

UNITED STATES CROPS.

The corn crop in the United States declined from 83.1 on July 1st to 73.3 on August 1st. The department of agriculture properly speaks of this as "a disaster." Spring wheat declined 11 points during July. Wisconsin, Iowa and Nebraska are going out of wheat culture very largely. The condition of the oat crop has declined to 70.1, which is the lowest condition ever reported by the department in the twenty-five years during which it has been gathering statistics. Rye shows a decline of eleven points and is in a lower condition than ever before reported except on one occasion. The general average for buckwheat is very low. A decline in July of five points in the condition of barley is reported. The condition of the potato crop is the lowest ever reported. Fruit shows a very marked decline, except grapes which are "relatively" in good condition. Cotton shows a slight decline; but on the whole the condition is fairly satisfactory. On the whole the crop report is very discouraging to the farmers of the United States, but perhaps more so to the consumers of farm produce, who will have to pay pretty steep prices. The trade returns of the United States for the next twelve months will be interesting reading. In striking contrast to this is the following from Manitoba:

The government crop bulletin published estimates the average wheat yield at 24.6 bushels per acre. The best district this year is the northwestern portion of the province where thirty bushels are looked for. The estimate of the grain destroyed by the hail storm of August 2nd is 1,000,000 bushels; oats, 240,482 and barley 20,908 bushels. The average yield of barley over the province is 34.3 bushels; and of oats 44 bushels. This is in both cases double last year's figures.

THE U. S. CENSUS.

Some Ontario papers are indulging in very silly talk respecting the United States census. They profess to believe that the enumeration has not been fair and that the population claimed, 64,000,000, is an exaggeration. What utter folly this is. Nothing so belittles this country in the eyes of foreigners as these exhibitions of jealousy and spleen.

The count was made by what is called the Hollerith electric tabulating system. It would be impossible to explain the details here; but the arrangement is one that secures absolute certainty, if the original returns are correct. The whole population was counted twice, making a total of 128,000,000 people, and the final result was obtained from fifteen million counters. The women proved better counters than the men. On the final day the average count per clerk was 40,675; the best record was made by a woman who counted over 80,000 persons from schedules containing lists of 16,071 families. She is entitled to be called the champion American counter.

When the details are published it will probably be found that the cities have increased in population much faster than the rural districts. It will be interesting to examine into the returns from the Southern states to see what progress has been made in the development of what is called "the New South." The census will have many lessons of great interest to Canadians.

A SUPREME FOLLY.

The U. S. secretary of war has started on a tour along the international boundary. His mission is to see where it is advisable to erect fortifications for use in the event of a war with England. This leads the New York Press, a prominent republican paper, to say that the proper place for a fort to protect the lake coast of the United States is the mouth of the St. Lawrence, and it goes on to say something about the North Pole being the nearest point at which European navies can be allowed to approach the republic. This sort of talk would simply be ridiculous, if it was not that it leads the people to think that something serious is intended, and sets them clamoring for it. The proposal to erect forts along the frontier is a supreme folly; nevertheless, if it is acted upon, Canada will have to duplicate the line of defenses. Forts are useless unless garrisoned; so that the next thing will be a standing army, and thus will be reproduced on this continent the evils under which Europe suffers. This is the outcome of the absurd system which has erected a double line of custom houses from ocean to ocean. The United States wants what Canada produces; Canada wants what the United States produces. Nevertheless year by year the tariff wall is made higher, and now it is to be supplemented by a line of cannon. This is a pretty comment upon the practical good sense of the last decade of the nineteenth century.

THE U. S. CONGRESS.

There is a good deal of confusion in the United States congress just now. Two measures of great importance are before that body, one the McKinley tariff bill and the other the federal elections bill, commonly called "The Force" bill, the object of which is to permit the federal authorities to use military force at presidential elections when it is thought a free vote cannot otherwise be obtained. The aim is to break the solid South by giving the negro population an opportunity of voting, which it is alleged they do not have now. It seems clear that both these bills cannot be got through, and the republican party is divided as to which should take precedence. The president is said to favor "the force" bill, but the chances are that the tariff bill will hold the field. The difficulty is due to the fact that the administration is not directly represented on the floors of congress, as it is in a British parliament, and hence there is no one to take charge of legislation, so that even when a bill has been introduced and months have been spent in its discussion there is nothing to prevent a member "barking" it, if he can get support enough. This is the weakness of the system, because the administration may be so hampered as to be unable to secure legislation, which from its better opportunities of judging, it knows to be of great value. We express no opinion as to the respective merits of the measures now under consideration.

