

circulars as may be sent out by the officers of the society during the year.

HORATIO SEYMOUR, Pres.

GARDNER B. WEEKS, Sec'y.

SYRACUSE N. Y., Dec, 5, 1871.

REPORT OF THE U. S. COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE.

Close upon the end of 1871 we have received a copy of the Report of the U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture for 1870. Though some of the contents are of permanent value, much of the interest of other parts is considerably abated by the lapse of time, and the information has already been anticipated by other published accounts. Of this class are the statistics of the crops and the weather, which are useful now chiefly as standards of comparison.

Notwithstanding this drawback, the voluminous report, extending over nearly 800 pages, is very acceptable, and contains much valuable matter. A glance at the crop returns should be especially reassuring to the Canadian farmer who is disposed to be dissatisfied with things at home. The average yield of almost every crop that we profess to raise at all in Canada is below our own, either in comparing the same years or estimating the general average. The highest returns come from California, Oregon, Nevada, and the Territories; the lowest from the Southern States—notably, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi. The average yield of wheat is given at 8 bushels to the acre in Georgia, and 19 in California. In the Eastern States it averaged from 12 to 16.

An improvement is noted in the condition and care of stock, and the starvation and neglect to which so many animals have been wont to be exposed during the winter is becoming less prevalent, as wiser and more human views are extending among the people.

The volume contains a very interesting entomological report of the insects, injurious and beneficial, that have specially come under notice during the year. The chemical report is also of great value. Considerable prominence is given, in a very elaborate paper by Andre Poey, to the subject of agricultural meteorology. The President of the American Pomological Society, Marshall P. Wilder, contributes a brief account of the history and progress of that valuable institution. Some space

is devoted to a popular description of the minor vegetable products and their sources, such as the oils, the gums, spices, beverage plants, &c. The dairy, and its increasingly important interests, receive due attention. The subject of agricultural education, of irrigation, modes and results of underdraining, and a variety of other topics, are brought under consideration; and the compilation is altogether more than commonly rich in carefully collected information, which will be found valuable to the agriculturist of Canada as well as of the States. The work is to be procured, we believe, by application to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, which has always shown itself very liberal in disseminating its publications, and we cordially tender our thanks to the Honorable Commissioner for the valuable and interesting report, which according to former custom has been courteously sent to us.

TREE LAW OF NEW YORK.—"The Tree Law" of New York State, as recently amended, and now on the Statute Book, seems to us an eminently good one, and much needed at this time. It is as follows: "Any inhabitant liable to highway tax who shall transplant by the side of the public highway any forest shade trees or fruit trees, of suitable size, shall be allowed by the overseers of highway, in abatement of his highway tax, one dollar for every four trees set out; but no row of elms shall be placed nearer than seventy feet; no row of maples or other forest trees nearer than fifty feet, except locust, which may be set thirty feet apart; fruit trees must also be set at least fifty feet apart; and no allowance as before mentioned, shall be made unless such trees shall have been set out the year previous to the demand for said abatement of tax, and are living and well protected from animals at the time of such demand." The cities need just such a law. The large towns need it. The country needs it. All need it, and if all heed it, in its true spirit and interests, New York will be a very different State in 1900 from what it would if none regard its suggestions. Many advantages will result, as effect follows cause, from a faithful, earnest carrying out of this law. Some of these are so obvious that men who have studied the influence of forestry and tree planting on human welfare at all, will cry out with us for more trees, and will wish, as we do,