

HANTS COUNTY.

[From W. H. Blanchard, Esq.]

Windsor, Aug. 31, 1869.

In reply to your circular of the 20th inst., I may say that the hay crop in the county of Hants is considerably better than an average. Better as regards quality as well as quantity. The dry weather has enabled our farmers to get the crop without the slightest damage, and I have no doubt that the advantage of getting hay up in good condition will be amply shown in feeding out the present crop. The dry haying, however, has made the *after-feed* almost a total failure. The cereals are looking very well, and I have no doubt give a fair result—many fields are already white unto harvest. We have very little good winter wheat in this county, and I have not heard how far what has been sown has been affected by the weevil. The root crops generally, are looking well. I have seen some appearance of the blight in the tops of the potatoes, but I have not heard any complaints of the tubers being affected yet. The cool weather of the present month has no doubt operated favourably on the potato crop. The turnip fields that I have seen are looking very well. Strange to say, but few persons raise either mangold wurzell or carrots to any extent. A. C. Thomas, Esq., of Windsor, has shown on his model farm that these crops can be raised with great profit by a fair outlay in under-draining, &c.

LUNENBURG COUNTY.

[From B. Zwicker, Esq.]

Mahone Bay, Aug. 28, 1869.

The season has been one of the finest and best that we have ever had. The weather has not been near so warm as some seasons, we have only had two or three warm days; generally cool morning and evening, with seasonable rains every four or five days, and then very moderate, which brought on the crops so bountifully. Some seasons, the fore part was very good, until the first part of July last year for instance, all June was fine growing weather until the first of July, from that to the first of August there was very little rain, small light showers, but not enough to wet the soil and consequently the crops were checked, and the hay and grain did not yield as they would if they had had more rain, therefore the hay last year was not of a good quality. The seasonable rains this year, kept the grass green all through haying and therefore the last made hay was as good as the first, and we never had a larger crop or better quality than this year of upland hay but the marshes failed this year. The grain of every kind, I think, never was better. The yield of barley never was better, the stalk is very tall, very large heads and full kernel.

There is very little wheat sown, one of my neighbors has some very good, very stout and the kernel very full. Winter rye is also very good. The potato crop, I think will be more than double what it was last year—the rot is not general; the early's have all been dug, and a very good yield; the late ones are somewhat green yet and the cool dry weather will, I think, be the means of saving them in a great measure. The apple crop, I think will be very good, and also plums; we must therefore pronounce this a most bountiful season. We have great reason to be thankful to the Giver of all Good for it, and thank him for casting our lot in one of the healthiest and best countries in the world, and ruled by one of the noblest Sovereigns that ever swayed a sceptre.

SHELBURNE COUNTY.

[From R. H. Crowell, Esq.]

Barrington, Aug. 31, 1869.

Yours of the 22nd inst. at hand, and I beg to reply as far as is known.

Hay is good; fully an average crop, and housed in good order. Potatoes, to all appearances will be a fair yield, quality good, some indications of rot by some. The Early Rose, imported by the Society, are of a superior quality and an abundant yield, no indications of rot. Garden vegetables are looking well, and to all appearances will be a fair crop. Peas very good. Oats are fair, and in some cases barley looks well. The wet weather in the spring kept back and injured the crops, and accounts for many things being late in maturing.

CAPE BRETON COUNTY.

[From H. Davenport, Esq.]

Ashby, Sydney, Aug. 30, 1869.

Your note of the 19th, only reached me on last evening, it affords me very great pleasure to reply to you.

The season set in both cold and wet, farm work was in consequence delayed fully a fortnight later than usual, and the mines offering no inducement for the farmers' sons to leave home, an unusual crop has been put in.

Hay has been gathered in very fine weather and turned out very heavy, although in some poor districts deficient, it has been on the whole the heaviest for some years—there is also some surplus from last year on hand.

Potatoes have suffered some little from long drouth, and at one time there was an apprehension of blight, which is very slight and not spreading, recent rains and unusually cold weather for the season, is in their favor, and as this crop is 100 days in the ground, I look upon it as getting out of danger, allowing 120 days as the time to become fully ripe, the quantity planted is large and so far promises well.

Oats, from drouth, will be somewhat deficient in straw, the breadth sown larger than usual and since the rain give promise of an abundant yield—there is also a surplus from last year.

Wheat is sparingly sown, but some small patches look very well, the same may be said of barley. Buckwheat has almost gone out of cultivation in this neighborhood.

Turnips are almost universally bad, the fly and drouth united have done for turnips.

Carrots and parsnips are not so good as usual, whilst cabbages through the country look shy.

Of fruits there has been a very large supply of wild—the grubs and insects have destroyed gooseberries and currants. Apples and plums are very bad, partly from insects and in part from weather.

At present we are suffering from unusual cold, the thermometer ranging at night $1\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$ above freezing to the same below, and the general character of the season has been cold.

THE HORNED CATERPILLAR.

Rosette, Aug. 2, 1869.

DEAR SIR,—I enclose two insects, known here as the "horned Caterpillars," which are doing great injury to many orchards, not only eating the leaves but the fruit as well. Notwithstanding we had an abundant show of blossoms, it is thought that the crop will be below an average. The grain, hay, and potatoes are looking well and promising an abundant yield.

A waiting your reply, I remain, &c.

W. G.

[The Caterpillars enclosed were effectually squeezed in the Post Office, before they reached us, but enough remained to enable them to be identified as the larva of the American Vaporier Moth. These caterpillars have appeared in vast numbers this season in various parts of the province, and have proved very destructive. They are swarming on the alder bushes and trees of both hard and soft wood in the forests, but they are chiefly addicted to the apple tree, and other *Rosaceæ*, and soon strip off the leaves. However, nothing in the way of shrub or tree seems to come amiss. Even the English laburnum and larch are greedily eaten, and the haccatack or juniper has suffered severely. We print this month, a full account of the history of this noxious insect, as it has been traced by Dr. Fitch in New York State.

CROPS IN ENGLAND.

August, 1869.

The crop reports are more than usually uncertain, indefinite, and unsatisfactory. It has been much more difficult than usual to speak confidently of our harvest pros-