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RURAL NOTES.

THE secretary of the Manitoba Board of Agriculture estimates the area of the wheat crop in that Province at 250,000 acres, and the produce a little over 6,000,000 bushels. If this quantity is realized the Province will, for the first year in its history, have not only enough for home consumption, but a surplus of about 2,500,000 for the foreign markets.

MR. J. J. McHUGH, inspector of the North-West Indian farms, was recently in the city of Ottawa. He says the two Indian supply farms established in connection with Treaty Seven have been closed, the red men being now able to till the soil and supply themselves with sufficient seed. The position of inspector has also been abolished. This will effect a saving of several thousand dollars per annum.

A DISEASE has this year appeared in the potato fields of York township that gives some uneasiness to farmers. It is not the rot proper, but some kind of blight, and during the last two months it has spread very rapidly. Market gardeners believe it is the same as a blight which did great injury to the potato crop of England some years ago. Whatever it is, it should be thoroughly investigated.

PROF. BROWN, of the Model Farm, has a good opinion of the native or common cow of Ontario. For ordinary dairy purposes he says it takes a high place in value of annual produce, and is peculiarly the dairy cow for the country. It is certainly a good animal, but if more care were taken to select the best for breeding purposes, it might be very considerably improved. Only the calves of those possessing the best milking qualities should be kept.

ONE of the objections to barbed wire for fences is its cost, but there is a prospect of its becoming considerably cheaper before long. The monopoly that has hitherto controlled all the patents is being forced to defend its claims in the courts, and in several cases the decision has gone against it. With cheaper wire a much larger quantity of it will be used, especially in the older sections of the country where timber for rails is getting to be scarce and dear.

A FEW Holstein cattle have been brought into Ontario this year. Mr. Scatcherd has placed five on his farm in West Nissouri, and we hear of a Waterloo farmer who has imported an equal number. These animals, with two or three exceptions, were imported from Holland, and are likely to be heard of in the course of the next

year or two. For dairy purposes the Holstein cow has an excellent reputation, and the breed is rapidly rising in favour with farmers on the other side of the lakes.

THE *Country Gentleman* expresses our opinion of the handsome volume recently published by Wm. Saunders, of London, on "Insects Injurious to Fruits," when it says:—"The book may safely be pronounced the best work of its kind now before the public in meeting the practical wants of the farmer and fruit grower." Mr. Saunders has written his book in a style that cannot fail to commend itself to all persons interested in the subject, and no one interested in fruit growing can afford to do without it.

SECRETARY Fisher of the Illinois Board of Agriculture estimates the wheat yield of that State at 16,000,000 bushels. A member of the New York Produce Exchange, taking Secretary Fisher's own data, and applying them to counties, makes the out-put of the crop about 23,000,000 bushels. We are afraid that Mr. Fisher is not well up in the use of figures, for in his calculation of totals for the State he makes the absurd mistake of taking the average of county averages. But this is a very common blunder of statisticians. Until very recently it was made year after year in compiling the tables of our own Educational Department. The average of an average is usually a very misleading quantity.

IT is now about six years ago that Prof. Lintner, of New York State, discovered and described an insect that has since become only too well known as the clover midge. It reached the Lake Erie counties of Ontario two years later, and since then has been rapidly extending throughout the Province. We were shown the other day a head of clover taken from the waggon of a farmer in from the township of Etobicoke. It was literally alive with the midge, and of course with such a voracious enemy there is no hope for the seed. The midge is about one-eighth of an inch in length, of a bright orange colour, and very lively. The first brood usually make their appearance in the latter end of May, and the second in August. It is the latter which plays the mischief with the red clover seed.

THE hay crop in Ontario this year is a very large one, and the greater portion of it has been saved in good condition. Last year there was an abundance for home consumption, but it appears that this year the supply has been doubled. What are farmers going to do with it all? No doubt their horses, cattle and sheep will be well fed during the winter; there is no reason why feeding racks should be stinted. This itself is no slight

thing, for the more liberal the feeding the better will be the condition of live stock, and the richer the manure heap. During the last two or three years, too, there has been a considerable quantity of hay pressed and sent to the American markets; but the demand is somewhat limited, and it is possible that our surplus is more than enough to supply it. There is after all nothing that pays the farmer so well as to feed his hay crop at home.

IT is sometimes very amusing to read the opinions of wise men on new implements and inventions. The *Journal of the Canadian Institute* for October, 1852, was devoted almost exclusively to the Provincial Agricultural Show, which was held that year in the city of Toronto. In the description of agricultural implements and machinery, we find the following:—"The threshing machine by Haggart Brothers, of Brampton, is a good article; and so is that exhibited by Sanderson, of West Flamborough. We think the very long contrivance for carrying off the straw is rather a far-fetched idea, and must add very much to the work of the horses, without giving any adequate advantage." The farmers of to-day will enjoy a good laugh at the expense of the editor of the *Canadian Journal*. It would indeed be a strange sight to see one of the old fashioned rakeless threshers of thirty years ago at work in a farmer's barn of our day.

CLOVER is for many purposes one of the best crops that can be grown on the farm. But what is to be done if the seed is going to be destroyed by the midge? Some say, abandon clover for two or three years and the midge will die out. The same thing has often been said concerning the pea crop during the past twenty years. But somehow or other there are farmers enough in every county to grow peas from year to year to keep the bug from starving. So it will be with clover, and the midge will live and flourish unless, like the wheat midge and the potato bug, the breed runs out in the course of time. True, our farmers are not dependent upon home grown seed; it may be imported from abroad. But foreign grown seed is costly, and if the price is high the quantity sown will be limited. Why may not more attention be paid to the cultivation of Alsike clover? It is a better fodder than the red; it grows luxuriantly in suitable soils; it requires little attention after the first seeding, but will continue to propagate itself. Besides, it ripens the seed in the first crop, and is much less liable to injury by the midge than the red clover. It is true that Alsike clover does not flourish in a high and dry sandy or gravelly soil, or even in a thoroughly drained clayey soil; but there are many localities to which it seems admirably suited, and we think that farmers would do well to give it a more general trial.