prove equal to the task of settling the difficulty, and as he is certain to be the chief adviser of the new President, he will be in a position to carry out the measures to which he pointed when in opposition. The policy of Canada is a waiting policy. Any overtures to be made must come from the new Administration after Cleveland's career has closed.

England, France, and Germany have agreed to co-operate to put down the exportation of slaves from East Africa. A naval force will be used to effect this object. There is to be a blockade against the traffic in arms and slaves; and the vessels enforcing this blockade will assume the right to search suspected vessels under any flag.

THE HARVEST OF 1888.

The Ontario Bureau of Industries compiles the following estimates of the crop of 1888, from the reports of 870 correspondents:—

Crops.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bush per acre.
Fall Wheat:			
1888.....	826,537	13,830,787	16.7
1887.....	897,743	14,440,611	16.1
1882-8.....	948,041	18,778,659	19.8
Spring Wheat:			
1888.....	367,850	6,453,559	17.5
1887.....	484,821	5,633,117	11.6
1882-8.....	589,210	9,248,119	15.7
Barley:			
1888.....	895,432	23,366,569	26.1
1887.....	767,346	17,134,830	22.3
1882-8.....	757,525	19,766,436	26.1
Oats:			
1888.....1,849,868		65,466,911	35.4
1887.....1,682,463		49,848,101	29.6
1882-8.....1,569,372		55,997,425	35.7
Rye:			
1888.....	84,087	1,295,302	15.4
1887.....	68,362	894,887	13.1
1882-8.....	110,760	1,814,636	16.4
Peas:			
1888.....	696,653	14,269,863	20.5
1887.....	726,756	12,173,332	16.8
1882-8.....	635,414	13,123,509	20.7

The returns cannot, of course, be taken as absolutely correct, but as approximations to the truth they may be useful. The compilations for the different years being all made out in the same way, the comparisons may be taken as relatively correct. The average yield of winter wheat is put down at a little higher than that of last year, but is more than three bushels an acre under that of 1882-8. The crops suffered in the early spring, when the weather was cold and the protection deficient; but the grain ripened well, is plump, hard, and above the standard weight. It will be noted that the quantity of autumn wheat is more than twice that of spring. The latter, however, returns a larger yield, and one above the average of the years given. The yield of both autumn and spring wheat is considerably in excess of the average yield in the United States. Of the two kinds, Ontario has a little over 20,000,000 bushels. If to this we add 15,000,000 for Manitoba, the total wheat yield will be a little over 35,000,000 bushels. The other provinces produce but little wheat; and the general conclusion must be that when a population of between five and six millions have been fed, there will be very little to export. Where the margin is so small, local demand and supply along the extended frontier raises a question of convenience, and makes the free exchange of produce between Canada and the United States a matter of importance. That convenience is embarrassed by the mutual repulsion of duties on wheat on the two sides of the international line.

Barley gives a good yield, but the color suffered from the wet of the summer; and in barley color is an important item, paleness being a voucher for the purity of ale. When color in ales comes from the malt it is innocent, but as color may come from the admixture of forbidden and hurtful ingredients, it is always a ground of possible suspicion, and the average consumer is unable to tell whether the color be due to an innocent cause or to fraudulent manipulation. Discoloration therefore reduces the price of barley; and while the crop is good the price is not what it would be if the berry were white. Of oats the total yield is exceptionally large, but the price is high, doubtless owing to the scarcity of hay, for which, in feeding horses, oats will become a substitute to a greater extent than usual. Still, if hay is short, the yield of Indian corn is unprecedentedly large, as will be seen by the following table:

Crops.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bush. per acre
Corn (in the ear):			
1888 222,971		17,436,780	78.2
1887 163,893		8,404,752	51.3
1882-8 182,084		12,290,797	67.5
Buckwheat:			
1888	57,528	1,222,283	21.2
1887	64,143	1,025,353	16.0
1882-8	61,685	1,367,427	22.2
Beans:			
1888	22,700	534,526	23.5
1887	20,275	275,975	13.6
1882-8	22,060	465,182	21.1

