

Farmers' Column.

The Fall Wheat.

WHAT THE ONTARIO BUREAU OF INDUSTRY HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT.

In the ordinary course of our Ontario seasons vegetation is at this date well advanced. Not unfrequently the forest trees are out in leaf, and the fruit trees are in blossom. But the present is one of the exceptional years. Hard frosts, raw winds and chilling rains have prevailed and few signs of active vegetation are apparent in forest, field or garden. Consequently it is difficult to deal with the real condition of our staple cereal, the fall wheat. It is too early to form an accurate opinion. Neither is there much of an encouraging character to report on the progress of spring work on the farm.

Fully 80 per cent. of the total area of fall wheat in Ontario lies west of the meridian of Toronto, and unfortunately the most discouraging accounts of the crop are received from that part of the Province. There is indeed a singular contrast in the reports for the eastern and western sections; for, while those for the one agree in saying that the present has not been worse, those for the other are not less unanimous in saying that it was never better.

This marked difference seems to be due largely to conditions of weather. In the East the winter was unbroken from first to last. Consequently the snow lay on the ground as it fell; and, while it formed a warm covering for the wheat plant in the coldest weather, the air was not excluded. But in the west there were alternations of warm waves and cold waves, and occasional storms of rain as well as of snow. The result was that where the snow fell heavy, as in the northern counties, it packed and cemented; and where the fall was light, as in the southern counties, the ground was sometimes bare and sometimes covered with ice.

The great rain storm that was central over the Ohio valley in the latter part of January extended into Ontario (either as rain or sleet), northward as far as Georgian Bay and eastward as far as Toronto. In the Lake Erie counties, and in portions of Middlesex, Oxford and Brant, nearly the whole of the snow was carried off at this time; and a cold spell following, the fields were left coated over with sleet and ice. In those counties the general verdict of correspondents is, that the wheat had been "frozen to death"; whereas in the northern counties the verdict is "smoothed to death." A correspondent in Huron county observes that six successive craters formed on the snow during the winter, two of which were strong enough to bear up a horse.

A noticeable peculiarity in the effects of winter throughout the western section of the Province is, that in the southern counties the wheat has been injured the most on gravel and sandy lands; but up to the northern counties this condition is reversed, the wheat having had adequate protection on even the highest lands. It is remarkable, however, that where high ground in the south was sheltered from winds the wheat is well preserved, and the importance of planting the borders of farms with trees is urged by many correspondents.

But the appearance of the crop this spring is no doubt due in some degree to the condition of the ground at seedtime. In the east it was favorable, and the young plant made a good start in the fall. In the west the heavy rains of July and August and the season of drought that followed interfered with the proper cultivation of fallow, and especially of pea and stubble lands, so that the soil was in very poor condition. The seed was sown late, and neither tilled nor tilled well. This circumstance will account in a measure for the bad reports now received; and it is reasonable to hope that, where the plant has survived the snow and ice and exposure of winter, the outlook will brighten with warm and glowing weather. It is unfortunately true, however, that a large extent of wheat-land is already doomed, and has been ploughed up or re-sown with spring grains.

The only cheerful reports from the western part of the Province refer to the northern half of Essex, the lake shore townships of Huron and Bruce, the county of Wellington, the northern parts of York and Peel, and the southern half of Simcoe; and even in these districts the crop has been seriously damaged by the frosts and winds of April. Elsewhere the area sown will probably be reduced by 20 per cent., a portion of which will be put under spring wheat, and the rest under barley, oats and peas. The eastern section of the Province is confidently expected to produce a full crop.

Hints on Tree Planting.

The following suggestions by a correspondent of the Montreal Witness may be useful at the present time when tree planting is so general.

In digging up trees leave as many of the small fibrous roots (the rootlets) unbroken as possible.

Mr. Thompson, of Hemmingford, says one should make a chalk mark on the side of the tree which faces the north, and, in planting, see that the chalk mark still faces the north.

Keep the roots moist till the tree is planted.

With apple trees, when possible, "heel" in the fall and plant out in spring. Avoid fall planting.

Dig your holes some time before planting, so that the sun may warm them.

Have plenty of fine soil near each hole.

Cut off branched roots and rootlets just before planting.

If the roots are injured or bare, cut off a proportionate amount of the branches of the tree to be planted.

Put no fresh manure near the roots.

