most localities, the low prices prevailing having been insufficient to bring it to the market. In many places, how ever, the extra demands of the late spring have left them with little, if any, available surplus. Oats are much scarcer, and the remaining supply will be mainly required for stock feeding. A large proportion of the wheat harvest is yet retained by those who can afford to do so in the hope of an increase in price. The great demand for cattle at good figures has resulted in the sale and shipment of an unusually large number of tat and store animals, so that there is almost a universal scarcity, especially of the former, some places being left with an insufficient supply for local slaughtering demands. Several correspondents note that farmers are beginning to realize that it is more profitable at least when feed is selling at a low price – to fatten their own stock for market instead of selling them as store cattle.

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Condition of Winter Wheat and Live Stock in the United States

In Report No. 156, United States Department of Agriculture, some interesting statistics and information are given as to the condition of winter wheat on April 1st and the losses of farm animals for the year ending March 31st, 1899. The average condition of winter wheat on April 1st was 77 9 against 86.7 on April 1st, 1898, 81.4 on April 1st, 1897, and a ten year average of 84.4. Of the thirty states producing winter wheat twenty, containing over 69 per cent. of the total winter wheat acreage, report a condition below their respective ten year averages. With an average of 93. or 103 points above the mean of the last ten years, Calubraic constitutes the only really notable exception to that unfavorable condition of winter wheat which is reported from almost every part of the country.

The estimated percentage of mortality among farm animals, swine excepted, was higher during the twelve months ending March 31st, 1899, than for many years past. The total loss from exposure and disease was over 7,500,000 head, of which swine constituted 41.9 per cent., sheep 29.2 per cent., cattle 24.7 per cent., and horses 4.2 per cent. The losses of swine and horses were practically all from disease, but in the case of cattle and sheep the loss from disease, but in the case of cattle and sheep the loss from disease, but is the estimated loss from exposure tained on January 1st last the estimated loss from exposure aggregated about \$26,000,000, and that from disease about \$49,000,000, or a total of \$75,000,000, five-sixths of which may be said to be theoretically preventable.

The aggregate loss of horses for the whole country is given as 319,250 and the general condition as 5.6 per cent. below normal healthfulness and average flesh. The losses below normal healthfulness and average flesh. of cattle from all causes during the year ending March 31st are given as 1,865,176 and have been exceeded only three times during the last fifteen years, and on all these occasions the total number of cattle on farms was greater by several millions than it is at present. The average con-dition of the cattle for the country at large is 7.5 per cent. below that of normal healthfulness and average flesh. The total loss of sheep from exposure and disease is estimated at 2,208,956, which number has been exceeded but twice in the last ten years. The average condition of sheep for the entire country is 7.6 per cent. below that of normal healthfulness and average flesh. Swine seem to have fared better than any of the others. The total loss is estimated at 3,173,862, which falls considerably below that reported for eleven years out of the last fitteen. But the average condition for the country at large is 11.5 per cent. below the standard of normal healthfulness and average flesh.

Considerable information is given as to the 1898 grain crops in other countries, that relating to Canada being gathered from bulletins issued by the various provincial governments. Some up-to-date matter regarding the 1899

wheat harvest in India seems to indicate approximately three fourths of a nominal crop for India as a whole. The reports as to the condition of winter grain in Europe are almost everywhere favorable. The reports as to spring cultivation and seeding are also generally favorable.

Potato Growing

(Continued from last issue.)

Some interesting experiences are given of successful potato growers in England and Scotland. The following experience of a successful Ayrshire grower gives a good idea of how the business is carried on in that country :

Potato District.—The land devoted to the raising of the earliest varieties of potatoes is confined to those farms bordering on or very near the sea—certainly not more than a mile from the shore may be put at a limit.

Climate.—The climate, as a rule, is mild during winter, and the spring free from injurious frosts. This undoubtedly is due to the influence of the Gulf Stream, a branch of which breaks upon the Ayrshire coast. Quality of the Soil.—The land is light loam, and in some

Quality of the Soil.—The land is light loam, and in some parts sandy, and of a fair depth. On many fields potatoes have been grown without a break for years, some we know of from twenty-five to thirty years, and the productiveness of the soil is not impaired, but to meet this constant potato-cropping heavy manuring is necessary.

Cultivation.-In the autumn and early winter the land is ploughed with an Oliver plough, or a plough of a similar pattern, which gives a deep furrow and breaks the soil well. Well-rotted manure is spread on the land before ploughing, twenty five to thirty tons per acre being the usual quantity. Sea-wrack is plentiful, and, where the shore is of easy access, largely taken advantage of. This, where used, takes the place of farmyard manure, and, being rich in potash, a surface dressing of any of the forms of potash is not necessary. The crops grown are quite as satisfactory as from farmyard manure, but rather more artificial is used 2 cwt. per acre. If the land is fairly clean very little work is necessary upon it in spring; at the most a heavy grubber or cultivator is passed over it, it is then harrowed to get rid of any weeds, and levelled up ready for drawing into drills. Very soon after planting the drills are harrowed down to allow the influences of sun and moisture to work upon the seed. When the leaf is showing well above the top of the drill a thorough grubbing is done by a two horse grubber, taking out weeds between the plants is then pro-ceeded with. This is easily done by woman by hand. Constant stirring of soil between the drills is carried on by drill harrows and grubbers all through the period of growth.

Surface Dressing. -3 to 4 cwt. of crude potash, kainit, etc., is put on the land some time before the planting season, sown on the surface as left by the plough.

Seed.—When the crop is lifted in June and July seed is selected and placed in boxes, not more than two deep. Some years ago it was customary to keep very small seconds for seed, but now fairly large seed is used, of course planted whole. Potatoes are planted out of the boxes by women light square scoops being used to fill and plant out by the hand—ten to twelve inches apart.

Planting.—When a dry, mild spell of weather occurs, planting is sometimes begun in January and often in February, but the greatest breadth is done early in March. The principal reason for the very early start is simply to get forward with the work, many farms having eighty to one hundred acres. It is of very great importance not to plant till the land is in a nice free state.

Drills.—The land is drawn off in drills by a combine: driller and artificial manure sower, which makes two drills at a time, some machines three drills—drills twenty-five inches wide. Manure ten to twelve cwt. per acre, usually ten cwt.

Artificial manure.—The standard for artificial manure for early potatoes is ten per cent. of ammonia, six per cent. sulphate of potash, sixteen per cent. soluble phosphates.

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