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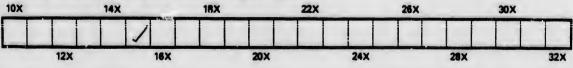
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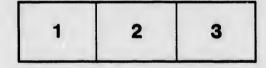
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#### BULLETIN 26.

# Report on Crops and Live Stock IN MANITOBA. WINNIPEG, AUGUST 1, 1890.

ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND IMMIGRATION.

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### BULLETIN 26.

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND IMMIGRATION.

WINNIPEG, August 1, 1890.

CROPS AND LIVE STOCK IN MANITOBA.

The information contained in this bulletin is based on the reports of correspondents of the Department, made under date of August 1.

The information given in the tables is shown by districts which are made up of Electoral Divisions, as follows: The North Western District comprises the Electoral Divisions of Minnedosa, Shoal Lake, Birtle and Russell; the Central—Dennis, Lansdowne, North Brandon and Brandon City; the South Western—Souris, Turtle Mountain, South Brandon and Killarney; the South Central— Cypress, Mountain. Manitou, Lorne, Dufferin and Morden; the North Central—Portage la Prairie, Lakesida, Norfolk, Westbourne and Beautiful Plains; the *Eastern*—Woodlands, Rockwood, St. Andrew's, Kildonan, Springfield, St. Boniface, Cartier, Morris, Carillon, La Verandrye, Emerson and Rosenfeldt.

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In giving the average yields of different grains it is to be understood that they are but approximate, as it would be almost impossible for correspondents, on the first of August, to state with any certain degree of exactness what the yields would be when the grains came to be threshed out. The experience in the past has been, however, that under ordinary circumstances the yields as returned by correspondents have not differed very widely from those of the threshers. In several places very large yields are looked for and the expectations of some enthusiastic correspondents may cause the average, over the Province, to be beyond what will be realized when the crops are harvested. While the average yields over the Province cannot be expected to reach that of 1887, there are many correspondents who have reported the prospects as equal to and in some cases exceeding those of that year.

The subjoined statement, for the convenience of reference, gives comparisons, with 1889, of a number of items dealt with in this report.  $\mathbf{5}$ 

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grains proxicorreh any would The , that urned widely s very ions of se the at will While not be many ects as of that

ence of a numThe first item of rainfall has a most important bearing on the differences shown in yield in the hay and grain crops and which go as far as need be to show the vast differences that exist between wet and dry years. While the yields this season in the hay crops are much beyond that of last year, still there is no doubt but the crop of prairie hay has been largely handicapped by the excessive drought of last season. A noticeable feature in the South Central district, where the rainfall was the least, is that the yields are all correspondingly light.

	1889.	1890.
Rainfall recorded in June	.66 inches	2.94 inches
" " July	1.70 "	3.31 ''
Average yield per acre of Prairie Hay	1.10 tons	1.42 tons
" " Grasses, etc.	.95 ''	1.86 ''
Approximate yield of Wheat	14.8 bush.	24.6 bush.
"" Oats		44.3 "
" " Barley	18.5 ''	34.3 ''
Acres of new Prairie broken	135,649	108,772
Average cash price of improved land.	<b>\$9.50</b>	\$9.43
" " unimproved land		\$5.43
Percentage of land occupied	52.2	57.2
""" fit for cultivation.	70.7	71.4
Number of Farmers in the Province.	13,320	13,877
Average acreage put under crop by		
each	59.2	73.0

WEATHER.-Throughout the months of June and July the weather may be said to be all that could be desired for the growing crops. The extreme drought of last season made large quantities of rain a necessity and it can fairly be said, that a very large quantity of rain did fall during the two months. While the rainfall was sufficient in many parts, still there are places where a greater supply was required, but taken. generally, there is but little cause for complaint. In the southern part of the Province the rainfall of June was very limited, and before the heavier rains of July came several of the crops had suffered considerably and had received a set back that it was difficult to recover from. From scattered points over the Province the remark was made that the rain did not come early enough in the season to give the necessary impetus to the crops. Very heavy rains on the sixth and seventh of July, extending over the entire length and breadth of the Province, inspired fresh vigor in the growing crops and since that time the growth has been reported marvellously rapid and vigorous. The average rainfall in June, as reported to the Department from forty points, was 2.94 inches. This was over four times as much as fell in June in last year. In July the average fall was 3.31 inches. This was fully double of the quantity of the corresponding month of 1889.

