

Canada's Crops.

A bulletin on the crops and live stock of Canada, issued July 17th by the Census and Statistics Ottawa, reports that in the Maritime Provinces, and generally throughout Eastern Canada, the weather of June continued cold and wet, and growth was therefore slow. In the Northwest Provinces the weather of June was hot and dry, and rain was badly needed at the beginning of July. Rains have since fallen, however, and conditions have improved. Prospects for spring-sown crops are generally favorable.

According to the revised figures obtained at the end of June, the total area under wheat this year is 10,047,300 acres, compared with 10,377,159 acres, as returned by the census of 1911. The area sown to fall wheat in 1911 was 1,097,900 acres, but winter-killing has reduced this area to 781,000 acres. The area sown to oats is estimated at 9,494,600 acres, compared with 9,233,550 acres in 1911; and to barley, 1,449,200 acres, as against 1,403,969 acres in 1911. In the three Northwest Provinces spring wheat covers 9,026,000 acres, as against 8,946,965 acres in 1911, the increase being in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Including fall wheat, the total wheat acreage in the three Provinces is 9,246,100, compared with 9,301,293 acres in 1911, the decrease being accounted for by the large area of fall wheat winter-killed in Alberta. Oats in the three Provinces occupy 5,037,000 acres, and barley 826,100 acres, as compared with last year's census figures of 4,563,203 acres for oats, and 761,738 acres for barley.

While not equal to the exceptionally high figures recorded this time last year, the condition of spring-sown crops is generally good. The highest figures for spring cereals are recorded in Prince Edward Island and British Columbia, the per cent. condition ranging from 97 to 99 in the former, and from 90 to 95 in the latter Province, the average for the Dominion being from 80 to 89. Fall wheat remains low, being only 70 for Canada, 73 for Ontario, and 71.6 for Alberta. Last year the condition was also low, viz., 75 for Canada; the average of the four years, 1908-1911, was 81.5. Spring wheat is 89.73 per cent., compared with 94.78 last year, and 88.25 the four years' average; oats, 86.43, against 94.46 in 1911, and 90.42, average; barley, 88.58 against 93 in 1911, and 89.28 average. Rye is 87.84, peas are 80.08, and mixed grains 84.98. Hay and clover shows a condition per cent. 85.59, against 84.97 in 1911; alfalfa 90.59, against 82.31, and pasture 95.56, against 90.77. In the three Northwest Provinces, spring wheat, oats and barley range from 80 to 88 per cent., figures which are close to the average of the four years, 1908-1911, and are below last year's exceptional records by from about 10 to 15 per cent.

The estimated numbers of live stock show further decreases, except as regards horses and dairy cattle, the former being 70,400 and the latter 14,500 more than last year's estimates. The census figures of 1911 are not yet available. The condition of all live stock in Canada is uniformly excellent, the number of points being 97 horses, 98 cattle, 97 sheep, and 96 swine.

Harvesting Alsike Clover for Seed.

Those who have had no experience with alsike may sustain a heavy loss by not harvesting it soon enough. There is unevenness in the blooming of the plants, and also in the ripening of the heads, the lower parts maturing seed first. Hence, in no case should alsike be left until it appears to be fully ripe before cutting. Examine the heads frequently after the seed has formed, and when most of them show signs that the seed will shell out, cut it as soon as possible. It should be cut when damp with dew or rain, to prevent shelling, and when the straw is more or less green. The fodder then is quite palatable and nutritious. The reaper with four or five rakes is perhaps the best machine to cut it with, when the straw is long enough. If the straw is short, a table fixed to the cutting bar of a mower may be used. Where a bunch accumulates, it is lifted or shoved off by a fork or rake behind the mower. If a mower is used without the table attachment, there will likely be more loss from tramping and raking. When hauling to the machine in the field or storing in the barn, it is advisable to have a canvass spread over the shelvings of the wagon. This saves a lot of seed.

An encouraging fact noted by the Farmers' Gazette is that a special inspection has proved that at least 29 out of 32 counties in Ireland were found free from foot-and-mouth disease.

The Highland Society Show.

