

almost universal. Certainly some reports give "below average," and "rather under average," but the number is very small. The yield of straw will be very light on account of the dry weather in June. With favorable weather for harvesting, the crop must certainly be a satisfactory one to the farming community.

BARLEY.

Fifty-three correspondents have given the probable yield making an average of 35 bushels. This, however, is not given as an average for the Province. Harvesting had in a few cases begun at the date of the returns and the condition of the weather since has been favorable for securing the grain in a good condition. The straw will be short, but the quality is expected to be good, if not brought too soon to maturity by steady and very warm weather. The barley harvest is not likely to crowd closely on that of wheat, and every attention can therefore be given to securing it. Prospects point to an encouraging yield in barley, and, should farmers properly secure it, the returns will no doubt be large and remunerative.

OATS.

Reports have been received from 355 Townships, giving a grand total of 168,687 acres. Late sown oats in some localities suffered from frosts and the dry weather of June setting in soon after affected the growth very materially. The straw is generally spoken of as being short and in a number of cases the crop is reported light but from over sixty reports probable averages are given varying from 35 to 75 bushels per acre. As the crop was late in several cases in being sown, it is rather early to estimate with any degree of accuracy what the average will be, and the above only represents but a small proportion of the Townships. In a number of localities oats are reported as "being good" and a "full average expected" but the bulk of the returns speak of a falling off from the average.

The oat harvest will be later than usual this season. Those fields which were sown earliest are the best, having escaped the frosts of early June, and being better able to stand the dry weather later on. No injury is reported other than early frosts. The past week or two have been favorable for filling, and the prospects point to a good fair average crop throughout the Province. Should the weather continue favorable for harvesting the returns will no doubt be very profitable and encouraging.

PEAS.

Reports say very little of either the condition or prospects of peas in the Province. They appear, however, to be pretty generally sown, but in very small areas, the total acreage being but 1,131, an increase of 46 per cent. over that of

last year. Mention is made in three cases only of probable averages, which vary from twenty-five to thirty-five bushels per acre. They appear to have escaped the June frosts, and no pests are reported as having interfered with them. The few reports to hand all speak favorably, and a good crop is looked forward to.

POTATOES.

Reports have been received from 310 correspondents on the potato crop. The total area planted with potatoes is 11,892 acres, showing an increase of 51 per cent. over 1882. The early frosts interfered somewhat with the potato as well as a certain kind of grub, but reports speak of the crop as having recovered largely from the effects of both. The want of rain in June was severely felt but the rains of July appear to have done a great deal towards remedying the want. An average crop is spoken of by a few, while the majority of reports place the results above an average, and one enthusiastic reporter speaks of the yield as "unlimited." Very much depends on the character of the season yet to follow, but with average weather the crop will, no doubt, be a very abundant one.

ROOTS

are reported generally from all parts of the Province, but appear to be more confined to gardens than to fields. The varieties, too, are not large, comprising turnips and mangolds principally. The area reported sown is 3,188 acres, being an increase of 35 per cent. over 1882. The dry weather of June appears to have had a very marked effect on roots, as they are reported a total failure, from a few places, through the drought. They do not appear to have suffered to any extent worth mentioning from flies or grubs. The majority of reports speak of them as "average," while others say "good," and "fair."

FLAX.

The total area under crop with flax is 10,816 acres, of which 10,007 acres are reported from the Mennonite reserve. The increase in acreage shows 37 per cent. over that of 1882, but further nothing is said respecting its quality, condition or probable return.

BEANS.

The area sown with beans amounts to 222 acres, and is reported from almost every part of the Province. They appear to be sown to the extent of 27 per cent. over that of 1882.

CORN

is not extensively cultivated, the total area being but 144 acres. It appears to be growing somewhat in favor, however, as it shows an increase of 25 per cent. over 1882. Very little can be gleaned from the reports respecting it. It ap-

pears to have largely escaped the early frosts of June, and the comparatively dry weather since must have been in its favor.

RYE.

The area under this cereal is 1,507 acres, of which 1,500 acres are reported from the Mennonite Reserve. There appears to be no increase in the acreage over that of 1882.

BUCKWHEAT.

But 18 acres of buckwheat are reported, scattered over several points in the Province.

BREAKING.

The average date when new ploughing began throughout the Province was the 15th day of May, and the average when it generally ended was the 15th day of July. The total area of prairie broken for the first time this year is 99,911 acres, being an increase of 36 per cent. over that of 1882. Increased acreage in breaking is reported from almost every township, and although it was still going on in several places at the date of the reports, in the very large majority of places it was stopped by the ground being too dry. No doubt the dry weather interfered to a large extent with the farmers in a great many places in this respect and although a very large amount has certainly been broken, it would have been much larger had suitable weather prevailed.

LIVE STOCK.

From several townships no replies have been received in answer to questions as to the quantity of live stock. The total numbers received are horses 14,181, cattle 20,656, sheep 3,943 and pigs, 26,105. These figures are much below the actual totals and do not include the cities and towns. A statement of the numbers reported by the assessors will be included in the next bulletin.

In the report of the live stock classes at the "Royal" show at Reading, in the Royal Society's own *Journal*, the writer took occasion to point out that, in a beef-loving country, as this is, there might very easily be an excess of Jersey bulls in use, because all steers bred from them would average 10 to 20 stones of beef per head, at 2 years old, below what steers would yield which were begotten by bulls of any of the English beef breeds. It would seem from the following (which comes from the June number of the *Practical Farmer*, published in Philadelphia, U. S. A.,) that in America—the great country for trying all experiments—the difficulty suggested in an English journal as possible has already come to pass:—

"There was never before known such a scarcity of live stock as now exists in this part of Southern Ohio. Scarcely a