

The Alsike Crop Outlook.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Alsike, for several years now, has been associated with comparatively high prices, needless to say, much to the benefit of the Canadian farmer. The returns per acre from this crop for some time past, have tended to encourage farmers to save anything and everything for seed. A few suggestions to growers at the present time, may prove acceptable if they are willing to give them due and proper consideration.

In the past, with the desire to save all seed possible, a very large number of fields have been kept for seed, full of weeds and grasses, which in 75 per cent. of such instances would have given a better return had they been cut for hay, in addition to which a considerable amount of trouble and expense would have been saved. The European war has resulted in entirely upsetting the seed trade, and, so far as can be seen, there seems very little hope of any rally for some time to come. And, if, as appears likely, there is a very considerable crop, even if not a large crop of alsike in Ontario this season, prices for same promise to be lower than for several years past. The weather of late has been ideal for this crop. Checked by the cold, it will not be too bulky on most soils, and the showers at the present time are of a most encouraging nature; consequently one can safely prophecy a good crop and a good yield.

With timothy, clover and other grass crops associated with the production of hay, somewhat stunted in growth, with considerable timothy put out of business by late frosts, it would seem that a very fair price, will be attached to hay of all descriptions. Under such conditions many fields of alsike will yield a better return for hay than if left for seed, in addition to which a very considerable number of weeds will be got rid of. Then again, the land is available sooner for ploughing and cultivating for fall wheat, of which we may assume a very considerable average will be planted again this year.

Suggestions on harvesting the alsike seed crop may also be welcome to some. Many of the most reliable judges in the seed trade maintain that there is about as much of the alsike seed crop lost in harvesting operations as there is sent to market and sold. Anything that can help to stop this loss should be welcome. This crop is allowed to stand far too long before cutting. In ordinary seasons it is always safe to cut for the first and second bloom, and even for these, cut a little on the green side. Green alsike if matured is always worth as much as dark seed. By cutting on the green side the crop can be

handled with half the trouble that is necessary if left to get dead ripe. This process also prevents many weeds from shelling out on the land. There can be no doubt but that, taking into consideration crop prospects in Ontario for this seed, in addition to undoubted fine prospects in seed-growing sections of the United States, and with export prospects to Europe at the present time of a precarious nature, prices cannot be other than of a low nature. Trade is far from good anywhere, and there seems but little possibility of final retailers stocking up with any seed this season, until nearing date of requirements. Thus it would seem to be advisable for farmers to go carefully over their growing crops, and where the same are not up to a really good standard, cut for hay.

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The Acreage in Wheat.

Charles M. Daugherty, Statistical Expert, United States Department of Agriculture, has handed out the following on the world's wheat acreage this year. Some alarmists have talked shortage; others have been thinking that the acreage would be largely increased because of enhanced prices, but it seems that the acreage has remained about the same as in 1914, but we hear that Russia will have a bumper crop, and conditions have, so far, been favorable for heavy yields in America. Here is what Mr. Daugherty says:

The aggregate acreage ordinarily sown to winter wheat in the contending countries of Europe is about 55,000,000 acres. A reduction in that acreage of over 15 per cent. would be necessary to offset the 8,500,000 acres increase in the aggregate sowings of the three exporting countries mentioned above. That there has been a reduction is generally admitted. Doubt arises only as to its extent. The area under wheat in the British Isles is officially estimated as larger than in 1914; the Russian acreage is a little less extensive than last year. Belgium is not an important wheat producer, and Germany's acreage, usually only about 5,000,000 acres, is, it is claimed, a large one.

It is therefore apparent that whatever contraction there may have been in the winter-wheat acreage of the countries at war has occurred for the most part in France, Austria-Hungary and Serbia. Their aggregate winter-wheat area in time of peace is normally about 29,000,000 acres.

In view of these and other facts, it seems logical that, weather and labor conditions favoring, there would be a heavy extension this season in

the sowing of spring wheat. Of the approximately 240,000,000 acres of wheat in the world, between 85,000,000 and 90,000,000 are of this variety. Practically the entire crop is the product of three countries—Russia (including Asiatic), the United States and Canada. Russia in the best years sows about 60,000,000 acres, the United States 20,000,000 acres (last year 17,533,000), and Canada 10,000,000 acres (9,320,000 in 1914). Though the next most important producing countries are France and Germany, their combined acreage in average years is less than a million acres. In other European countries than those mentioned spring-wheat culture is ordinarily on such a small scale as to be almost negligible. The cultivation of this variety is not popular either in the States of central or western Europe. Even in France and Germany increases above the normal area are usually due to the failure of winter wheat in localities.

