

The Farming World

Devoted to Canadian Country Life

Vol. XXVI.

TORONTO, SEPTEMBER 16, 1907.

No. 18

Note and Comment

Owing to the large amount of space that of necessity has been given in this issue to the report of the Canadian National and other shows the regular departments are somewhat condensed. The "forestry" and "nature about the farm" pages, will appear in next issue as usual. The annual fall exhibitions are important factors in our agricultural development, and in season must receive the attention they deserve.

The advent of harvest in the West brings more encouraging reports regarding the crop yield. In many districts where only a yield of five or six bushels per acre was expected a month ago the estimate is now placed at double these figures. In the more northerly sections, not injured by frost, prospects continue bright. A week or two more of favorable weather and an average yield is assured. Damage by frost so far, if reports are to be relied upon, is rare. Some sections more exposed than others have suffered, but on the whole the injury from this cause has as yet been very light indeed.

Another year of nearly an average crop, with an advance of 10 cents per bushel over last year's prices, will cause things to hum again in the West. The temporary check in land speculation will, perhaps, do no harm. There were signs last spring that things were going just a little bit too fast for the country's permanent good. Farmers instead of paying current expenditures were buying more land. This slight set-back will, therefore, do good and not harm if it causes the people of the West to realize their financial obligations and honorably discharge them. Pay day must come sooner or later and a financial obligation is never made any the easier by deferring payment beyond a reasonable time. The hope of the Dominion is in the West and every Canadian has faith in its possibilities. But a steady growth is the safest in the long run and nothing is to be gained by pro-

gressing faster than a country can profitably assimilate.

Since last writing the "yellow peril" in British Columbia has reached an acute stage. The riots of the past few days in Vancouver may serve to bring things to a head and cause the Canadian and Japanese Governments to come to some reasonable understanding. There is no excuse, however, for the treatment meted out to the Japs by this "white mob." Such outbursts do no good and only tend to complicate matters. The same result would have been attained by other means, leaving Canada free from those "black spots" which have been characteristic of the treatment of the Oriental to the south of the line. But be this as it may there is need for urgent action on the part of the governments concerned. Though his labor is needed for the development of many enterprises now under way in the Pacific Province, it will never do to allow the Oriental, whether from China or Japan, to become so important a factor in the West as to drive the white man east of the Rockies. Moderation is needed on the part of all parties concerned. Let there be a reasonable adjustment of the difficulty by limiting the number who shall come in, in any one year to enough to meet the needs of the labor market and the demand for men to do the more menial work necessary in the development of a new country.

The Provincial Health Department is taking a more active interest in the improvement of the sanitary conditions of towns and villages. This has come none too soon. In the large cities where thousands of people are congregated in a small space perfect sanitary conditions are necessary for self-protection. In the country and on the farm nature provides these conditions in her own way. Between these two, however, the artificial and the natural, there are many towns and villages that have neither the sanitary facilities of the large city nor the conditions which nature provides in the open country, and

they are not strong enough financially to provide for permanent inspectors to look after their sanitary affairs. The remedy proposed, that of having central officials who will devote their whole time to this work seems a reasonable one. More independence could be exercised by a provincial official than a local one in dealing with the sanitary conditions of manufacturing concerns, which are often the prime cause of the unhealthful surroundings of many of our smaller towns and villages. For the past year or two we have experienced what officials controlled from one centre can do in the improvement of the sanitary conditions of cheese factories, creameries and dairies. Already a marked improvement has been effected without any real hardship to anyone interested.

The Crop Situation in Ontario

The crop situation in Ontario is somewhat of a conundrum. The President of the Farmers' Association estimates a shortage of \$80,000,000 in the value of farm products in this Province for 1907. The Secretary of the Canadian Millers' Association takes definite issue with this estimate and characterizes the statement as absurd. A medium position between these will, perhaps, be nearer the mark. Not for many years have estimates of crop yields from different counties varied so much as this year. From the eastern sections a half crop or less is reported, and this holds true of many counties in Western Ontario. In the central portion of the Province at least as good yields as last year are expected.

The August crop report, issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, at the beginning of the month, gives a pretty fair idea how matters stand. Spring wheat has turned out better than expected, with an average yield of 21.1 bushels, as compared with 23.9 bushels in 1906. Spring wheat stands 17.1 and 19 bushels; barley 27.9 and 33.4 bushels; oats 30.4 and 39.9 bushels, and peas 21 and 18