The following is a record of the total rainfall, in inches, at some of the stations in the Province for the months of June and July: Foxton 5.99, Selkirk 7.32, Winnipeg 8.07, Oak Bank 8.14, Gretna 5.67, Mordon 4.34, Manitou 6.12, Pilot Mound 4.68, Cartwright 5.37, Craigilea 5.45, Roseberry 2.80, Clearwater 4.81, Norquay 9.66, Treherne 6.67, Aweme 7.27, Hartney 7.18, Elm Valley 5.59, Kola 6.68, Birtle 8.20, Russell 4.57, Shoal Lake 4.63, Oak River 5.92, Arden 6.93, Eden 6.67, Beaver Creek 4.47, and Hillview 8.83.

The average for the two months over the Province was 3.10 inches.

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WHEAT,—Throughout the Province the wheat crop is a very promising one and many correspondents have made somewhat extravagant statements regarding the anticipated yield. These are perhaps warranted in many points, particularly in the Northwestern and North Central groups, but there are other points, notably in the South Central groups, where the prospects for a very abundant yield are not so promising. Over the Province a yield of 24.6 bushels to the acre is expected. This yield is just a bushel less than was anticipated at the corresponding date in 1887, when the crop was the largest on record. In many places indications point to a yield equalling that of 1887, and some enthusiasts expect even a larger yield.

The lack of rainfall in the South Central groups is shown very distinctly in the yield when compared with the other districts. This same locality suffered more perhaps from drought in 1889 than any other, and was again this season denied the average fall. The crop generally will not be cured as early as last year by several days, cutting not being expected to be general until about August 15.

The smallest yields looked for in individual divisions are those of Mountain and Manitou, where a trifle over 18 bushels per acre are expected. In Shoal Lake, South Brandon and Beautiful Plains the yield is set down at from 20 to 28 and 30 bushels per acre.

OATS.—Reports concerning this crop show that a very large yield is looked for. On all sides it is reported a heavy crop and no damage, apart from a want of rain, has happened thus far to it. The growth has been strong and very rapid, the weather having been most favorable. Reports from all parts of the Province are very similar and very small differences are noticed in the approximate yields reported. Weeds appear to be very prevalent but no particular damage has apparently resulted to the crop. On account of so much grain having

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been supplied last saring for seed a large quantity of mustard, thistles, etc., has been imported and a good deal of indignation is expressed in consequence.

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The yield reported as likely to be had over the Province is 44.3 bushels per acre. In 1887 the yield as reported by correspondents was 43.1 and in 1889 21.5 bushels. In the North Central group a yield of 47.1 bushels to the acre is expected.

BARLEY.—Like wheat and oats, barley is reported a good healthy crop and is likely to yield handsomely. The growing time has been very favorable and although the spring season was late, still quite a large quantity was harvested during the last few days of July, and the great bulk of the crop would be ready for harvesting during the first week of August. Weeds the result of impure seed, in many places troubled the crop.

Dremprove	Approximate Average Vield Per Acre.					
DISTRICTS.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Prairie Hay.	Grasses, etc.	
<b>X</b>	Bus.	Bus.	Bus.	Tons.	Tons.	
Northwestern	26.9	• 45.1	. 34.5	1.77	2.56	
Central	24.5	44.5	35.8	1.28	2.01	
Southwestern	23.9	44.6	34.7	1.48	2.04	
South Central	21.4	42.2	32.9	1.09	1.66	
North Central	26.2	47.1	34.5	1.53	1.47	
Eastern	24.6	42.3	33.2	1.38	1.41	

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An approximate average yield is given of 34.3 bushels over the Province. This corresponds very closely with the yield of 1887—33.9—but is nearly double that reported in 1889. Some very large yields are looked for in individual townships, but the averages in the different groups very, very triflingly.