The root crops too are exceptionally large in Ontario, larger than the average of seven years, both in acreage and yield:

Crops.	Acres.	Bushels.	Bush. per acre.
Potatoes:			
1888 153,915		22,273,607	144.7
1887 140,283		10,678,000	76.1
1882-8 155,766		18,919,185	121.5
Mangel-wurzels:			
1888	21,459	10,020,659	467.0
1887	17,924	5,695,761	317.8
1882-8	17,906	7,826,216	437.1
Carrots:			
1888	11,524	3,898,584	338.3
1887	9,110	2,105,686	231.1
1882-8	10,162	3,590,993	353.4
Turnips:			
1888 113,188		45,466,183	401.7
1887 105,322		31,413,456	298.2
1882-8 100,171		38,246,211	391.8

The food supplies for stock are much augmented by the large crops of roots; and it is doubtful whether either hay or oats will maintain the price they now bear, after sleighing begins. The potato crop is unprecedented. Last year the crop was deficient, but it paid the growers well, and, as usually happens under such circumstances, large numbers rushed in to share the profit of the present year. The price will be low, though the abundant supply will be most welcome to the farmer for feeding purposes. Turnips and mangels are large crops, making the available food supplies for cattle more numerous. The variety of food will have its uses, while the hay crop is largely supplemented in the best and only possible way. Apples too are a heavy crop, and if some of the fruit is inferior it will serve to eke out the supplies of fodder in connection with bran and shorts. On the whole, the farmer ought to be able to face winter with some courage as he surveys the whole range of food supply for his stock. The aftermath too and the natural grasses are good this autumn, and in many places the husbanded supplies of winter fodder need not be drawn upon as early as in some seasons.

The drouth of early summer reduced the production of cheese, of which the price was also low; so that the year's gains from this source must be diminished. Creameries are coming more into vogue, and are destined to revolutionize butter-making, as the cheese factory did cheese-making. Millions have been wasted every year in Canada in the form of bad butter. Creameries will prevent this waste, and bring so much gain. The cheese factory has, it may be said, given birth to a new industry; for cheese-making had before only a precarious existence, and it did not take the form of a distinct industry. The necessity for a change in butter-making is quite as great as that for cheese-making, before the cheese factory came into existence. According to Mr. Blue's report, the kinds of cattle most suitable for the farm are still in doubt. As as matter of fact, "Durhams and their grades predominate in Western Ontario and are plentiful in the east, while the Ayrshire is the favorite for the dairy." And he adds: "The Holstein and the Jersey are highly spoken of, although their adaptation to the Canadian farm has yet to be proved." Of course, the breeders of Holsteins and Jerseys will not agree with Mr. Blue. The problem will work itself out in practical experience.

We find no account of the quantity of maize or Indian corn grown for ensilage, for such corn is not properly measurable in bushels, but in tons of stalk, leaf, and ear. Ensillage is a slowly increasing quantity, though in the opinion of some it is the hope of the Canadian farmer.

A WORD UPON FOREIGN TRADE.

Towards the close of last year we made repeated reference to the subject of steam communication with the West Indies, and the growth of trade that was to be expected from it. There was good reason to urge governmental assistance by way of subsidy to such a line, because while our trade with the West Indies amounted already to millions yearly, we have long paid American steamers to take Cana ian mails *via* New York to the Antilles. These steamers carried quantities of Canadian goods to the West Indies, but they were American merchants who made the profit on them.

It was in view of these facts that the Trade Promoting Company was formed in St. John, and an experimental shipment from that city made last year to Barbadoes *via* Bermuda, which was reported successful. Since then, a practical step has been taken in the forwarding of a direct mail from a Canadian port to the West Indies, beginning with September, per Canadian steamers "Alpha" and "Beta" from Halifax. We observe that the second steamer of this line sailed on Saturday last for Havana, with a full cargo of fish and other products of Canada. So far good. But we shall be glad to hear more of the St. John line, which from being so much nearer