

Potatoes.—The crop of potatoes, in Canada as a whole, is said by statisticians to average 90 bushels an acre; in the States, it is about the same. The crop in England is about 205 bushels; taking 60 lbs. as the weight of a bushel in either case, this would stand as 12,320 lbs. against 5,400., i. e., the crop in Britain has the advantage over the Canadian crop of 140 per cent.

Now, allowing in both cases pretty wide planting, 27 x 12 inches, the number of sets, or plants, in an imperial acre would be 19,360; consequently, the weight of the tubers in each plant, in the Canadian yield of 5,400 lbs., would be a tiny fraction over 4 ounces. May we not fairly say that there must be something very wrong here? For if this is the condition of the *average* crops, what must be the condition of the bad, inferior crops?

Weather, etc. in England.—We received, last week, a letter from a landed proprietor in Herefordshire and South-Wales, full of most disappointing news regarding the state of the grazing lands in those districts. "In Herefordshire, the writer says, there is not a blade of grass, and the farmers are obliged to begin upon the hay-stacks to keep the cattle from going back!" There had been no rain worth mentioning for some time, since only one-seventh of an inch had fallen during the first 26 days of September. From nearly every district there are complaints of dried up pastures, root-crops languishing, short supplies of water; in towns as well as in the country; a failing yield from cows, and land so hard to plough, that the usual catch-crops of vetches, rye, and trifolium have not been sown; to say nothing of the impossibility of ploughing the clover-leys for wheat, which operation is usually done some time before sowing to allow the land to become consolidated before the seed is committed to the soil.

Hops have come down so much lighter than was expected that the estimates have fallen as low as 350,000 cwt. (112 lbs.), the smaller yield since 1890, when the official estimate was only 283,629 cwt. In 1897 the yield was 411,086 cwt., and in 1894, 621,846 cwt. The Secretary of the Hop-growers' Association puts the world's crop at 1,450,000 cwt., and the consumption is reckoned at 1,634,000 cwt., though some place it as high as 1,845,000 cwt.; at any rate, there must be a considerable deficiency; consequently, prices,

that are high already, are commonly expected to be much higher.

We do not grow any very large quantity of hops in this province, but there are some pretty fair gardens in the townships, and though growers are none too careful in the drying, we used to find a decent lot here and there that would serve for the brewing of common ales and porter in England; and though there may not be much to spare, still, it would be well to send a few pockets over to that market as an experiment. Our barleys, as far as we can find out, are very likely to be admitted at a lower rate of duty into the States, where they are well liked.

As for hay, we really do not know what to say about it. In spite of the enormous crops of both meadow and clover-hay in England, the early autumn has, as we said above, been so severe on the pastures, that the best clover-hay is now selling in London at \$25.00 a load of 2,016 lbs. Of course we have none of that quality here, as we persist in allowing it to stand too long before mowing, but surely there must be lots of decent stuff about that would fetch from \$12 to \$15 a load, and it should pay better to export that than to let it go for 5 to 6 dollars (20 s. to 24 s.) a ton here, which we believe is about its value in the Montreal market.

Two Glo'stershire men, who met us a few days ago, were in an awful state of astonishment at something they had seen at Three-Rivers. "Why! as we were walking along the side of the river, we found acres upon acres of first-rate crops of clover all standing uncut!!! What on earth is the meaning of it? And we hear that cattle have to be kept in-doors for seven months every winter! Are the people all mad that they sacrifice the most valuable of all their fodder-crops in this way?" All we could reply was that we had done our best to bring about a better state of things, and, here and there, there were signs of an improved feeling, as at Ste-Anne's we had overcome the prejudice of a leading farmer of that district, and, though he protested earnestly for some weeks that on no account would he touch the second-crop, yet he yielded to argument at last, and, as we mentioned before, down it came on the 12th of August, and was got in, in perfect order, at a very trifling cost, the plan of making followed being the South-east of England plan, namely, to meddle with it as little as possible. Indeed, it was carried from the simple inverted swathe, only