

life is too short for all one would like to do; hence the greater reason to follow up one's aim to make the most of every minute, to spare no exertion.

Recognizing that agriculture is the foundation of all national prosperity, may we all so work and strive, each in his own sphere of duty, that when our work is finished, each of us may feel that he has done his share towards enabling our descendants to show as splendid a record of the progress of our Dominion on its Centennial, as men of the same race and blood as ourselves are now showing to the world in Fairmount Park; and may the flag of which we are so proud still wave over the same hale mother and her family of young and vigorous nations.

At the present moment, when a decided tendency is being shown in this Province to throw more capital and labor into the business of farming, it is of importance that those embarking in the pursuit should study carefully the relations between supply and demand, and the probable state of prospective markets at home and abroad, for our produce. The immense agricultural product of the United States exerts indirectly, when not directly, a well marked influence upon our prices from year to year. We can, therefore, venture to invite, in a more than usually pressing manner, the careful attention of our farmers to the following very careful digest by the American Minister of Agriculture of the official returns of the Field Crops of 1876, received from the various States and Territories of the great Republic. We have omitted Sweet Potatoes, Sorghum, Tobacco and Cotton as not likely to interest our agricultural readers:—

WHEAT.

Our October returns indicate a reduction in the yield of the wheat-crop of nearly one-sixth, while the quality is somewhat superior. More accurate statistics may possibly be given after the results of threshing are more fully known. Every section of the Union indicates a reduced product except the Middle States, which increased about 2 per cent. The New England States fell off 4 per cent.; the South Atlantic States 2 per cent.; the Gulf States 27 per cent.; the Southern inland States 8 per cent.; the States north of the Ohio River 14 per cent.; the States West of the Mississippi River 27 per cent.; the Pacific States nearly two per cent. These figures point to a yield of about 245,000,000 bushels. This, however, will be the subject of further examination and inquiry in our November returns.

The condition of winter-wheat at the date of our last report before harvest (July 1) was about 5 per cent. below average. It had suffered severely from winter-killing in all the Northern States; but the conditions of the growth during the spring months were, on the whole, quite favorable, and still better during June. At the end of May, Michigan was the only Northern State in which winter-wheat it was reported as of a full average condition; but on the first of July the general improvement of the crop had brought several other States up to the same figures. In the South Atlantic States a mild winter, followed, generally, by favorable spring weather, presented a condition of extraordinary promise, with a remarkable absence of the usual drawbacks. Every county in Maryland reported a full average condition, and some, 20 per cent. above. Only seven counties in Virginia fell below average, while rust and insect ravages had already left their mark upon the growing crops. These destructive influences, aggravated by local freshets, affected the crops of the Gulf States and Southern inland States, (except West Virginia,) so that, at the end of June, the whole wheat-field south of Virginia and the Ohio river indicated a condition of but three-fourths of average. West Virginia continued to improve, and rose to 15 per cent. above average before harvest. A general improvement was noted in the States north of the Ohio River, but the injuries from winter-killing were too severe and extensive to be repaired. All of the States west of the Mississippi improved during June, except Nebraska; Mississippi and Kansas rising above the average. During this month the condition of the crop on the Pacific coast fell far below the average.

Spring-wheat, on the 1st of July, had fallen to 15 per cent. below average. In the New England States, it had improved; but this improvement was more than counterbalanced by the imperfect conditions of growth, aggravated by insect ravages, in the great spring-wheat regions of the Northwest. The Pacific States also reported improvement; but our August returns indicated a decline during July, which still further reduced the general condition, especially from the depredations of insects in the Northwest. On the 1st of September, the general estimate of condition for both winter and spring wheat was 81 per cent. of a full average.

Our October returns, as a general thing, indicate an advance in the wheat yield of those States in which the yield of 1875 had fallen below that of 1874, and *vice versa*; but in some States, especially in the Northwest, there is a falling-off from even the reduced yields of

1875, viz: New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, and Oregon. In the New England States, extreme summer temperature at a critical stage of the crop is complained of, together with occasional injuries of the midge. In some parts of Maine, early sowings yielded lightly, while later sowings were very satisfactory. In the Middle States, the marked increase in New York and Delaware more than counterbalanced the slight decline in Pennsylvania and New Jersey; but the increased yield of this section is not sufficient to repair the losses of 1875 so far as to bring the crop up to the standard of 1874. Maryland and Virginia have made up their losses of 1875, but the decline in the other South Atlantic States, in the Gulf States and in the Southern inland States, more than absorbs their previous gains upon the crop of 1874. Frederick, Maryland, reports that fields treated with phosphate excelled others in yield, and the crop exhibited a better color; Calvert made the best crop for many years. Kentucky, West Virginia, and Ohio have considerably increased the yield of 1875; but that showed a great reduction from the previous year. The other States North of the Ohio report a reduced yield, making the crop of this region about 14 per cent. less than in 1875, and nearly one fourth less than in 1874. The western and north-western counties complain of destructive insect ravages. West of the Mississippi, the crop of 1875 was a little larger than that of 1874; but that of 1876 shows a decline of 17 per cent. from its predecessor. Insect ravages were numerous reported, and the grasshoppers made their annual incursion in the north-western counties in time to injure the spring-wheat. Reports of their ravages also come from several points in the Territories. On the Pacific coast, California barely equalled her reduced crop of 1875, while that of Oregon experienced a still further reduction of 12 per cent.

RYE.

The rye crop of 1876 is reported 4 per cent. less than that of 1875, but in quality it averages somewhat above its predecessor. The larger deficiencies are mostly in States that produce small crops, though Illinois and Wisconsin, with their large crops, produce 8 per cent. and New York 7 per cent. less than last year. The larger producing States generally report yields not greatly varying from those of 1875, while Kansas, in which rye culture has grown rapidly within the last few years, is 13 per cent. in advance of her previous figures. Of the great regions of the country, New England has made a slight increase; the