The H. & A. S. show of 1912, held this year in the town of Cupar, in the County of Fife, July 9th to 12th, while a creditable event in many respects, lost much of its usual interest in the cattle, sheep and swine sections, owing to the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in England and Ireland depleting the pens for these classes. The horse section was consequently the most attractive and interesting. Clydesdales were the great feature of the show, and probably there never was such a class of two-year-old colts seen in a H. & A. S. show-yard. The stallion judges were James Durno, Wm. Neilson, and John Hendry. The Aged class was made up of eight big, powerful horses, the judges being Messrs. Durno and Hendry. The leading place was given to Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery's Fyvie Baron, a big brown five-year-old son of Baron's Pride, and out of a Prince Thomas mare. It was a pretty near thing between him and Wm. Dunlop's black four-year-old, Dunure Footprint, by Baron of Buchlyvie, who was a popular second. George Alston's High Merit, by Revelanta, was third. Three-year-olds were a large class, and extra good. They were judged by Messrs. Hendry and Neilson. Messrs. Montgomery's Signet, a bay, by Allandale, was first; Mr. Brown's dark-colored Dunure Gayman, by Baron of Buchlyvie, second, and James Patrick's Revolution, by Revelanta, third. Two-year-olds were the class of the show. There were nineteen entries. First prize went to Mr. Dunlop's unbeaten champion colt, The Dunure, by Baron of Buchlyvie; second and third to Montgomery's Baron's Crown and Baron's Derby, both by Baron's Pride. Two Baron's Pride colts, owned by Messrs. Montgomery, led the way in the yearling class. The president's medal for the best stallion any age was awarded to Mr. Dunlop's two-year-old, The Dunure, with the five-year-old, Fyvie Baron, as reserve. Mr. Ritchie's Harviestoun Baroness was declared winner of the president's medal, with Mr. Mitchell's Boquhan Lady Peggie reserve, and Baroness was of necessity awarded the Cawdor Challenge Cup, Dunure Myrene being reserve. In brood mares, first award went to Stephen Mitchell's celebrated Boquhan Lady Peggie, second to John P. Sleigh's Lucilla, by Everlasting, third to A. B. Mathew's Annie, by Baron's Pride. In three-year-old fillies, Messrs. Merklem were first with the unbeaten Dunure Myrene. There was a tie for second between J. P. Sleigh's Baron's Pride filly, Elaine, and Ernest Kerr's Everlasting filly, Harviestoun Dorris. The umpire placed them in the order named. The two-year-fillies were a very strong class, and the contest for first place between Mr. Mitchell's Nannie, by Apukwa, and Ernest Kerr's Harviestoun Phyllis, and the umpire gave the honor to Nannie. Mr. Gray's unbeaten Elmer, own sister to Nannie, was first in the yearling class, second going to Mr. Brydon's Silver Bangle, by Bonnie Buchlyvie, and third to Mr. Gray's Kiora, by Apukwa.

THE CATTLE CLASSES.

The English competitors being excluded on account of foot-and-mouth disease, the cattle classes were lighter than for many years, the owners not caring to risk an outbreak of the disease in their own neighborhood. The exhibits of Shorthorns totalled less than thirty. Arthur S. Gibson and John L. Reed acted as judges. In the aged-bull class three competed, and Col. Chas. Munro's Beaufort Referee, a roan four-year-old, bred by Lord Lovat, and this year in service in the herd of Capt. A. T. Gordon, was given first place. W. T. Malcolm was second with the four-year-old Merranio. The entries for two-year-olds were fourteen, but not more than half the number entered the ring. W. & R. Connon were awarded first place with Gartly Landseer, a handsome roan got by Golden Clipper, and out of Mary Anne of Lancaster; Scotland's Choice, owned by Duncan Stewart, Crieff, was second, and Major Murray's Proud Massa third. There was a moderate show of yearlings, and the premier place fell to Geo. Campbell, Harthill, for Viscount, a level, well-fleshed son of Mastadon and Lucy VII., by Proud Star; second went to Messrs. Law, for Sanguhar Breadnaught. A. G. Maxtone-Graham was third with one bred by Capt. Gordon. In the aged cow class, Mr. Graham was first with Belle of Lincoln, bred by himself, and which was reserve for champion at the Highland. The Earl of Moray was second with Doune Rachael, by Diamond Earl. Only three of the seven two-year-old heifers entered appeared, and Geo. Campbell's Princess 22nd was given first place. She is described as a model young Shorthorn, bred by C. M. Cameron, Balnakyle, and by Nonpareil Gift, dam Princess 17th. W. T. Malcolm was second with Diamond Queen, by Diamond Hero. There was a small show of yearlings, and first place was

assigned to Roan Cruickshank, owned and bred by Duncan Stewart. The first-prize two-year-old heifer, Princess 22nd, shown by Geo. Campbell, was awarded the female championship, and also the president's medal for the best Shorthorn. Messrs. Connon's first-prize two-year-old bull, Gartly Landseer, was declared male champion.

