

OTTAWA VALLEY CROP BEST IN DOMINION

Experimental Farm Expert Says Crop is Not Failure.

While on an average, the crops—fruits, vegetables and grain, etc.—all over Canada, are not as flourishing; as the crops last year, they are not by any means a failure, stated W. T. Macoun, horticulturist at the Experimental Farm who returned to Ottawa this morning after spending the past month traveling through the west inspecting the fruit, vegetable and flower crops.

The field crops in the west range from poor to good, Mr. Macoun stated. Those which might be termed "good," however, are not nearly as good as last year's good crops. Mr. Macoun went right through to the coast and also travelled up and down through the prairie provinces. His tour of inspection had particularly to do with the fruit and vegetable crops. From a general observation of the field crops as he travelled through the country, Mr. Macoun stated that he thinks the best crops in the Dominion are those in the immediate vicinity of Ottawa. The Eastern crops are far ahead of the Western crops. The crops in the west which he called poor, are those in the southern parts of the country. This is due to very dry weather there.

Hay Not So Good.

In British Columbia there is a good crop of fruits and vegetables and in the middle west the crops of small fruits are fairly good. The hay, all through the country, through which he travelled, with the exception of in the vicinity of Kapuskasing Internment camp where an experimental farm is located, is light. Near Kapuskasing the hay is much heavier than in other parts of the country.

Mr. Macoun stated that an outstanding feature of farming in the west this year was the unusually large amount of potatoes that are being grown. The fields of potatoes in the west are much larger than in previous years, but in the west the potatoes do not appear to be as flourishing as in the east.

Another thing very noticeable, Mr. Macoun stated, was the vacant lot gardening. Not only in the east has vacant lot gardening become popular, but all through the west as well. In all of the western cities which he visited there are just about as many vacant lots under cultivation as there are in Ottawa, and the vegetables in these vacant lot gardens are flourishing.

Well Up With Work.

Mr. Macoun thinks that notwithstanding the shortage of labor in the west, all the crops will be harvested. So far very few farmers are behind time in saving their hay, and with their general farm work.

On his tour Mr. Macoun inspected 13 experimental farm stations throughout Canada and found conditions on these farms quite satisfactory.