

many years for the fall wheat crops of Ontario. Winter rye is in fair condition; of the other crops little is said. In the great barley growing districts there is a decline of the area of barley sown owing to a fear of the McKinley bill interfering with the price. Some fields formerly devoted to barley have been sown to spring wheat, oats and peas. Fruit trees and grape vines came through the winter well and will likely have a large yield. Supplementary reports sent in after the late frost during the first week in May show that little harm was done. It may be added that frost has been experienced since this bulletin was issued.

The letter from "Manitoba Merchant" in our last issue, dealing with the agricultural implement trade, has drawn forth a reply which is published in this issue. THE COMMERCIAL had intended giving an editorial reference to the letter of "Manitoba Merchant" this week, but as an implement man, who is doubtless better posted in this line, has taken the letter in hand, we will not attempt anything in the nature of a reply thereto. So far as credit business and collections are concerned, however, we would desire to point out that the implement firms are doing exactly what THE COMMERCIAL has urged country merchants to do, namely: to sell at a liberal discount for cash, in order to encourage cash business, and charge interest on credit business. THE COMMERCIAL cannot therefore condemn the implement men for doing what it has advised country merchants to do. A great many farmers certainly overload themselves with implements, far beyond their requirements for the quantity of land they have under cultivation. Overloading, however, is also quite a marked feature of the mercantile trade generally. Regarding protection, the views of this journal are well known to its readers. If implement firms succeed better in their collections than other business men, it is creditable to their system of doing business.



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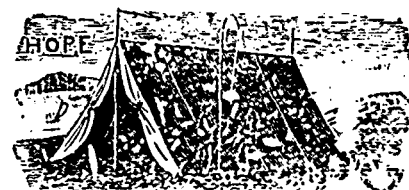
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