Aberdeen-Angus were one of the most important of the cattle classes. The judges were J. J. Cridlan and Geo. Hendry. In aged bulls, first place was given to Prince Blueblood of Ballindalloch, by Edensor; second went to Periodical of Glamis, owned by Andrew Brooks. In two-year-olds, the leading honor went to Boxer of Moncurture. In senior yearlings, Janus Beddie's Denovin, by Argus, was first; John Ritchie was second, with Jan Eric, bred at Harviestoun, and got by Elect of Ballindalloch. In the cow class, ten of the fourteen entries put in an appearance, and J. Ernest Kerr was a clear winner with Ethereal, of his own breeding, by Elect. There were fourteen entries in the two-year-old class, and eight competed. Again, J. E. Kerr was victor, with Juanessa Erica, a daughter of Elect. Andrew Brooks was second, with Eruna, by Prince I. of Ballindalloch. Eight out of nineteen yearling heifers turned out, and Mr. Kerr was again first, with Pride of Maderia, by Elect. The championship for the best animal of the breed went to Mr. Kerr for his two-year-old heifer, Juanessa Erica, the first-prize aged bull, Prince Blueblood, being reserve. He was also adjudged the best bull any age. The Ballindalloch Challenge Cup for the best cow went to Mr. Kerr's Ethereal.

SHEEP.

Border Leicesters were somewhat restricted in numbers, as compared with former years, but the quality was decidedly creditable. In aged rams, James Campbell & Sons won first, Jos. G. Scott second, and John Kinnaird, Jr., third. Shearling rams made a very good show, and Mr. Kinnaird was also first in this class with one of his own breeding; R. G. Murray was second with a good big one, sired by the £126 Galalaw ram. The third was a get of the noted Baron Yet, out of a ewe by Field Marshal. Ewes were few in number, but good in quality. All the prizes went to David P. Elliot, Nisbet Hills, Duns. The yearlings made a nice show. J. D. Hay had the first, R. G. Murray the second, and J. G. Scott the third. The Kinnaird shearling ram won all the specials. Shropshires made a creditable showing. T. A. Buttar was first for aged ram, with Carston Charmer, which also won president's prize for best of the breed. Lord Crichton Stuart was second with the ram that was first as a shearling at the Royal last year. In the shearling class, Mr. Buttar secured all the prizes with well-developed sheep. In the shearling-ewe class, Mr. Buttar was first and second, and Lord Crichton Stuart third. Oxford Downs in two classes were well represented. Hon. A. J. Balfour won all three prizes for shearling rams, and also first and second for shearling ewes. The awards in the Suffolk class were: Shearling rams—1, Chas. Hay; 2 and 3, T. K. Blackstock. Shearling ewes—1 and 3, Allan Grant; 2, A. B. Dalgety. Ram lambs—1, John Robertson; 2, Allan Grant; 3, A. B. Dalgety.

Canada Fruit Report.

According to the Government fruit-crop report from Ottawa, the prices for small fruits marketed were exceedingly high in Eastern Canada, strawberries netting the growers \$2.00 and \$2.50 per crate of 24 boxes, as a regular thing. Want of proper organization among the growers glutted the Toronto market for one day, resulting in a very serious loss to the growers, with a corresponding benefit to the consumers. The European markets, without exception, may be considered ready to receive the usual quantities exported from America. The industrial disputes have been settled, and there is no immediate appearance of any disturbance that would lessen consumption. The prospects in the United States are not quite so reassuring. The crop for home consumption is certainly above the average and very evenly distributed, so that it is quite possible that, if fair prices should be offered in the European markets, there will be a large surplus available for export from the United States.

The Canadian Northwest is usually counted upon to take a large quantity of fruit, and conditions are such that more than the usual quantity will be taken this year. There will be strong competition, however from British Columbia, the Northwest Pacific States and Nova Scotia.

There is this to be said, though, with reference to marketing the apple crop, that the largest shippers this year will be the co-operative associations. Consequently, the danger of overloading the markets is greatly minimized. The prospects, therefore, in a general way, look favorable for a fair year for fruit-growers, and, though the high prices for small fruits will not compensate for the short crop, conditions are likely to be much better for all varieties of tree fruits.