

THE FARMING WORLD

Devoted to Canadian Country Life

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bushels per acre for the two years. The yield of hay and clover is estimated at 1.18 tons, as compared with 1.53 tons per acre in 1906, a decrease of nearly 24 per cent. This is an off year for fruit, which will be more or less short of an average crop. The make of cheese and butter will be short of that of 1906, owing to the backwardness of the spring and the severe droughts of the past month or two. The rains of last week will help pastures considerably, as well as the root crop, which has suffered for lack of moisture. The acreage of corn is larger than last year and if September conditions continue favorable there will be a fair yield. On the whole therefore the situation generally speaking is not so serious as many believe it to be, though farmers in many sections will have to curtail expenditure a little to meet the shrinkage.

A feature of the crop situation that is worth considering is the increased price for nearly

all cereals as compared with a year ago. One authority places this increase at twenty per cent. for wheat and oats and ten per cent. for barley.

A year ago baled Timothy hay was quoted in Toronto at \$9.50 to \$10 per ton. To-day the price is \$14 to \$15 per ton, or an increase of 50 per cent., while the decrease in yield is less than 25 per cent. Taking therefore the yield and price into consideration it does not appear that the farmers' position is much different from that of a year ago.

It should be remembered, however, that in Ontario comparatively little grain, with the exception of wheat, is sold off the farm. The great bulk of it is fed to live stock. The shortage therefore in such crops as barley, oats, hay, roots, corn, etc., will bear more heavily on the farmer on that account than it otherwise would. For some weeks past many farmers have had to feed their stock, pastures hardly yielding enough to keep the animals alive. This will help to deplete the fodder crop still grown for winter feeding, compelling farmers to sell their stock, at very much below its actual value. We may expect to see this fall and winter plenty of unfinished cattle and other stock, offering for what it will bring, just because there will not be sufficient feed to keep them over. Already many are selling off their stock in preparation for the feed shortage that is expected later on. It is this feature of the situation that will make the shortage in Ontario bear most heavily on the farmer, who unlike the Western agriculturist, does more than grow grain and sell it off the land.

Crops in Southern Alberta

Mr. A. E. Keller, Lethbridge, Alta., writing on August 31st, says:

"I wish to call your attention to what I think must be a 'typographical error' in your article on 'The Crop Situation of the West,' in your issue of August 15th. In a letter from The Farming World's special correspondent at Winnipeg, whom you say is a most reliable authority, I find the following statement: 'Ten bushels to the acre for the greater part of Southern Alberta is, I fancy, a fair estimate.'"

This statement unchallenged would be a gross libel on Southern Alberta. I do not know of a crop anywhere in Southern

Alberta of any kind of grain, not excepting flax, which any sane man could estimate at 10 bushels per acre, but I know of crops of fall and spring wheat, that will yield 50 bushels, barley that will yield 65 bushels, and oats that will yield 100 bushels to the acre. At this date fall wheat is all cut and stacked, and barley practically all cut, and oats and spring wheat, about ready, and some cut. In the Lethbridge district, at all events, no frost, to hurt the tenderest garden, has yet appeared."

Wants More Light on the Beef Question

Editor The Farming World:

I have read with much interest the articles on beef production and prices in The Farming World, and I agree with J.H. M., on page 691, that a commissioner in the service of the Government might do much to regulate the business and put it on a better footing. The Government has done a great deal for the dairy with the result that dairying is crowding out beef raising in many sections. In South Western Ontario beef cattle must take a secondary place to the bacon line. If anything were to go wrong with either the dairy or bacon industries we would soon have a Government commission making an investigation to find out the cause. Why should not the beef business receive the same careful consideration.

Where labor is scarce beef raising can be more advantageously carried on than dairying, and it is a more economical way of turning coarse feed into manure than in raising hogs. There are, however, points about the breeding, feeding and marketing of cattle that should be better understood by the rank and file of our farmers if we are to produce the high quality of beef that the market demands and do it economically.

We naturally look to The Farming World to give us light and information along these lines, and would ask that The "Farming World man on the wing" visit cattle men who have been successful in the business and write up their methods with the same kind of attention that is given to the herds of pedigreed stock, and that he gives us portraits of cattle that have paid their way at the price they will bring sold by the pound in Toronto market, just

(Continued on page 885.)

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