The Herald has been charged with attacking Dr. Harrison of the university. This is not true. It only criticized in respectful terms his course in regard to Prof. Stockley's leave of absence. To have expressed disapproval of Dr. Harrison's course, as the head of our highest educational institution, is surely a legitimate thing for a newspaper to do, and to express criticism more mildly and respectfully than The Herald did, would be difficult, if it were not impossible. We may add that it is possible for one to disagree with another without abusing him, although, doubtless, the Sun is quite sincere in thinking otherwise. Not to do so would be to be false to its instincts, which are always true.

They are making tomato catsup quite extensively in the United States for the English market. What is the reason why which he is going is not very well known and the trip will probably be extremely interesting.

ANOTHER NIGHTMARE.

Friday's Gleamer contains an account of a political meeting at Gordon, in Victoria county, presumably written by Gregory, who is in that county stamping for Porter, which we are authorized to say is an utterly false and distorted version of what occurred. Geo. F. Gregory, who has been all the week in Victoria, undertook to brow beat and heckle John E. Stewart by cross-examining him at a meeting in Gordon, and because Mr. Stewart declined to answer Gregory's insolent questions, the latter pretended to assume that Mr. Stewart could not deny what he alleged, and then proceeded to charge that \$3,000 had been provided for Mr. Baird by the railway company to buy up three members of the legislature. When Gregory said this, Mr. Stewart instantly arose and said the whole statement was an absolute lie and false in every particular.

Mr. Gregory is fast fitting himself for the inauspicious position in St. John. His mind is becoming unlimbered or he could not act so like a madman. We are told by several reliable persons that on the way to Andover on Monday last, he loudly proclaimed that he was going to hold county to expose scandal which would blow up Baird and the government party. When he gets there he seizes upon John E. Stewart, a quiet, unassuming gentleman, at his (Gregory's) first meeting and undertakes to bulldoze him into confessing some iniquity which Gregory's distorted and spiteful mind had concocted up and when Stewart declines to be insulted by him, pretends that he has unearthed a scandal.

We notice by the Gleamer's report of the meeting that Gregory says Baird told Stewart that he (Baird) was getting \$3,000 from the railway company to buy three members, Messrs. Murray, LaBillous and Theriault. Of course there is not a syllable of truth in this atrocious charge. Mr. Baird has, we suspect, as good a character as Gregory and respects himself as much; and we will leave Messrs. Murray, LaBillous and Theriault to take care of themselves. It is really too bad that respectable people, such as the gentleman above mentioned, should be slandered by a man who has so little respect for himself and so little character to lose as their traducer.

GENERAL MIDDLETON has written a long letter to the papers in defence of his course in regard to Bremner's fur and the recommendations for promotions and honors made after the Riel rebellion. The ground taken by him is briefly as follows: That the fur was taken in pursuance of a well understood military rule; that he had reason to suppose that the government were willing that this rule should be followed; first, because of certain instructions given him in regard to property seized; secondly, because the minister of militia requested him to bring home mementoes of the rebellion for "Sir John, Sir Hector and myself"; to quote Sir Adolph's despatch; and thirdly, because Hayton Reed, an official appointed to act as his legal adviser, had advised him to do so. He also avers that none of the fur came into his possession, and he denies that he profited one dollar by the transaction. In regard to the honors and promotions, he says he made recommendations, but they were not acted upon, because, as Sir John Macdonald said, the C. M. G.'s would be too few to go around, and, moreover, the colonels of the Quebec regiments were not included. He makes out a pretty good case; but the pity of it is that he has waited so long to do so. He excuses himself by saying that as a soldier man it was his policy to be silent until relieved of his duty.

REVENUES from all parts of the province are to the effect that the improvement in the horse stock, due to the government importation, exceeds the expectation of everybody. The best bred and best trained and coaches are giving especial satisfaction. They are large and promise to be fit for the plough and the carriage. This excellent work has only been fairly begun; but already the result has repaid the outlay more than twice over.

The potato crop in the United States is very unpromising. In Canada it is very good. It looks as though if the McKinley bill passes, the first persons to feel the effect of the increased duty on potatoes will not be the Canadian farmer, but the yankee consumer. The restrictionist crowd on both sides of the boundary will find out some day that they cannot always tell whom they are going to hit when they put on an extra duty.

That amiable sheet, the Gleamer, disputes the accuracy of the Sun's characterization of the attorney general, whose "lapses" it says are "conducted with a brazen boldness of a highway robber." How is that for a cool day in the last of August?