Do not bury the tree below the "crowns" of the roots.

Hold it firm while the fine earth is being packed around the roots with the hands of your helper. Do not shake the tree or trample down the earth.

Take the trees round to their places in a tub filled with a puddle, of thin clay and water, or earth and water.

If that is impossible, dip the root of each tree into such a mixture just before planting.

Cover the roots with a wet cloth while the trees are waiting for planting.

In a clay soil put a flat stone or piece of board (under or over) on the surface under the trunk of each tree, at the bottom of the hole. Plant apple trees near or over

a subsoil drain.

Make your hole wide and deep and deep enough.

Put a pulley or two of water round each tree when planted.

Stitch with chip manure and saw-dust, straw, leaves, flat stones, "most anything."

Put the field where your trees are growing down to potatoes, which have large stalks, and use the stalks every year for manure.

Tie the trees to stakes if the wind shakes them too much. Put the stakes to the east of the tree to ward off the morning sun. Tie your soft cord or untwisted rope to the stake tight, and then in a loop round the tree.

Fast paper over any excoriations or raw spots on the bark of a tree, or cover them with grafting wax—to make an artificial bark pro tem.—fill a new bark (epidermis) grows under it.

Paint round the bottom of the trunk of apple trees to keep off mice and destructive insects.

Remember that one acre of planted maples will contain 400 trees ten feet apart. Each tree yields an average of 100 worth of sugar (or sugar candy) per annum net. This makes \$60 an acre profit, and the pasture under the trees is in the hot seasons better than a bare "pate," and the grove works off winds, attracts and retains moisture, and yields wood when otherwise exhausted.

Take care of your trees when they are young, and in your old age they will take care of you.

Put your hen house in the middle of your orchard. The hens will manure the ground and eat the rotten apples and grab off the grub.

SHOOT THROUGH THE HEART.—A sad affair occurred at Julia Bay, near Gore Bay, Manitowlin Island, on Saturday morning, May 6, in which a young girl, Katie Turner, some twelve years of age, lost her life. It appears that two lads of that village, Thomas Porter and James Smith, of about fourteen or fifteen, were out at a farm belonging to the Smiths, where Katie Turner was staying for a few days, and seeing some wild geese near the Bay, Porter, having a gun with him, the two lads went into the house for Smith's gun, which they proceeded to load. After putting on the cap, young Smith laid the hammer down to suddenly and the gun went off. The poor girl, who happened to be standing in front of it, received the charge in her breast, and died immediately.

Never Allow It.

Never allow the bowels to remain in a torpid condition, as it leads to serious results, and all health is sure to follow. Burdock Blood Bitters is the best blood purifier that is known.

The Duke of Argyll has just hired a large house in the neighborhood of Fontainebleau, where he intends to live for a part of the summer.

The editor of the Grand River Sentinel says: "We are usually sparing in our eulogiums on patent medicine, but our attention is attracted by an advertisement for the preparation of Messrs. T. Milburn & Co., and styled 'Burdock Blood Bitters,' as a blood purifying tonic to be used in the treatment of all diseases established among the people."

France has openly proclaimed at Hong Kong her intention to exercise a protectorate over Tonquin and will proceed to extricate it if necessary.

Extinct Dinosaurs.

All over the land are being dug into to-day over Dr. King's new discovery for Consumption. Their outlook for recovery by the timely use of this great life-saving remedy, causes them to go nearly wild in its praise. It is guaranteed to positively cure severe Coughs, Croup, Asthma, Hay Fever, Bronchitis, Hoarseness, Loss of Voice, or any affection of the Throat and Lungs. Trial Bibles free at McFarlane & Co.'s Drug Store. Large size \$1.

The British steamship "Mineral Castle" has been wrecked off Hong Kong.

RENT & COMPENSATION TO THE SUFFERING.

"Harrow's Home-hold Remedies" has an equal effect on rheumatism, both internal and external. It cures Pain in the Side, Back and Neck, Stiffness of Joints, Toothache, Headache and any kind of Pain or Sore. It will cure surely and quickly the Blood and Head, as the setting power is wonderful. "Harrow's" is the best remedy for Rheumatism, Gout, Gravel, and all the ailments of the Blood, and is the best remedy for the world for Rheumatism, Gout, Gravel, and all the ailments of the Blood, and is for sale by all Druggists at 25 cents a bottle.

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