

his pocket, and the most of the farmers seem to have no other criterion or source of judgment on such matters, except their pockets, and it is an open question whether their pockets do really benefit by such unreasonable demands. I, for one, say they don't, either individually or as a community.

Oxford Co., Ont.

[Note.—The inevitable conclusion is that either our correspondent has been very unfortunate in his employers, or so slow that it takes him four hours to do two hours' work, or else he has not fairly stated his experience.—Editor.]

Prosperity in South Ontario.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

By the time this appears in print, grain harvest for 1911 will be a thing of the past.

A much larger acreage than usual was in fall wheat, and, so far as threshed, the returns have been quite satisfactory, turning out from twenty to thirty bushels per acre, and of very fair quality.

The oats were seriously affected by the extreme heat, and will be a light yield, of doubtful quality. Barley will be fair, while peas, on the whole, were a failure, in some cases not returning the seed.

The new seeds have come through fair, but in many cases are pretty slim. Alsike was poor in yield, as well as in quality, while timothy seems well filled. The seedsmen are anxious for the timothy, as they say practically no old seed was carried over. They are offering \$6.00 and over for nice clean seed, as they are expecting a heavy demand for it this fall.

Hay, unlike most cases, was very fair, and was saved in excellent condition. The second growth of clover is coming on fair, but is thin, and all that can will probably be saved for seed.

The apple crop is fair. It is estimated five or ten per cent. was injured, so far as shipping is concerned, by the hot sun, a large spot on the one side being literally cooked; but we are not looking for a shortage.

Mangels are good, and so are the turnips that were sown early, but the potatoes are slim, many neglecting the bugs until too late; but this (Pickering) is no potato district, though our northern neighbors can make up in quantity what we lack.

Corn is excellent. Large, even fields, ranging from eight to fifteen acres, are no rare sight now. Compton's Early and Leaming are favorite varieties, sown separately or together. The writer prefers mixing, but many, with excellent reasons, prefer separate planting.

Silos are going up all around. The favorite seems to be the solid wall concrete. These are mostly mixed 1 to 10, and 10 inches wide at bottom, tapering to 7 inches at top. Small stones are not spared, and walls are reinforced with No. 6 wire. A favorite size is 14 feet diameter, and 30 to 35 feet high. Before passing, we will speak of the openings. These are one space from top to bottom, with the exception of 5 feet top and bottom; ½-inch round iron rods are used across opening 2½ feet apart, the reinforcing wires joining at each end. These rods are used as a ladder. This style has given the best of satisfaction, none having been known to crack. Some will have roofs, some will not. One disadvantage of the roof is in filling, as, without a roof, silo may be filled 6 or 7 feet higher than top by sticking boards around edge and fastening with a wire band. With a roof, this is impracticable. But open and closed silos have their own disadvantages.

The call to the "West" is again loud. Ontario County must send her share of able-bodied swains to assist our brother farmers West, but the shortage of men may not be seriously felt, as the home harvest will be near completion.

No Standing Field-crop Competition was held this year, as enough entries could not be secured, but it is hoped enough will see fit to enter another year, as it is quite an encouragement to the production of clean grain.

Ontario Co., Ont.

F. H. WESTNEY.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture will occupy a tent in the same locality on the Canadian National Exhibition grounds as for several years past. Representatives of the various branches will be in attendance, throughout the exhibition, ready to consult with farmers and others who are interested in the work of the Department.

Dominion Crop Bulletin for July.

The condition of field crops in Canada is presented in a bulletin of the Dominion Census and Statistics Office, issued August 11th for July 31st, and shows good averages for all Provinces, as well as for all crops. Fall wheat was hurt by the hard winter in Ontario, but fared better in Alberta. The estimated yield is 23.24 bushels for the former Province, and 27.89 bushels for the latter. The total estimated yield is 17,706,000 bushels. The condition of spring wheat at the end of July was 90 for the whole of Canada, being 85 to 95 in the Maritime Provinces, 80 to 89 in Ontario and Quebec, 90 to 96 in the Northwest Provinces, and 85 in British Columbia. Oats and barley have an average condition of 88 for Canada, 85 to 95 in the Maritime Provinces, 80 to 90 in Ontario and Quebec, 88 to 100 in the Northwest Provinces, and 87 to 89 in British Columbia. Rye, peas and beans range from 78 to 84 in Canada, and buckwheat 81 to 85. Mixed grains have a condition of 86, which is 14 per cent. less than last year, and flax is 91, which is nearly 20 better. The average of corn for husking is 86, and of potatoes 85.64, being in each case a little higher than last year. Potatoes, turnips and mangels range from 81 to 85, or about the same as a year ago. Hay and clover and alfalfa are 80 to 83, which is a little lower in each case than last year. Corn for fodder has an average condition of 87, sugar beets of 78, and pasture of 79. The Eastern Provinces are lower than the figures quoted for the whole of Canada, and the Western Provinces are higher. The highest averages are given for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. Sugar beets have a condition of 81 in Ontario and Alberta, where they are grown to supply the sugar factories.

Compared with last year's crops in the Northwest Provinces, the condition of spring wheat in Manitoba, south of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, is 88 to 39; of oats, 88.72 to 38.85, and of barley 85.16 to 34.92. And north of the same railway the condition is 92.21 to 77.42 for wheat, 90.71 to 72.90 for oats, and 88.95 to 50.84 for barley. In Saskatchewan, south of townships 25, the condition of wheat is 90.19 to 69.33, of oats 88.27 to 61.64, and of barley 89.03 to 65.89; and north of townships 24 the condition of wheat is 98.22 to 67.69, of oats it is 95.35 to 63.88, and of barley 94.58 to 71.30. In Alberta, south of townships 31, the condition of wheat is 93.89 to 24.93, of oats 95.28 to 20.43, and of barley 93.70 to 26.36; and north of townships 30 the condition of wheat is 97.84 to 71.55, of oats 97.95 to 65.68, and of barley 105.95 to 73.60.