An interesting occasion. This may be worth reminding our older readers that thirty years ago on the 4th of this month the Prince of Wales visited Fredericton. What a day that was! The streets were crowded as they never were before or since, and when the Queen, with H. R. H. on board, came alongside of Dowling's wharf, then a new and fine looking structure, so tremendous was the cheering that although every church bell in the city was clanged, the music of ancient pieces of ordinance, which recently adorned the officers' square, were thundering a royal salute, no one heard anything but the loud voices of the joyous thousands. It was an interesting piece of history, lined with people, the river crowded to the rafters, and the procession, from end to end, was packed with people. Mayor Deek, now auditor general, who had charge of the whole arrangements in this city, received the royal visitor and escorted him to the carriage in waiting. Then the procession formed, and the prince, guarded by the York light dragoons, went up Queen street to government house. Judge Wilnot was a striking figure in the procession, as in the uniform of a cavalry colonel he rode beside the prince's carriage. The torch-light procession in the evening will be long remembered by those who saw it. The next day was Sunday, and the prince attended service at the Cathedral. He was met at the door by the bishop and to his pastor, Rev. J. B. Melley read the prayers; Rev. C. S. Medley the lessons and litany; Rev. Dr. Coster the epistle, and Rev. H. Pollard the Gospel. The bishop's text was Romans 14, 12. "So then, every one of us shall give an account of himself to God." It was a splendid effort, and while referring to the memorable occasion did so incidentally. On Monday the government, the city corporation and the clergy presented addresses to each of which the prince replied. A levee was held at government house, and the never-to-be-forgotten park was opened, the children singing "God Save the Queen." A grand ball was given in the evening. The prince's partners were: Hon. Mrs. Manservant, Miss Florence Parker, Miss F. Fisher, Miss "Cizzie" Haen, Miss Melloy, Mrs. W. J. Ritchie, Mrs. Bayard and Miss Robinson. The prince left for St. John by the Forest Queen on Tuesday.

Warden Scott paid a short visit to Fredericton on Wednesday on his way to St. Stephen.

Hon. L. J. Tweedie was in the city on Thursday.

TERRIBLE ACCIDENT.

Eighteen Persons Scalded to Death. Boston, August 19.—The accident on the Old Colony railroad yesterday is the talk on the city. When the engine 3093, the track, plunged into an embankment twelve feet high and was buried upon one side, the tender, baggage car, smoker and Pullman passed by the engine and were stretched along for 100 feet beside the track. The foremost passenger coach, No. 236, led the rail and its foremost trucks swerved to the left and plunged diagonally through the car floor. The car fell on its left side on the engine. The lower forward portion was torn to pieces, and of the passengers in the rear car, some fifty in number, many were thrown into the rear car from which eleven dead bodies were taken out. The

Escaping Steam and Smoke from the engine instantly filled the car so that those within could see nothing. The scene of the accident is near the scene of the frightful Wollaston disaster of a few years ago. The train was in Vineyard express in Boston, and consisted of five or six passenger and passenger cars, usually fully loaded. Mr. Fennell, a householder, of Boston, was a passenger in the fourth car of the train. It was in this car, he says, that most of the deaths occurred. The train was running through Quincy at the rate of thirty miles an hour. When near President's bridge there was a rumbling sound followed by an awful crash. The three forward cars lurched and left the track. The fourth kept the rails and swept right along.

UPON THE BROKEN LOCOMOTIVE, which lay in its way, forcing itself through the embankment, it seemed as if the car drove up twenty feet in the air, when the car descended on the engine it whirled suddenly over, the occupants being thrown violently about. The boiling steam came in a few moments, and the heat was so intense that the people pined inside. A hale was torn into the bottom of the car through which many of the forty or fifty people were taken out. Mr. Fennell, describing his experience, says, "I would have given \$1000 for a drink of any kind, from whiskey to water. I thought I should suffocate. The death dealing steam entered the car in dense clouds from the locomotive. It filled every crevice and nook and almost suffocated those whom it did not burn to death. It

CAUSED ALL THE DEATHS, in my opinion. Serious injuries would have been the worst to report but for those deadly fumes. Men and women were gasping about as they tried to shriek and shout, and as they became weaker and weaker they were flung their limbs. I could see them push their hands or feet through the broken window trying in vain to get a breath of fresh air. It seemed as though eight or ten died right there before me. There were forty or fifty passengers in the car and all seemed wounded more or less, more helpless they became. These men—I saw for help and I did what I could. I saw the flesh burn from men and women as the steam enveloped them and I heard them groaning in their death struggles as the scalding fumes became hotter and denser. The sight I saw and the sounds I heard will never go from my memory. Finally I reached the hole in the bottom of the car and in some way crawled out. All about was