Though no definite figures upon the extent sown in the different countries this spring have yet been published, present indications do not point to the heavy increase in the world's acreage that was at one time anticipated. Owing to the prolonged closing of the Dardanelles and most other routes of export, the surplus wheat still remaining in Russia from the last harvest is believed to be very heavy. The depressing effect of this unexported surplus upon the Russian markets, together with the strained labor situation and other abnormal economic conditions incident to the war, seem to be having a restraining influence upon seeding operations; late commercial reports suggest a probable reduction in the Russian spring-wheat area of 10 to 15 per cent. Should this expectation be realized, it will go far toward neutralizing the heavy increase in sowings expected in all other spring-wheat countries combined, and leave the world's acreage little if any, larger than that of last year.

Late Frost.

Wednesday, June 23, was reported by the weather bureau as the coldest June 23 in 75 years. The day was followed by a very cool night. The wind which had blown a gale all day died away at evening and the overcast sky soon cleared and the temperature dropped. The official temperature in London was 34 degrees F. but potatoes, tomatoes, beans and other frost-tender plants showed that there had been a lower temperature in some spots. Slight frosts were reported from different parts of Middlesex county and in some parts of the inland Northern counties early potatoes were nipped off and corn injured. June has been a very cool month.

Toronto, Montreal, Buffalo, and Other Leading Markets.

Toronto.

Receipts at the Union Stock-yards, West Toronto, since Friday, June 25, to Monday, June 28, numbered 255 cars, comprising 2,738 cattle, 1,433 hogs, 306 sheep, 112 calves, and 2,047 horses. Trade in all classes was active. Top cattle were 20c. higher than one week ago. Heavy steers, \$8.60 to \$8.90; choice butchers', \$8.40 to \$8.70; cows, \$5 to \$7.50; bulls, \$6.50 to \$7.60; feeders and stockers, slow sale; choice steers, \$7 to \$7.25; stockers, \$5.75 to \$6.75; milkers firmer, at \$60 to \$100 each; calves firm, at \$6 to \$10. Sheep steady; light, \$5.50 to \$6.50; heavy, \$3.50 to \$4.50; yearlings, \$6.50 to \$7.50; spring lambs, \$10 to \$11.75 per cwt. Hogs quoted at \$9.10, weighed off cars.

REVIEW OF LAST WEEK'S MARKETS
The total receipts of live stock at the City and Union Stock-yards for the past week were:

	City.	Union.	Total.
Cars	33	516	549
Cattle	209	3,760	3,969
Hogs	586	8,339	8,925
Sheep	533	2,014	2,547
Calves	58	915	973
Horses	48	4,087	4,135

The total receipts of live stock at the two markets for the corresponding week of 1914 were:

	City.	Union.	Total.
Cars	16	378	394
Cattle	185	4,355	4,540
Hogs	182	10,644	10,826
Sheep	454	1,830	2,284
Calves	40	1,062	1,102
Horses	—	102	102

The combined receipts of live stock at the City and Union Stock-yards for the past week show an increase of 155 cars-loads, 263 sheep and lambs, and 4,033 horses; but a decrease of 571 cattle, 1,901 hogs, and 129 calves, compared with the corresponding week of 1914.

The supply of live stock in all classes was not greater than the demand at any

time during the past week. The result was that there was a good, healthy trade on each market day, at strong prices generally, and in cattle values were a little higher. The stall-fed cattle are pretty well out as far as we could gather, but there are a large number of cattle that were stall-fed before going on grass which was earlier this season than usual, and many of these have been fed meal on grass, so that many good-quality cattle have still to come, if we are correctly informed.

Export Cattle.—A few choice steers and heavy cows were bought to fill an order from France. Export steers sold from \$8.40 to \$8.65, and one or two lots at \$8.70; cows at \$7 to \$7.40, and a few at \$7.50.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice heavy steers sold at \$8.25 to \$8.50; choice loads of steers and heifers, \$8.25 to \$8.50, that is for cattle 900 to 1,100 lbs., which are in strong demand; good butchers', \$7.90 to \$8.15; medium, \$7.75 to \$8.00; common butchers', \$7.15 to \$7.50; inferior, light grassers, \$6.75 to \$7; choice cows, \$7 to \$7.25; good cows, \$6.75 to \$7; medium, \$5.75 to \$6; canners, \$4.50 to \$5.25; good bulls, \$7.25 to \$7.50; medium bulls, \$6.50 to \$7; bologna bulls, \$5.50 to \$6.

Stockers and Feeders.—There was little business being transacted in feeders and stockers, and prices were barely steady. Steers, 750 to 900 lbs., \$7.25 to \$7.50; medium steers, same weights, \$6.75 to \$7.15; stockers, \$5.75 to \$6.50.

