

the dairy department was badly represented.

In the implement department, the show, as to variety and apparent excellence of construction was worthy of all praise. The Yankees are *par-excellence* an ingenious people. If any machine can be invented to work in the place of human hands, they are the chaps to find it out. Ploughs were here in every shape, and of all sizes, with iron beams and wooden beams, with wheels and without them. Among the rest was a small side-hill plough with a changeable mould board, which enables the ploughman to return in the furrow, and thus avoid going round, as must often happen without turning over the soil. Many of the boasted "improvements" were doubtless more fanciful than real. I did not see one that bore any resemblance to a Scotch plough, or to our Canadian improvement on the Scotch pattern. They were all got up in a cheap style, with short upright handles and cast iron shares. I am satisfied that for stiff clay soils our Canadian plough will "beat them all hollow." Cultivators, seed planters, harrows, field-rollers, straw-cutters, thrashing machines, corn shellers, cast iron scrapers, cheese-presses, fanning-mills, patent churns, horse-rakes, corn mills, with hand implements and tools innumerable, were here in every conceivable variety, and upon every known as well as unknown principle. A machine which took my fancy as the most *useful* of them all, and which I hope some one will without delay introduce into Canada, was one for mowing grass. The maker resides at Buffalo, and if it works well, as he assured me it did, it is certainly a most valuable invention. The principle is simple and the machinery uncomplicated and compact as could be desired. I may give the reader an idea of its appearance from the letter— The horizontal line represents the tongue to which the horses are attached. At the corner, in the end of the tongue, is placed a cast iron wheel about two feet in diameter. On the inside of the perpendicular arm, which is made of a single piece of wood rounded on the bottom, the knife plays. Small teeth shaped like the letter < project in front of the knife in the same manner as in the reaping machines. As the horses move forward the wheel turns, giving a rapid motion to the knife, which cuts the grass close to the ground, allowing it to fall back evenly, on the spot where it grew. The machine could be made, I think, for about \$50, and upon anything like smooth ground would save an immense of labour, besides leaving the hay in a way to cure better and more rapidly than when spread with the fork. I hope to renew my acquaintance with this implement next summer, when I trust its merits will be tested on Canadian meadows.

I find I have not space to say much of the Horticultural department. Floral Hall was fitted up with great taste. The apples, peaches, and other fruits exhibited, were quite so-so. In truth the whole thing, with the exceptions I have mentioned, was much below public expectation. Mr. Allen, of the *Agriculturist*, accounted to me for it, from the fact that Saratoga was out of the way. The country in the immediate vicinity is poor, and farmers at a distance would not for the sake of a small premium risk their animals on the rail-road, much of which is in a dangerous state. Mr. Allen, of Black Rock, at whose place I called on my return, told me they could make a far better display at Buffalo, where the fair is to be held next year. Mr. A. intends to bring over some of his fine stock for exhibition at the Hamilton Fair.

In conclusion, I do not hesitate to say that we can "take the shine off" of our boasting neighbours and their widely trumpeted show, with which they expected to astonish Lord Elgin, about as easy as can be imagined. There is a slight difference however, between what we can do and what we will do. Let every farmer who has any thing superior, remember the 6th and 7th of October. Our neighbours will be there to see, and we hope

they will not be allowed to go home with the same contemptible opinion that many have, of Canada and its productions.

THE CROPS OF 1847.

We hasten to put our readers in possession of such information as we have received respecting this year's crop in Canada; at the same time taking a glance at other countries.

Our correspondence from the Wellington District would lead to the conclusion that, on the whole, the present crop is below an average. Our information from this District, however, is only local, and unless a few Townships may be regarded as a sample of the whole, no general conclusion can be safely drawn from it. Our information from the neighbourhood of Owen's Sound is to the effect that the fall wheat is a little above an average; hay, barley and oats, about an average. The practice of sowing fall wheat in that neighbourhood is quite new; and, viewed in the light of an experiment, may be regarded as eminently successful. The potato disease, which was not prevalent there last year, is said by some to have appeared, but as the fact is denied by others who have made searching personal observations, the most natural conclusion is that if it has appeared at all, its effects are *at present* exceedingly limited. The potato disease has appeared in many parts of the Home District, and with the exception of particular localities, in nearly every part of the Western Province. As our accounts from the different Districts are not complete, and as it is yet impossible to tell how the yield of the crops will correspond with their appearance, it would be premature to express a decided opinion upon the probable average of this year's crop. We believe however, from personal observation and from conversation with intelligent farmers, that the general average of Canada West will be considerably below that of the last two or three years.

