Ontario in the staple grains. In Ohio the average of fall wheat last year was 16.7 bushels per acre; in Michigan, 17.8; in Illinois, 16; in Indiana, 15.7; in Missouri, 14.6; and in Kansas, 19.5. In Ontario, as shown by the report of the Bureau, the average was 26.3 bushels per acre. The figures for spring wheat, barley, oats and rye are almost equally favourable, thus showing that grain-growing in Ontario must be considerably more profitable than it is in those States.

The knowledge of such facts as these must lead Ontario farmers to set a higher value on their lands, and make them less ready to leave comfortable homes here for a life of hardship on the prairies, where every stick for fuel and every board for farm-house or stable has often to be drawn a distance of ten or fifteen miles, and sometimes a great deal farther. Neither can it fail to draw the attention of British farmers who mean to emigrate, for the information gathered by the Bureau last year has already been extensively published throughout the British Islands. Farmers with means are likely to come to Ontario in larger numbers than ever before, and not only will farms fetch better prices, but Crown lands and lands held by speculators will be settled upon, waste lands will be brought under cultivation, and the agricultural wealth of the country will be greatly increased.

Some of the statistics of Ontario gathered by the Bureau last year will no doubt be interesting to farmers. The total area of land in farms was 19,622,429 acres, of which 10,218,631 acres were cleared. The value of farm land was \$632,342,500; of buildings, \$132,712,575; of implements, \$37,029,815; and of live stock, \$80,540,720; making the total value of farm property, \$882,625,610. The area and yield of crops were as follows: Fall wheat, 1,188,520 acres, 81,255,202 bushels; spring wheat, 586,817 acres, 9,665,999 bushels; barley, 848,617 acres, 24,284,407 bushels; Oats, 1,375,415 acres, 50,097,997 bushels; rye, 189,031 acres, 9,549,898 bushels; Peas, 557,157 acres, 10,943,355 bushels; Corn, 206,924 acres, 13,420,984 bushels; buckwheat, 49,586 acres, 1,249,943 bushels; beans, 19,787 acres, 409,910 bushels; hay and clover, 1,825,890 acres, 2,090,626 tons; potatoes, 160,700 acres, 18,492,145 bushels; mangolds, carrots and turnips, 104,569 acres, 47,080,726 bushels; flax, 6,157 acres; hops, 2,051 acres; orchard and garden, 213,846 acres. Of live stock, there were 503,604 horses; 23,629 thoroughbred cattle (15,395 Durham, 1,438 Devon, 841 Hereford, 270 Aberdeen Poll, 1,189 Calloway and 4,496 Ayrshire); 1,562,683 grade and native cattle; 933,143 coarse woolled sheep over one year, and 676,362 under; 178,209 fine-woolled sheep over one year, and 127,499 under; 252,415 pigs over one year, and 597,811 under. There were also 310,058 turkeys, 539,357 geese, and 4,503,705 other fowls. The coarse-woolled sheep sheared 4,842,078 pounds of wool, and the fine-woolled 904,107 pounds. There were 471 cheese factories in the Province last year, and returns from 306 of these show that 25,562,491 pounds of cheese were made, worth \$2,767,085. The extent to which under-draining is carried on is shown by the fact that one third of the tile-yards in the Province, from which returns were received, made enough tiles last year to lay more than one thousand miles of drain-works.

In filling the Schedule it is scarcely necessary to give any explanations. The acreage of fall wheat and of orchard and garden has already been collected by the assessors, but in case any portion of the wheat crop has been ploughed up or re-sown with other grain it will be necessary to say how much. *Be careful to give your name, county, township and post office in the blanks for these, and answer all the other questions to the best of your knowledge. The value of property should be its real value, not the assessable. As to thorough-*

bred cattle, a word of caution may be necessary. None should be entered as such unless they are entitled to Herd Book Registry. Where a farm is leased, the return should be made by the tenant. The rent value of leased farms should only be given by the owners or tenants of such.

Toronto, June 1st, 1888.

A. BLUE,
Secretary.

BUREAU OF INDUSTRIES' REPORT FOR MAY.

Following is a summary of the May Report issued by Mr. Blue, Secretary of the Ontario Bureau of Industries:—

In the ordinary course of our Ontario seasons vegetation is at this date well advanced. Not infrequently the forest trees are out in leaf, and the fruit trees are in blossom. But the present is one of the exceptional years. Hard frosts, raw winds and chilling rains have prevailed, and few signs of active vegetation are apparent in forest, field or garden. Consequently it is difficult to deal with the real condition of our staple cereal, the Fall Wheat. It is too early to form an accurate opinion. Neither is there much of an encouraging character to report on the progress of spring work on the farm.

Fully eighty per cent. of the total area of Fall Wheat in Ontario lies west of the meridian of Toronto, and unfortunately the most discouraging accounts of the crop are received from that part of the Province. There is indeed a singular contrast in the reports for the eastern and western sections; for, while those for the one agree in saying that the prospect has not often been worse, those for the other are not less unanimous in saying that it was never better.

