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## August.

The earlier part of this month will be occupied with the finishing of harvesting operations. At the present date probably the greater part of the fall wheat in the country has been secured. It is gratifying to find that as additional intelligence is received of the progress of harvesting that the anticipations of the bountiful character of the yield are nearly every where confirmed. The weather has been exceedingly favorable for the work of the season, so that we have reason to believe not only that the crops of all kinds will be good, but that they will be got into the barns and stacks in very fine condition. We are glad also to find by late arrivals from the West that the character of the season there is much improved, and that although an average crop can now scarcely be anticipated, it will probably be much better than could have been heretofore hoped for.

Besides the harvesting operations the most important business of this month will consist in the preparation of land for fall wheat, preparatory to sowing, at the end of the month, or the beginning of September. The result of the past seasons has done much to dispel the fearful apprehensions that our farmers were led to entertain from the reports from other quarters, of the pestilential ravages of the wheat fly. Either the cultivation of our farms in this portion of Western Canada, is cleaner and better than in the districts where the fly has heretofore so completely destroyed the crop, and where in

many cases it was the practice to sow wheat year after year on the same land, so that the insect is not propagated here so rapidly; or the favorable character of our soil and climate enables us by sowing early to get ahead of the midge, better than they could do in those sections; or, again, the past two seasons have been peculiarly favorable for outmaneuvering the midge, and we have not yet seen the worst of it, but will learn to our cost hereafter what it is capable of doing. We do not wish by any means to lead any of our readers into the mistake of treating the insect with contempt, and sowing wheat as recklessly as heretofore; but we confess to entertaining the opinion, that with due attention to the requisite conditions of soil, to a proper system of cultivation and rotation of crops, and to other necessary precautions and requirements, fair crops of fall wheat may still be obtained, notwithstanding the prevalence of the midge. The chief conditions requisite are, that the land should be fertile and in good heart, that it should be of a dry and porous character naturally, or artificially as well drained as circumstances will permit, and that the wheat should be sown early, and be of an early ripening variety. We admit that in the Newcastle district, where there are some of the best Canadian farmers, and where the midge appeared several years earlier than in the counties adjoining and west of Toronto, they were obliged to give up sowing fall wheat almost altogether, and resort to the kinds of spring wheat which will bear sowing late. But we are not aware that the farmers in that district were