

Government Crop Bulletin.

The summer crop bulletin of the Manitoba department of agriculture was issued on Thursday of this week, and gives a comprehensive statement of agricultural conditions in this province at date. It reads as follows:

CROPS AND LIVE STOCK IN MANITOBA.

The information contained in this bulletin as to the condition of the crops and live stock, the probable yield per acre of the various kinds of grain and the quantities of land broken for the first time this season, is summarized from returns received from the regular correspondents of the department, made under date of August 15.

The province is divided into districts as follows:

The North Western District comprises the municipalities of Shell River, Boulton, Russell, Silver Creek, Rossburn, Ellice, Birtle, Shoal Lake, Strathclair, Harrison, Clan William, Archie, Minnola, Hamiota, Blanchard, Saskatchewan, Odanah, Dauphin, Gilbert Plains.

The South Western—Wallace, Woodworth, Daly, Elton, Cornwallis, Whitehead, Sifton, Pipestone, Glenwood, Oakland, Arthur, Winchester, Morton, Turtle Mountain, Cameron, White-water and Riverside.

The North Central—Rosendale, Lansdowne, Westbourne, North Cypress, North Norfolk, Langford, Portage la Prairie, St. Francois Xavier, Woodlands, St. Laurent, Posen and Ochre River.

The South Central—South Cypress, South Norfolk, Dufferin, Morris, Montcalm, Rhineland, Stanley, Pembina, Lorne, Louise, Argyle and the west half of Macdonald.

The Eastern—Gimli, Rockwood, St. Andrews, St. Clements, St. Pauls, Springfield, Kildonan, St. Boniface, Assinibola, Tache, Richot, De Salaberry, Hanover, La Broquerie, Franklin, Rosser and the east half of Macdonald.

| WHEAT. | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|------------|--|
| District. | Area in Crop. | Average Yield. | Total. | |
| | Acres. | Bus. | Bus. | |
| N. W. | 137,100 | 20.3 | 2,795,310 | |
| S. W. | 682,965 | 19.25 | 13,147,076 | |
| N. C. | 306,560 | 21.5 | 6,591,040 | |
| S. C. | 390,770 | 22 | 8,596,940 | |
| E. | 112,000 | 21.2 | 2,374,400 | |
| Province | 1,629,995 | 20.55 | 33,504,766 | |

| OATS. | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|------------|--|
| District. | Area in Crop. | Average Yield. | Total. | |
| | Acres. | Bus. | Bus. | |
| N. W. | 50,920 | 35.12 | 1,802,630 | |
| S. W. | 196,020 | 42.67 | 8,364,173 | |
| N. C. | 90,160 | 38.66 | 3,485,685 | |
| S. C. | 111,156 | 41.4 | 4,601,858 | |
| E. | 90,880 | 38.5 | 3,498,580 | |
| Province | 579,136 | 40. | 23,003,126 | |

| BARLEY. | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|--|
| District. | Area in Crop. | Average Yield. | Total. | |
| | Acres. | Bus. | Bus. | |
| N. W. | 18,590 | 28.16 | 523,308 | |
| S. W. | 35,640 | 30.45 | 1,085,238 | |
| N. C. | 32,840 | 30.03 | 980,216 | |
| S. C. | 55,842 | 32.14 | 1,794,761 | |
| E. | 39,000 | 28.55 | 1,113,450 | |
| Province | 182,912 | 30.25 | 5,532,972 | |

| FLAX, RYE AND PEAS. | | | | |
|--|---------------|----------------|---------|--|
| District. | Area in Crop. | Average Yield. | Total. | |
| | Acres. | Bus. | Bus. | |
| Flax | 21,780 | 13.6 | 296,208 | |
| Rye | 8,217 | 20.4 | 167,626 | |
| Peas | 1,366 | 19.5 | 26,637 | |
| Estimated total grain crop of the province for 1899, 62,429,335 bushels. | | | | |

HAY.

| District. | Approximate Yield per Acre. | Prairie hay. Cultivated gr's. |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| N. W. | 2.1 tons | 2. tons. |
| S. W. | 1.7 tons | 1.9 tons. |
| N. C. | 1.8 tons | 1.7 tons. |
| S. C. | 1.6 tons | 1.7 tons. |
| E. | 1.7 tons | 2. tons. |

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|------------|
| Province | 1.8 tons | 1.86 tons. |
|-----------------|----------|------------|

BREAKING AND SUMMER FALLOW.

| District. | Breaking. | Summer Fallowing. |
|--------------|-----------|-------------------|
| | Acres. | Acres. |
| N. W. | 27,959 | 43,053 |
| S. W. | 61,911 | 230,539 |
| N. C. | 22,058 | 61,448 |
| S. C. | 25,514 | 53,200 |
| E. | 13,488 | 23,600 |

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|---------|
| Province | 161,490 | 411,840 |
|-----------------|---------|---------|

CROP PROSPECTS.