PEAS.—Reports of this crop are few even when compared with the scattered localities in which they are grown. From points where reports do come, however, the prospects are that a very satisfactory crop will be gathered. The yields given run from 10 bushels per acre as high as 30, and an average of the returns received give about 23 bushels per acre, as what is likely to be threshed.

FLAX.—This crop has little or nothing said of it as a general thing. An approximate average yield is reported from a few points where grown, which show that a crop averaging about fourteen bushels per acre will be had. From the principal flax growing centre—Rosenfeldt—no return has been received. A report to be made later in the season will deal more fully with this crop.

POTATOES AND ROOTS.—Correspondents speak in the highest terms of this crop and very large yields are anticipated. The growth has been very rank and rapid and all the indications are of a very satisfactory character. On all hands very encouraging remarks are made of the condition and prospects of the crop. In many cases the new crop was being used early in July and the quality was pronounced good. Nothing to damage the crop has been reported. Correspondents were not asked to give any idea of the approximate yield, but they were generally reported as looking remarkably well and promising large yields.

Roots are also reported a very satisfactory crop, there having been a sufficiency of rain and no set back from the ordinary ravages by flies. CULTIVATED GRASSES.—Pretty generally over the Province considerable attention is being paid to the cultivation of grasses to supplement the supply of native hay as well as to improve the quality of the feeding material. The principal varieties are millet and Hungarian grass although other varieties are sown, but not nearly so general nor in such quantities. From every quarter the reports as to the yield are very good and some very large crops will be cut. The grasses are spoken of as being unusually heavy and long in the stem. A great many persons are experimenting with several varieties to ascertain the ones best adapted for feed as well as to the nature of the soil. It is gratifying to find that so many are taking to sowing corn to be used as feed for stock.

LIVE STOCK.—The large quantities of rain that have fallen have kept the pastures in prime condition and the result is that on all sides stock, with the exception perhaps of working horses, are in prime condition. They were reported thin when turned out in the early spring, but a highly pleasing change is noticed in the reports now to hand. Working horses, as a rule, are not in as good condition as could be wished the cause being attributed to the scarcity of hay and oats. Young cattle and others being prepared for market were in many cases reported as being now ready, a date considerably in advance of ordinary years. Throughout the Province stock were remarkably free from disease.

DAIRVING.—Apart from the localities where cheese factories and creameries are in operation very little is being done by farmers in the way of making butter and cheese beyond what is required for family consumption. As a general thing farmers are going into stock raising more and more from year to year, but the prices paid for butter, and the conveniences at hand for the manufacture of it by the average farmer are not such as to encourage manufacture beyond consumption. The general remark made by correspondents is that the prices paid for butrovince grasses nprove arieties cles are From d some n of as t many certain of the sowing

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ter are so low that people only make for their own use. So much so is this the case that calves, instead of being weaned, are in many cases, allowed to follow their mothers throughout the season. Where cheese factories and creameries are in operation they are appreciated, and are spoken of as doing very well, but unfortunately the number in operation is not equal to that which the Province demands.

NEW BREAKING.—The area of land broken for the first time this season shows a falling off from that of last season of 26,877 acres. The season has been a favorable one for breaking and there is no doubt but that there has been as much done in this respect as last year although the figures do not show it. Correspondents have not given this information very fully, as a general thing, and in one or two places no basis has been given on which to make an estimate of the actual work done. The points from which information is wanting are Rosenfeldt and Portage la Prairie.

The Southwestern district shows much the largest area, it being 32,148 acres, the Central being next with 25,605 acres. The area in the Eastern group is the smallest, being 8,346 acres.