Our information from Lower Canada is gathered partly from private correspondence and partly from the Monthly-Report of Mr. Evans and the newspaper accounts. Barley is believed to be below an average. Wheat, although it sustained some damage from the fly, is regarded as the best crop in Lower Canada. Mr. Evans says that experience has sufficiently established that wheat sown there previous to the 20th of May is almost sure to be injured by the fly. Oats and peas are below an average crop. Corn is a good crop. Turnips and mangel wurtzel are said to look well, notwithstanding the drought which prevailed during the month of August. Hay is said to be much below the crop of last year. Apples are believed to be a short crop, though other fruits are abundant. Mr. Evans draws this conclusion:—"I have no doubt whatever that the general produce of Lower Canada this year is far below an average."

From the District of Quebec we learn that the early turnip crop was mostly destroyed by the fly; but the later sown turnips promise well.

A Quebec cotemporary has "had information from intelligent persons whose veracity cannot be doubted, that several fields of various products in Jacques Cartier and Val-Cartier have been almost destroyed by the *Grasshopper*, some of which are from three to four inches long, similar to the locusts of old times, which occasionally destroyed the crops in Egypt and the Holy Land and caused a famine and afterwards a pestilence." The potato disease is unusually virulent in the District of Quebec; and there exists something like a general fear that it will spread over the whole of Lower Canada. This apprehension, however, is shorn of its most afflicting features from the fact that only a very small extent of land had been planted with potatoes in Lower Canada this season. The ravages of the fly upon the wheat crop which at one time was so extensive as to lead to the almost entire abandonment of the cultivation of that grain in Lower Canada, continue to have this effect upon certain localities. For instance we learn that in St. Antoine de Tilly and St. Croix 24 to 30 miles above Quebec

on the South side of the St. Lawrence, opposite Pointe aux Trembles, no wheat has been cultivated for several years from this cause. But such is the wretched system of farming in that part of the country that it is doubted whether the soil has not reached that point of exhaustion when the cultivation of wheat becomes impossible.

From Nova Scotia we learn that the crops in the interior promise well. Wheat and Rye, however, have been attacked by the weevil; and considerable damage has been done by late heavy rains. Potatoes, corn, oats and buckwheat, are said to be abundant. In New Brunswick the ravages of the weevil have been very extensive.

The accounts from Europe would lead to the conclusion that this year's crop will be something more than an average.

The breadth of land sown with wheat in the United States is believed to have been greater in this than in any previous year.— But the ravages of the fly, drought and "winter killing," have probably reduced the crops below an average. The wheat crop in many localities, especially in the great wheat growing districts of the West, is regarded as a failure.

It is a fact that, although the last three or four months from England have brought accounts of successive falls in the price of grain and flour, this downward tendency of the English market has ceased to have a corresponding effect upon the American Market. There are two or three very plain reasons for this. Speculation in England has thoroughly exhausted itself, and the failures in the corn trade are said to amount to nearly two millions sterling. This circumstance, combined with the fact that the suspension of the navigation laws brought the ships of all nations into the English ports, freighted with grain, till the market was so glutted that even storage could not be found for the supplies thus poured in, created an unnatural revulsion from famine prices to such prices as the solvent speculators thought *safe* to buy at. The supply for the market exceeded the demand; but the United States, from which a large portion of that supply was sent, were fast exhausting their own resources. The scales were thus completely changed. The unnatural fluctuation of the English market ceased to affect the American, chiefly on account of the demand in the home (American) market, but partly because the price of grain can never sink, for any length of time, below the point at which it can be produced, and many were of opinion that that point had been passed in England. The general belief, too, that this year's crop is below an average, tends to induce farmers to hold on to their grain, and thus to keep up prices.

It would be quite impossible, from the present information respecting the crops of 1847, throughout the world, to fix with any certainty upon the points between which prices will be likely to oscillate during the next year. If it should appear that more grain has been grown than can be consumed, prices will rule low. But it will be a long time before the actual supplies can be ascertained; and prices will be materially affected by the extent to which the potato rot is found to prevail. We believe that on this continent it will be all but general, and on the continent of Europe there is no longer any question respecting its re-appearance. Speculation will be blind-folded for some months to come. There is one rule which, under all circumstances holds good:—It is better to take a fair price than to wait for an *uncommon* one.