Wheat—The seeding time as reported in the June Bulletin was later than usual. Quick germination and rapid growth in June and the first part of July gave promise of a heavy crop. A dry season followed in most parts of the province at the time when heads were forming, and somewhat checked the full development of the same. Since the first of August there have been copious rains, and fields have the appearance of heavy crops, with a possible yield in many cases of twenty-five to thirty, or even more bushels to the acre. A close examination of the wheat heads, however, show that in most cases there are only four rows of grain where six rows might be expected in a well filled head that occasionally gives an extra yield. The figures given are carefully prepared from the estimates of crop correspondents who are good judges of what to expect. Generally speaking, the estimate may be considered conservative. If suitable weather for ripening and harvesting follows from this date, the crop of 1899 will be above the average; twenty bushels per acre being considered the average for the past ten years or more.

Reports of correspondents vary as to the average yield of the wheat crop, as follows:

N. W. district—10 to 36 bushels per acre, average 20.3.

S. W. district—12 to 25 bushels per acre, average 19.25.

N. C. district—12 to 30 bushels per acre, average 21.5.

S. C. district—15 to 30 bushels per acre, average 22.

Eastern district—15 to 30 bushels per acre, average 21.2.

These figures do not represent individual yields which are reported in some cases as high as 35 and 40 bushels per acre. They represent the averages for entire townships.

Oats and barley—The oat and barley crops are above the average. A good start early in June and continued favorable weather have given rank growth, well headed, and likely to mature in first class condition.

The total grain crop is estimated at 62,429,335 bushels.

HARVEST HANDS.

The usual call was sent out by the department to each crop correspondent, asking the number of extra men required to assist in taking off the harvest. The answers received indicate that over 8,000 men would be required. Our Toronto agent, Mr. Jeffreys, was advised to this effect. The laborers' excursions promise to bring in over 6,000. A busy time is therefore expected until winter sets in.

NOXIOUS WEEDS.

The administration of the noxious weeds' act is now considered one of

the important duties of municipal councils, correspondents invariably commend councils and pathmasters for good work done in carrying out the provisions of the Noxious Weeds' act. When no effort is taken to destroy weeds as reported in a few instances, councils are censured for their apathy. Every farmer knows well that allowing weeds to grow on his own place is a direct loss to him personally, and that his field will soon be infested if his neighbors allow them to grow. Farmers who keep their fields clean therefore expect the law to be strictly enforced so as to compel those who are negligent to do likewise.

LIVE STOCK.

A few townships in the northwest and southwest districts report that horse feed, especially oats, is scarce, and several reports received from the north, central and eastern districts state that horses are suffering from distemper and cattle from flies. With these exceptions reports indicate that all kinds of live stock are in prime condition and excellent health.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The following quotations from the reports of correspondents show the general state of feeling throughout the country, in regard to the crop.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT.

Archie municipality—Recent rains have helped late crops wonderfully; no damage by frost or hail.

Birtle—Wheat on summerfallow and breaking is heavy; on fall and spring plowing fair; harvest will be from a week to ten days later than last year.

Blanchard—Wheat crop is heavy, but rust will soon weaken the straw so that many heads will be left on the ground. Oats are a fine crop and those who use formalin have very little smut.

Clan William—Our crops are not up to the average. It was too wet early in the season and there was a great deal of poor seed sown.

Gilbert Plains—Crops are looking well, but a week later than last year.

Harrison—The dry weather of the last few weeks have been very bad for the crops. Very little rain since the first of July.

Hamiota—Crops are looking fine; no damage by hail or frost up to date. Some rust on low ground.

Minnola—No rain to speak of in July, so wheat will only be a little over average. Harvest late.

Odanah—Wheat is not so good as it promised in the spring on account of long spell of dry weather coming after such a wet season.

Rosburn—Oats thin as a result of using light seed, otherwise looking well.

Russell—Hay will be scarce as meadows are too wet to cut in many cases. Frost on night of third August did some damage.

Saskatchewan—No frost yet nor any other damage to crop, prospects of a bountiful harvest are good.

Shoal Lake—Some rust on blades of wheat but not enough to do any harm. All crops looking well.

Shell River—Crops are maturing rapidly. Weather good.

Strathclair—In spite of rather unfortunate outlook during the early part of the year, the condition of the crops in general is first rate.

SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICT.

Arthur Municipality—Crops suffered during latter part of July for want of rain, but had nice rains this month and