

ILLINOIS STILL NEEDS RAIN.

Conflicting Official Reports About the Condition of Corn.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Aug. 7.—Never during the past ten years has the corn crop of Illinois cut such a figure on all speculative boards as is manifest over the condition of the present crop, and as many diversified opinions are had from as many different places regarding the actual condition of the crop of 1894.

The United States Government Weather Bureau issues a weekly crop bulletin, and the State Board of Agriculture issues weekly crop bulletins and also one monthly. For several weeks past these two authorities have been at loggerheads. The most reliable information, perhaps, is gathered from gentlemen who travel from this city through every portion of the State during each month. The Government Bureau has correspondents in each county, while the Board of Agriculture has, on an average, four reports a month from each of the 102 counties of the State.

The Government report issued to-day states that the entire State is suffering from the want of rain; that while much precipitation was had during the past week it was so badly scattered as to be of little assistance to the corn crop. In the northern division of the State, where the rain fell, corn is reported as greatly benefited. Many counties of this division still suffer from the want of rain. The most discouraging reports are received from Stephenson, Winnebago, McHenry, DeKalb, Kane, La Salle, Kendall, Dupage, and Cook. Other counties suffering from the drought, where the outlook for good corn is unfavorable, say that even now with heavy rain the crop will be saved.

Generally the crop seems a little improved over last week. All the bottom lands are doing nicely and will produce a good crop of corn. Chinchbugs are doing some damage in certain sections; also high winds. Oats and wheat are being thrashed, with very favorable weather. Pastures are reported as generally benefited during the past week by copious rains. Where rain has not fallen the yield will be far short. Farmers are still feeding stock and badly need water. Apples and pears are still dropping, and the fruit crop generally will be short. Gardens are improving, while potatoes will yield less than expected even a

month ago. Some wheat is being sown for Winter. Much more rain is badly needed. So much for the Government prediction.

The State Board of Agriculture report will not be ready for issue until some time next week. However, corn is reported in better condition than is given out by the Government report, and, while much rain is badly needed, the crop generally will be better than many suppose. Bottom lands are well prepared for an unusually heavy yield. While but few counties will produce a short crop, the average will be on a par with any preceding year. Could good rains have been generally received three months ago, corn for 1894 would have exceeded the fondest expectations. As it is, the crop will be a moderately good one, with chances for improvement with the first heavy rain. The crop is now in the right condition to be either a good one or to lose a great percentage of yield over last year.

Reports from wheat sections show the crop of 1894 to be larger than any during the past ten years and of an exceedingly fine quality, and it is being put away in elegant condition.

Oats, however, will perhaps be short several points from last year, and shorter than anticipated. Pastures are in poor condition.

From traveling men the reports are that the corn crop is good, with chances of a large crop and nice yield. Wheat is reported in an elegant state of preservation, and it will probably yield a large crop. Other grains and cereals are reported in fairly good condition, with perhaps the exception of oats, which are not doing very well. While the drought has, perhaps, been greater this year than in many former ones, the stand of all crops has been better, and if rains could have been had at the regular times and in fair quantities the crops generally would have been greater than for a decade past.

The true situation is hard to arrive at from the diversified reports received at both official sources. General results will rest with this month.