WRECK AND RUIN. The passengers from the other cars had then hardly gathered themselves together and were not so much as to be seen. But over on a fence bordering the railway track were ten or twenty men, and it seemed to me one hundred, watching the ruin and powerless from fright and astonishment. I screamed, shouted and swore at them. But they would not move, and the more I cursed the more helpless they became. These men—I hate to call them that—saw me tear from my perilous position, saw me rise at boards of the car bottom with all my might, saw me pull helpless women from the interior of the steaming cars, saw me crawl out of the hole in the bottom of the car, and I was unable to extricate myself to aid others, and they refused to aid me. I do not know whether they were fools or cowards, but they received a sound and thorough cursing from me. I got out of the car as best as I could and did what I was able to do in assisting others.

The accident is thought to have been caused by a jack being left on the road by some workman.

The latest report from Quincy gives the following as a complete list of the dead: Mrs. Mary E. Parker of Westford, Mass.; Master Parker, son of Mrs. Mary F. Parker; Lyman Merrill of Runney, N. H.; Mrs. Mattie France of Chelsea, Mass.; Miss Mary E. Tilton of Leominster, Mass.; Mrs. Abbot of Abbotsville, Ky.; Miss Eva Ballard of Asheville, N. C.; Mrs. Frank O'Connell of Philadelphia; Miss Bessie Allen daughter of Mrs. Oscar Fenley of Louisville, Ky.; aged 70; Mrs. Sue Fenley, daughter-in-law of Mrs. Oscar Fenley, aged 30; Alice Fenley, infant; Catherine Fenley, aged 5; P. Johnson of Montpelier, Vt.; Mrs. F. Johnson and A. E. Johnson, son of above, aged 8; James Ryan of South Boston, fireman of the train, and Mrs. Nancy C. Wells of Hartford, Conn.

In Skibberene, a measure of potatoes which last year sold at four pence now sells at ten pence. The crop is certain to become exhausted by October. The canine fever has appeared in the Black Islands on the West coast of Ireland.

The government of India reports that the medical authorities are unable to agree as to whether leprosy is contagious. The local governments also differ on the question. The proposed legislation will therefore be suspended until further details have been collected through the national leprosy fund in conjunction with a medical commission which will leave England in October.

Holabird, of Los Angeles, has returned from an exploring expedition in the canon of Colorado. He penetrated districts never before explored and found in an almost inaccessible canon 100 miles north of Williams, and near the grand canon of the Colorado, the Yavi Supai tribe of Indians, who had never seen any white man except John D. Lee, the Mormon, who was shot for the Mountain Meadow massacre.

The newspapers are all quoting with surprise a paragraph from a German journal, pointing out the fact that a person may walk through seven German states in seven hours. Before Bismarck remodelled Germany the road from Frankfurt to Hamburg (about ten miles) took the traveler by five stages—Frankfurt, Darmstadt, Nassau, Cassel, and Hamburg. I remember in these days finding myself seated for several days at a table d'hôte by my side my head that he was the head waiter of the hotel where you are?" "I do not live in a hotel," he replied; "I live in the palace, for I am the sovereign of the country."

CANADIAN NEWS.

The Week's Events in Brief—The Cream of our Exchanges.

Six or more British farm delegates have been invited to Canada with a view of promoting immigration. There will be three representatives of leading agricultural societies.

The greatest customs seizure that has been made in Manitoba for some time occurred the other day when Inspector Young seized the electric plant of the company at Portage la Prairie for undervaluation.

The body of Elzear Dantell, one of the chief clerks of the patents branch, agricultural department, Ottawa, was found in the Rideau Canal. A small sum of money and marks of violence were found on him. He had been missing since Friday.

It is announced by the Tribune that the Northern Pacific & Manitoba railway has been leased for a hundred years to the Northern Pacific. The lease takes the shape of a traffic arrangement. For the present the management will remain as under the present arrangement.

Elijah J. Zimmerman, a barber, employed at the Devonport hotel, Windsor, committed suicide by taking laudanum. He was a single man and has relatives in Springfield, Ohio. On the body was found a sheet of paper on which was the following:—"I am tired of life and to enjoy myself seems impossible."