The price of wheat is now, at least, 1s. 3d. higher on the south side of the line than in Canada. Where now are the arguments of those who opposed the attempt of Mr. Merritt to obtain for the farmers of Canada *two* markets instead of one?

GRASSES.—Of the numberless species the New York Farmer's Club has succeeded in cultivating thirty-seven. Careful culture has greatly improved their native condition. The names of these 37 are as follows:—

Lucern, Sainfoin, Burnet, Chicory, Spurry, Bush Vetch, Tares, Everlasting Tare, Tufted Tare, Strange Vetch Clovers, Hop-Clover, White Clover, Hard Fescue, Fowl Mend Grass, Flat-Stalked Red Meadow Grass, Silver-Hair Grass, Creeping Bent, Tull Out, Yellow Oat, Rib Grass, Cock's-Foot, Blue Dog's-Tail, Sheep's Fescue, Flote Fox Tail, Annual Meadow-Grass, Flote Fescue, Water Hair-Grass, Reed Meadow, Timothy, Meadow Fox-Tail, Meadow Fescue, Darnel, Crested Dog's-Tail, Meadow Grass, Vernal or Spring.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS:— IMPORTANT IMPROVEMENT IN THE HARROW.

Ballinfad, Sept. 17th, 1847.

To the Editors of the *Canada Farmer*.—

DEAR SIR:—As we are an agricultural community, and as your paper has for its leading object the improvement of the farmer in the interesting and important science of agriculture, you will, of course, feel pleasure in giving publicity to any communication, conveying either a useful hint or an account of any valuable discovery, with which any of your correspondents may become acquainted.

And, perhaps, there is scarcely any thing more necessary to the successful prosecution of any art, than the possession by the operator of appropriate tools or implements,—for the best labourer, mechanic, or artist, can do nothing without his tools,—and the more perfect they are, the more perfect, as a general rule, will be the finish given to his operations.

In agriculture, the plough, as a matter of course, stands pre-eminent,—so much so, that it gives its name to the profession. How common to say, "He lives by the plough". And the improvement of this implement has, especially of late years, almost exhausted agricultural and mechanical ingenuity, making it often very difficult to decide upon the comparative merits of the various specimens presented by the inventors for the public approval.

Next to the plough, it will be readily admitted, the harrow claims our attention; and I will venture to say, there are none who are perfectly satisfied with any of the varieties of these implements that are in general use. For myself, I have often felt annoyed at the imperfect manner in which they accommodated themselves to the inequalities of the surface, and have frequently thought, that there could, and ought to be, a harrow contrived, that would answer the purpose more effectually than any I had ever yet seen. And I am now much pleased that I am able to announce the fact to the readers of the *Canada Farmer*, that Mr. Francis Kent, of the township of Chinguacousy, has invented, and is now patenting, what I have long considered a desideratum—a perfect harrow. I saw it at work on a rough summer fallow that had for the first time been broken up. Mr. Kent put his horses to that I might see how it operated, and I was at once convinced that it was just the thing we wanted.

It is 14 feet in width, and is in three parts: a centre, to which the horses are attached, and a wing on each side, coupled to the centre piece by an iron rod. In passing among stumps, or large stones, one or both wings can be lifted as occasion requires; and they, of course, accommodate themselves while being dragged along to every inequality of surface. The harrow being drawn by the centre, brings the draft near the horses, making it easier to draw, and also causes the same depth of harrow to pass on all the ground that it embraces, which is not the case with any other I have seen; and in order to prevent the harrow from rising, in consequence of the horses being hitched so closely, they draw by a beam turning up in front like a sleigh runner; into which the bulls of the centre piece are morticed.

I need not enter into a more detailed description, as Mr. Kent intends taking it to the Provincial exhibition in Hamilton, when, of course, he will have an opportunity of testing it before the leading agriculturalist of the country; and I have no doubt but it will take the premium No. 1, and this will, of course, give it the prominence in the public estimation that it deserves.

And I am, dear Sirs,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. STEPHENS.

EXPERIMENT IN PORK MAKING.—B. Dinsmore, states in the *Genesee Farmer*, that he made an experiment in fattening hogs with Indian corn and barley, by which the hogs gained one pound live weight, for every four and a half pounds of grain eaten. The food was cooked by boiling from six to twelve hours. The corn was boiled whole, but the barley was first ground. He thinks grinding is of no benefit, provided the grain is cooked enough.