This marked difference seems to be due largely to conditions of weather. In the east the winter was unbroken from first to last. Consequently the snow lay on the ground as it fell; and, while it formed a warm covering for the wheat plant in the coldest weather, the air was not excluded. But in the west there were alternations of warm waves and cold waves, and occasional storms of rain as well as of snow. The result was, that where the snow-fall was heavy, as in the northern counties, it packed and crusted; and where the fall was light, as in the southern counties, the ground was sometimes bare and sometimes covered with ice.

The great rain storm that was central over the Ohio valley in the latter part of January extended into Ontario (either as rain or sleet), northward as far as Georgian Bay and eastward as far as Toronto. In the Lake Erie counties, and in portions of Middlesex, Oxford and Brant, nearly the whole of the snow was carried off at this time; and a cold spell following, the fields were left coated over with sleet and ice. In those counties the general verdict of correspondents is, that the wheat was "frozen to death;" whereas in the northern counties the verdict is, "smothered to death." A correspondent in Huron county observes that six successive crusts formed on the snow during the winter, two of which were strong enough to bear up a horse.

A noticeable peculiarity in the effects of winter throughout the western section of the Province is, that in the southern counties the wheat has been injured most on gravel and sandy lands, and least on the level clay and loamy lands; but in the northern counties this condition is reversed, the wheat having had adequate protection on even the highest lands. It is remarked, however, that where high ground in the south was sheltered from winds the wheat is well preserved, and the importance of planting the borders of farms with trees is urged by many correspondents.

But the appearance of the crop this spring is no doubt due in some degree to the condition of the ground at seed-time. In the east it was favourable, and the young plant made a good start in the fall. In the west the heavy rains of July and August and the season of drouth that followed interfered with the proper cultivation of fallows, and especially of pea and stubble lands, so that the soil was in very poor tilth. The seed was sown late, and it neither rooted well nor tillered well. This circumstance will account in a measure for the bad reports now received; and

it is reasonable to hope that, where the plant has survived the snow and ice and exposure of winter, the outlook will brighten with warm and growing weather. It is unfortunately true, however, that a large extent of wheat-land is already doomed, and has been ploughed up or re-sown with spring grains.

The only cheerful reports from the western part of the Province refer to the northern half of Essex, the lake shore townships of Huron and Bruce, the county of Wellington, the northern parts of York and Peel, and the southern half of Simcoe; and even in these districts the crop has been seriously damaged by the frosts and winds of April. Elsewhere the area sown will probably be reduced by twenty per cent., a portion of which will be put under spring wheat and the rest under barley, oats and peas. The eastern section of the Province is confidently expected to produce a full crop.

Winter rye is not grown to any extent outside of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa counties, but all the reports on its condition are favourable. It is much hardier than wheat, and appears to have come through the winter in a healthy and vigorous state—notably in the county of Norfolk, where the wheat suffered severely. Clover has also wintered well on the whole; but in some localities it has been partially destroyed by winter exposure. In others, as in the counties of Lambton, Haldimand and Welland, it has been injured by the clover midge or weevil. As there was little frost in the ground, there are no complaints of "heaving" this year.

Live stock are generally reported to be healthy and in good condition. The winter was favourable to animal life, and fodder being abundant the farmers fed with a liberal hand. Horses were attacked in a few localities with "pinkeye" and mild forms of distemper, but the mortality among them was much less than in the winter of 1882. Cattle have a thrifty appearance, and will go to the pasture fields in good heart. The spring weather was hard on lambs; and young pigs have died in large numbers.

The quantity of wheat in farmers' hands is above the average for this time of year, although the bulk of last year's crop has been marketed. There is a large surplus of hay, but the supply of oats is not more than is required for home consumption. The number of fat and store cattle is not large, and the demand for them continues active.

The preparation of the ground for spring crops was not commenced as early as usual this year as, in the absence of hard frost, it remained water-soaked for some time after the snow had disappeared. For the same reason it was not in a good tillable condition, being tough and sodden instead of mellow and friable. On high and well-drained lands farmers started ploughing about the 15th of April, and in some portions of the Lake Erie and west midland counties a week earlier; but in the northern and eastern portions of the Province little was done before the 25th. Sowing commenced about a week later, and not more than twenty-five per cent. of it was finished at the date of the returns. Farmers fully appreciate the necessity of changing their seed grain frequently and introducing new varieties of recognized merits, but proper attention to this requires systematic effort. The Grangers, with their widespread organization, are rendering valuable service by establishing seed fairs and by a method of exchanges, as also are some of the Agricultural Associations. But the present great need of farmers is an adequate supply of farm labour. The demand for men is active in all parts of the Province, and liberal wages are offered for employment by the year or the season.

Fruit trees appear to have come safely through the winter, and there is generally a good show of fruit buds. In some localities, however, as in the west midland counties, fears are entertained that the trees have not fully recovered from the effects of last summer's blight.

The ninth Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba will be held at Portage la Prairie, under the auspices of the Board of Agriculture, from October 1st to 6th next. Entries must be in the hands of Mr. Acton Burrows, Secretary-Treasurer, by September 10th.