Bergerville, a pretty village, situated three miles from Quebec, was the scene of diphtheria, owing to the culpable negligence of the naturally responsible parties in such cases. Stagnant water in wells and lack of disinfection are the causes of the infection, just as it was the case in the adjoining village of Sillery last year.

Thursday the guards and keepers were given their dinner in the Kingston penitentiary for the first time since the order was issued many years ago. In future the officers will not be allowed to leave the institution during dinner hour. This precaution is taken in order to be prepared for a revolt should such a place where the convicts are in the dining hall.

A man named Vineberg was recently arrested for bigamy and sentenced to term in the Central prison, Toronto. After his confinement five number one, who resides in Chicago, interviewed the authorities at Ottawa and obtained his release. He was liberated Thursday, and wife number two having in the meantime forgiven the gay Vineberg, the three left in the evening for Chicago.

The cat was administered to three convicts at the central prison, Toronto, on Wednesday, being the second of three specimens of ten lashes each awarded them last October. The felines are Patrick Sheehy, William Leader and William Turbull of Geuph. This punishment is for criminally assaulting a Salvation Army lassie. In addition to three floggings, each prisoner serves a term of a few days less than two years in the central prison.

The Canadian appeals to the patriotism of the leaders of the Ottawa and Quebec governments in order to provide work for the population of the counties below Quebec whose crops are a total failure. The Canadian ascertains that thousands of families are preparing to leave the country, and unless the projected Matane railway is pushed ahead in order to provide these families with daily bread an emigration will take place which will be ruinous to the dominion.

The weed known as "yellow top," the specimens of which were brought in ship's ballast some thirty years ago, from neglect in destroying it, has now spread everywhere on the Miramichi. Complaints are made that the commissioner for Newcastle does not have it cut down as soon as it flowers to prevent its seed ripening. The Commissioner thinks it is but little use employing a man to cut it down from the sides of the road when private property holders pay no attention to it. Something should be done, it is a greater pest than the thistle, also imported into the country, says the Advocate.

A serious shooting affray occurred at Georgetown, Ont., in which two persons were shot. John Slater, who lives with his wife and three children spent the morning drinking, and in going home picked a fight with his wife. After some hot words he fired three shots with a revolver. The first struck the lower part of her breast and glanced off on the right side. The second struck her in the stomach and lodged near her ribs. The third struck her breast and glanced off to the right arm and broke it. A scuffle ensued, when the revolver, getting caught in their clothes, went off, and a bullet when through Slater's arm. A workman at the paper mill telephoned for the police, who soon afterwards arrested Slater and lodged him in jail. His condition is good, considering the injury he received, but his wife's recovery is doubtful.

The hay crop which has just been harvested has been secured in excellent order, but on account of the dry season it is generally considered to be below the average. It is now beyond doubt the oats will be very inferior in quantity, and quality. The warm dry weather is whitening these too rapidly. The potatoes will also be a small crop unless rain comes soon, of which there is no appearance yet. So little wheat is sown that it is of little account, several farmers sowed considerable quantities of buckwheat, which in all cases is looking well, and to all appearance will yield large returns. It is evident that this new buckwheat will be a great acquisition to New Brunswick, and other provinces.

On the whole, however, the prospects of the season are bright. The farmers will require to dispose of a good many of their stock.—This is the Advocate's summary of the Bay Chaleur crop.

General Sir Fred. Middleton left Ottawa for England. Quite a number of his friends went to the depot to see him off. The general was bidding his friends good bye when J. B. Tackberry, auctioneer, approached Sir Fred. and demanded the sum of \$35 due him for the work of valuing the general's household effects, some weeks ago. Sir Fred. was quite surprised when first confronted and informed Mr. Tackberry that he had left instructions with his nephew to pay the bill. The auctioneer, however, was bound not to be put off so easily and again demanded his money. By this time, the crowd began to gather and Sir Fred. was in a quandary just how to evade more notoriety. The ready cash was not forthcoming as expected by the auctioneer, but upon the fact becoming known to Mr. Gundry, local manager of the Bank of Montreal that gentleman produced a cheque to which Sir Fred. affixed his signature for the amount of the money applied for. Here another break in the proceedings occurred, as Mr. Tackberry, thinking that all was not right refused to accept the cheque. Matters were settled, however, by Mr. Gundry marking the cheque good. With this Mr. Tackberry withdrew and the general left Montreal as intended. Mr. Tackberry says he was engaged by Sir Fred. a month ago to value all his household effects, previous to their sale by auction. Mr. Tackberry with his bookkeeper and another man the work thinking all the time that "the sale would take place, but it never did, hence the reason for demanding payment for lots time."

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