The area of spring wheat in the Northwest Provinces this year is 1,500,000 acres more than last year, and of oats 341,000 acres, but no increase is shown for barley.

The yield of hay and clover is estimated at 12,189,000 tons for Canada, being 1.43 tons per acre; and the largest yields for Provinces are 4,736,000 tons in Ontario, 5,028,000 tons in Quebec, 254,000 tons in Prince Edward Island, 941,000 tons in Nova Scotia, and 885,000 tons in New Brunswick.

Dairy Division to Operate a Creamery.

The officers of the Dominion Dairy Division have for some time felt the urgent need of having control of a regular working creamery to enable them to conduct experiments and to make investigations into creamery problems under actual every day conditions. With that end in view, the Minister of Agriculture made provision in the appropriation for the current fiscal year for the purchase of such a creamery. After careful inquiry, the creamery at Brome, P. Q., has been selected as the most suitable for the purpose among those available. This creamery receives both whole milk and hand-separator cream, and a skimming station is operated in connection with it, thus combining the three plans of creamery operation in this country. A new building will be erected as a model creamery. It will be constructed along modern lines, with due regard to sanitation, durability and suitability, but not unnecessarily expensive. The establishment will, therefore, serve two purposes: first, as a model creamery and object-lesson for the dairymen of the district, and, second, as a dairy station where investigations may be carried out for the benefit of the whole buttermaking industry.

More Fruit Inspectors.

The Dominion Fruit Inspection Service is now organized for the present season. Two additional inspectors have been appointed, one to be located at Saskatoon, Sask., and the other in Western Ontario. W. W. Brown has been made Senior Inspector, and will give special attention to the work at Montreal and the Lake Ontario section. P. J. Carey, in addition to his duties as fruit

inspector, will devote a part of his time to demonstrations and instruction in box-packing. Arrangements are being made for him to visit Nova Scotia in that connection.

Sundry Suggestions.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

It is not often that one can find an error in the editorials of "The Farmer's Advocate" (except on political matters—reciprocity, for example). I must, however, take exception to the statement as to sunflower blossoms looking upward and turning always to the sun. I have grown the Mammoth Russian for a number of years, and have never observed them do either. Out of 100 blossoms I have just looked over, only one turns upward, the ninety-nine survey the earth from which they sprang, and always in the same direction; not one has turned the least bit since 8 a. m., and it is now 5.30 p. m. These are in all stages, from just opening till almost ripe. I suggest that they get their name from the fact that they resemble the conventional symbol for the sun, and not because they turn toward it from the east in the morning, to west in the afternoon.

Would also suggest that "Donald Ban" read "Melissa—The Story of a Honeybee," by Rudyard Kipling, published in Collier's Weekly about four years ago, for further pointers on bees and socialism, as per his sayings in June 8th issue of "The Farmer's Advocate."

Richmond Co., Que.

J. W. DUNFIELD.

[Note.—The foregoing note re the mammoth Helianthus illustrates again that one swallow does not make a summer. The reference in the article in question was the result of actually observing for a couple of weeks the sun-following habit of several hundred plants in north-and-south rows, unaffected by buildings, etc. As the article indicated, it was chiefly noticeable in the earlier stage, before the flowers opened and the maturing seeds weighed down the heads, when, as our correspondent correctly notes, they survey the earth, at least the heavier ones do.—Editor.]

The Crop-reporting Board of the Bureau of Statistics of the United States Department of Agriculture estimates, from the reports of the correspondents and agents of the Bureau, as follows:

Preliminary returns indicate a winter wheat yield of about 14.5 bushels per acre, or a total of 455,149,000 bushels, as compared with 464,044,000 finally estimated last year, and 450,180,000, the average annual production in the past five years. Quality is 92.0, against 92.6 last year.

The preliminary estimate of the production of rye is 30,677,000 bushels, as compared with 33,039,000 bushels last year, and 32,414,000, the average annual production in the past five years. Quality is 91.5, against 92.7 last year.

Crop conditions are unusually low, owing to severe drouth over a wide area of the country. The combined condition of all crops on August 1st was 14.6 per cent. below average, whereas, on July 1st they were 10.7 per cent. below, and on June 1st only 2.8 per cent. below the average condition.

A comparison of the condition of various crops on August 1st, with their average growing condition on that date for the past ten years, is shown as follows (100 representing average condition): Apples, 101.7; peaches, 78.6; grapes, 98.0; pears, 95.9; raspberries, 91.0; alfalfa, 94.6; beans (dry), 92.8; buckwheat, 91.0; oats, 79.7; hay, 78.6; barley, 77.8; cabbage, 77.6; timothy, 74.4; potatoes, 73.5; spring wheat, 72.7; millet, 72.4; corn, 85.7; clover hay, 68.1; winter wheat yield, 93.5; rye yield, 95.1.

These figures do not take into account the influence of changed areas. Taking this into account, indications are that the wheat yield will be 4.1 per cent. less than the average production of the past five years, corn 7.0 per cent. less, oats 12.3 per cent. less, barley 16.2 per cent. less, buckwheat 8.8 per cent. less, potatoes 21.9 per cent. less, tobacco 25.5 per cent. less, and hay 22.8 per cent. less than the average production of the past five years.

The article, "Filling the Silo," by Prof. W. J. Kennedy, reproduced on pages 1348-9 of this issue, from press bulletin No. 26 of the Iowa Experiment Station, embodies the experience of many Iowa farmers and U. S. Experiment Station workers, and confirms in the main the letters also appearing in "The Farmer's Advocate" from Canadian farmers well versed in silage-making.