GENERAL FARMING. -In the table given below the number of farmers in the Province, together with the average quantity of land put under cultivation, is shown. As compared with last season both the number of farmers and the quantities of land put under crop by each are largely increased. The number of farmers is increased by 557 and the average area cultivated by about 14 acres. The total number of farmers is shown to be 13,877, but as some of the districts have not been fully reported this may fall considerably short of the actual number. Taking the number of farmers and the average area put under crop by each the total shown corresponds very closely with the total area shown to be under cultivation on the first of June last.

DISTRICTS.	No. of Farmers.	Average under crop	New land broken.
Northwestern	1859	Acres.	Acres.
Central		* 45.4	8,385
,	1821	89.1	16,870
Southwestern	2639	83.3	32,148
South Central	2500	83.2	25,605
North Central	1882	90.8	17,418
Eastern	3176	46.2	8,346
	13877	73.0	108,772

FARMING LANDS.—Attached hereto is a table showing the the average cash price per acre of improved and unimproved lands, together with the respective percentages taken up and fit for cultivation. The average cash price of improved land is set down at \$9.43 per acre and unimproved at \$5.43. These correspond very closely with the prices given last season. The average prices of improved land vary from \$6.20 per acre in the Northwestern group to \$11.91 in the North Central, and in unimproved from \$3.80 to \$6.53.

The percentage of the land occupied, or taken up by settlers, is 57.2 per cent of the whole, or 5 per cent. more than last year. The proportion of the land fit for cultivation is 71.4 per cent. which is almost identical with that reported a year ago.

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	FARMING LANDS.				
DISTRICTS.	Values of improved lands.	Values of unimproved lands.	Percentage taken up by Settlers.	Percentage fit for Culti- vation,	
Northwestern	<b>\$</b> 6 20	\$3 80	49.5	65.8	
Central	9 00	5 10	70.4	77.6	
Southwestern	9 67	6 21	65.2	79.7	
South Central	10 63	6 43	58.8	73.8	
North Central	11 91	6 53	49.1	63.4	
Eastern	9 16	4 53	50.0	68.5	

## THE LATE HAILSTORM.

The hailstorm of August 2, which passed over a large district in the southern part of the Province, was by far the most disastrous that ever visited the Province, both in the extent of territory over which it spread and the amount of damage caused by it. Ever since its occurrence many of the institutions interested have been gathering information as to the damage, but the information has been largely of a private nature. In order to arrive at as correct a report as possible of the actual damage done,

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for general information, a circular was issued from the Department to its correspondents throughout the entire district, asking for the fullest particulars available of the respective areas under wheat, oats and barley, that were fully or partially destroyed, together with what the partially injured might be expected to yield.

Replies have been received from almost all, and, while they show that some townships suffered no loss, or practically none, others suffered very severe losses. In township 3, range 16 west, and in townships 2 and 3, range 21, the crops are reported totally destroyed.

The reports show that 31,851 acres of wheat, 8,403 acres of oats, and 1,180 acres of barley, were totally destroyed.

Over and above this 2,636 acres of wheat, 1,103 acres of oats and 460 acres of barley were "partially destroyed" but no estimate can be given of the respective quantities in bushels, as the percentages of injury are not given.

In the majority of cases the correspondents gave what they considered the average yields would have been, had the crops not been injured, and in this way an idea can be had of the actual loss in from ghout culars , oats oyed, nt be

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ve ve nis in bushels. In cases where this information was not given, the loss is based on the average yields in the the localities as given in this bulletin. On this basis the actual quantity of wheat lost has been 473.140 bushels; oats, 240.482; and barley, 20.908 bushels. These figures must be supplemented by the quantities contained in the partially destroyed acres but which cannot be arrived at.

These figures fall considerably below what was at first thought, from the reports received, the actual loss would be, and should the average yields fall below those used in estimating the total loss will be still further lessened. PRINTED BY THE STOVEL COMPANY, WINNIPEG.

