

## FIELD CROPS.

The Statistics Monthly for August published by the authority of the Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion gives valuable information relative to the crops up to the 31st of July. Storms of rain and hail visited the locality of Winnipeg and some other parts of the West about the 5th of August, and did considerable damage, but the extent covered is not nearly as great as was first reported. The Monthly reports that field crops are not uniformly good, but they denote on the whole a very satisfactory condition for all parts of the Dominion. Timely rains at the end of June and frequent showers throughout July proved to be very helpful, and there are only a few localities where all crops are under an average.

Fall wheat has done well in the parts of Ontario where it is chiefly grown; it was cut early and gathered in fine condition. Reports of threshings already made show averages ranging from 20 to 35 bushels per acre, and the estimated average for the province is 23½ bushels for an area of 581,100 acres in crop. Alberta is the only other province growing a considerable quantity of fall wheat, and there fully one-third of the area sown was killed by the hard winter weather. The 81,000 acres of crop harvested has an estimated yield of 23.40 bushels per acre.

It was too early at the end of July to procure estimates of spring grains for the Maritime provinces; but for Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, with an area of 7,022,200 acres in spring wheat, the estimated yield is 22.60 bushels per acre, which makes an aggregate of 158,762,000 bushels. Spring and fall wheat in the five provinces show a total of 174,314,000 bushels, grown on 7,684,300 acres. Last year the area in wheat in the same provinces was 6,541,900 acres and the estimated yield at the same date was 130,263,000 bushels, which was reduced by unfavorable weather in August. For Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta the estimated yield this year is 156,564,000 bushels, and last year at the same date it was 110,521,000 bushels.

A goodly number of our citizens favor the idea of sinking an artesian well in some high piece of ground—say in the rear of the Public School yard. This will cost money, but we believe the Council would be justified in making the test. It is to be hoped we shall not wait for a serious fire to make us in earnest about a better supply of water.

The people of Canada will approach the problems of the future as they apply to the Empire as a whole with a greater degree of confidence than ever. Any scheme of Imperial defence in which Canada participates will be accepted with the knowledge that Canada is well able to assume her proper share of the burdens of empire, knowing at the same time that the principles of perfect autonomy will never be varied by so much as a hair although loyalty to the motherland will grow as the years pass.

President Taft has made it clear that he will not tolerate anything as silly as "hazing." Recently he punished some of the army officials for "ordealing" those who had later joined the ranks. Students at universities and colleges are often treated roughly when entering these institutions of learning simply because it seems to be a custom handed down from posterity. If the heads of universities and colleges would follow President Taft's example, the sense-

less habit of hazing would cease, and the "freshmen" would not be treated with so much indignity.

The farmers have particular cause to be grateful to the Government. Agriculture is the great industry of Canada, and is chiefly responsible for the enviable position the Dominion occupies in the eyes of the world to-day. This position has been attained largely by the production of articles on the farm, such as meats, live stock products, grain and fruit, all of which are in constant demand by the markets of the Old World. One of the essentials demanded by these markets is quality, and it is an encouraging circumstance that the Minister of Agriculture has taken steps to influence not only increased production on farms, ranches and orchards, but better quality of all products as a result of which policy, the demand for Canadian farm products is on the increase.

Now that the purchasing committee of the Public Library are preparing for their yearly supply of books, we would urge them to be cautious in making their selections. Many of the popular novels published in recent years are indecent and unclean, and, sad to say, they are among the best sellers. It is proper to make suggestions about the purchase of books, but the aim of the committee should be not to place on the shelves what the people want, but the books that people should read. If more people would cultivate a taste for history and biography, and avoid those books which treat so lightly of unfaithfulness and the marriage vow, it would be much better for the morals of the rising generation.

A few days ago a petition was drawn up, the object being, if sufficiently signed, to present it to the Village Council and ask that body to take steps to allay the dust nuisance on Yonge Street by the application of road oil. Those who signed the petition agreed to meet the expense by means of a frontage tax. Those who circulated the petition were surprised to find that a number of rate-payers, including some people in business—refused to sign the petition. We imagine, therefore, that the Council will not press the matter further along the above lines. Everybody seems prepared to admit that clouds of dust blowing into stores and homes is a nuisance, but everybody is not prepared to assist in meeting the expense of removing the nuisance. Those who hoped to make it unanimous were mistaken.

Rev. Dr. Gilray, pastor of College St. Presbyterian Church, in the course of his sermon Sunday morning, did well in expressing his approval of the stand taken by the Globe in condemning race track gambling. He was quite within his rights in referring to the fact that "car-loads of men and women come over from Rochester and other American cities and gamble here, and lead thousands of young men and young women into deadly sin and wickedness." But is all the blame to be cast upon the shoulders of our Southern neighbors? Are Canadians altogether blameless? We imagine that Dr. Gilray might conscientiously have administered a gentle rebuke to at least one in two citizens of his own city.

A couple of weeks ago two Jews were up before a magistrate in Weston, charged with pointing a loaded revolver at some of the citizens. It transpired in evidence that some of the citizens had been teasing the Jews as they were quietly driving their loads of rags, bottles, &c., through the village, and that the latter in a fit of temper drew their revolvers. By doing so they rendered themselves liable to punishment. They should be punished for carrying fire arms contrary to law. At the same time those who were the first cause of the trouble should not be considered blameless. A favorite joke (?) in other villages than Weston seems to be to shout "whoo" in chorus at the Jews' horses, and to tease the strangers who are annoying no person. The annoying of strangers or foreigners is certainly not a sign of good breeding.

## Strayed

From lot 35, 1st con. Vaughan, on August 22nd, seven Ewes, four with black faces and three with white. Any information leading to their recovery will be suitably rewarded.  
BERWICK WELDRICK,  
Langstaff P. O., Ont.

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