Milkers and Springers.—The market for milkers and springers was not as strong as for some time past, although the offerings were not as liberal, especially for good to choice quality, very few reaching the \$90 mark. The general run for the best cows was from \$70 to \$85; medium to good cows, \$60 to \$70; common cows and late springers, \$45 to \$55. Dealers are talking lower prices for the next month or six weeks, as

grass is plentiful and the milk production liberal.

Veal Calves.—Prices have ruled steady to strong, especially for good to choice veals. Choice calves sold at \$9 to \$10.50; good, \$8 to \$9; medium, \$7 to \$7.75; common, \$5.50 to \$6.75.

Sheep and Lambs.—Light sheep sold at \$5.50 to \$6.50; heavy sheep, \$3.50 to \$4.50; yearling lambs, \$6 to \$7; spring lambs, \$10 to \$11.50 per cwt.

Hogs.—On Monday there was a liberal run of Northwest hogs, and prices were down from 40c. to 50c. per cwt.; on Tuesday they advanced 10c. to 15c., and on Wednesday hogs weighed off cars sold from \$9.35 to \$9.60, which was a gain of what they had lost.

HORSE MARKET.

There was little doing on the Toronto horse market last week, the Remount Commission having discontinued buying, being unable to get boat transportation, but will commence again on Monday. Prices remained unchanged for the few purchases made.

BREADSTUFFS.

Wheat.—Ontario, No. 2, \$1.10 to \$1.12, outside; Manitoba, at bay ports, No. 1 northern, \$1.30½; No. 2 northern, \$1.27½; No. 3 northern, \$1.25½c.

Oats.—Ontario, No. 2 new, white, 54c. to 55c.; No. 3, white, 53c. to 54c., outside; Canadian Western oats, No. 2, 58c.; No. 3, 57c. to 57½c., track, bay ports. Extra No. 1 feed, 57c. to 57½c., track, bay ports.

Rye.—No. 2, \$1.05 to \$1.10.

Buckwheat.—74c. to 76c.

Barley.—Ontario, good malting, 70c. to 73c., outside; feed barley, 65c., outside.

American Corn.—No. 2 yellow, 79½c., track, lake ports; Canadian, No. 2 yellow, 77c., track, Toronto.

Peas.—No. 2, \$1.50 to \$1.60, in car

lots, outside; very scarce.

Rolled Oats.—Per bag of 90 lbs., \$3.40 to \$3.50.

Flour.—Ontario, winter, 90 - per - cent.

patents, \$4.60, seaboard. Manitoba flour—Prices at Toronto were: First patents, \$7; second patents, \$6.50, in jute; strong bakers', \$6.80, in jute; in cotton, 10c. more.

HAY AND MILLFEED.

Hay.—Baled, car lots, track, Toronto, No. 1, \$16.50 to \$18; No. 2, \$14.50 to \$16.

Straw.—Baled, car lots, \$7 to \$8, track, Toronto.

Bran.—Manitoba, \$26 in bags, delivered, Montreal freight; shorts, \$23, delivered, Montreal freight; middlings, \$29, delivered, Montreal freight.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Butter.—Prices remained stationary during the past week. Creamery pound squares, 27c. to 29c. per lb.; creamery solids, 26c. to 28c.; separator dairy, 25c. to 26c.

Eggs.—New - laid eggs have advanced 2c. per dozen, selling at 24c. to 26c. per dozen, wholesale.

Cheese.—New, large, 18c. per lb.; twins, 18½c.

Honey.—Extracted, 11c. to 12c., per pound; combs, per dozen sections, \$2.50 to \$3.

Beans.—Primes, \$3.25 per bushel; hand-picked, \$3.40 per bushel.

Potatoes.—Ontarios, car lots, per bag, track, Toronto, 45c.; New Brunswick, 47½c. to 50c. per bag, track, Toronto.

Poultry.—Live-weight prices: Spring chickens, 20c. to 25c. per lb.; spring ducks, 18c. per lb.; hens, 12c. per lb.; turkeys, 17c. per lb.; squabs, no demand.

HIDES AND SKINS.

City hides, flat 14c.; country hides, cured, 13c. to 14c.; country hides, part cured, 12c. to 13c.; country hides, green, 12c.; calf skins, per lb., 14c.; kip skins, per lb., 12c.; sheep skins, \$1.50 to \$2; horse hair, per lb., 88c. to 40c.; horse hides, No. 1, \$3.50 to \$4.50; wool, washed, coarse and fine, 32c. to 37c.; wool, unwashed, coarse and fine,