

Last year, somewhat similar experiments were carried on with about the same results. (Just what we recommended 12 years ago. Ed).

Farming.

### STATE OF THE CROPS.—CATERPILLARS.

To the Editor of the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE :

DEAR SIR, — Your correspondent can make a report on some of the crops ; others you will have to wait for. I would say in general that early sown grain is looking fairly well ; but, that, that was sown later, did not come up well, on account of the drought.

*Wheat.*—There is rather more acreage in wheat this year than usual ; it is looking fairly well ; the Province of Quebec is not much of a wheat-country.

*Oats.*—This is the crop above all others for this Province ; in some places it has come up unevenly, but the braird is looking well.

*Barley.*—We used to grow lots of this cereal, but lately the price has been very low, so that it has been used for the growing of pigs, etc., in preference to selling it to the brewers.

*Pease.*—The growing of pease has been a great failure for the past few years ; they must be covered at least 4 inches deep to insure a good crop. (1)

*Rye.*—There are but a few sections where rye is grown, down in the sand near Berthier, and again near Three Rivers ; it is looking fairly well.

*Buckwheat.*—There is lots of buckwheat sown around here, usually, but it is too soon yet to sow it this season.

*Corn.*—The weather has been somewhat cold for the favorable growth of this plant ; however, it is now somewhat advanced in the season and we should soon get nice warm weather. In some sections, quite a good deal has been planted.

*Potatoes.*—It is rather early to speak of this tuber. The first potatoes I saw through the ground this year were at Maskinongé on the 25th of May ; while, here, those who raise many potatoes are only putting them in the ground this week. There will be a great acreage planted this year, as they have been selling very high the past 3 months.

*Roots.*—Have made a fair start, the fly, that used to bother us years ago, does not nowadays seem to do much harm to the young turnip plant. Some mix the turnips and carrots together.

*Grass and hay.*—The past winter has been hard on the clover plant. Some grass was also winter killed. It will be many a year before we have another crop of clover like last year ; new seeded down fields have some clover, but where clover was grown last year, very little of it is to be seen now. The pastures are looking fairly well, and cows are going out to graze pasture in better condition than usual. (2)

The price of *cheese* is gradually falling as there was up in Ontario plenty of fodder-cheese made, despite the warning given not to make it.

*Butter* is stiffening up a bit in the price, within the past 10 days, since grass butter has been made.

As regard, the outlook for *small fruits* and *apples*, it looks rather bad at present ; this is an off-year anyway for apples ; the dry spring having been favorable for the tent caterpillar, and, as a consequence, there never was such a host in any remembrance. They are very general all over the Province, and apple and cherry trees seem to be their favorite haunts, but the great crawling ugly things ! they make me shudder just to think of them. In some sections, where they have not been killed, they have got all the foliage eaten up, the trees look about as bare as in mid winter. It will be just a chance if they survive through the hot sun. I should say that those who have kept them at bay have past the worst time for them, unless they swarm from those who have not kept up the warfare against the pest.

*Gooseberries* are suffering too from a green worm, but a spraying occasionally will keep them free.

*Currants* seem to have a fair appearance. Of *plums* I do not think we shall have many this season.

*Strawberries* are just now in bloom.

*Raspberries* seem to have lots of dead canes. Whether it was the hail storm that we had in August last that did the damage, or the past winter, I should not like to say.

To sum up : appearances are only fair, and I do not expect more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of last year crop, as a general thing ; to be sure, that year was a quite exceptional season in every respect.

Yours truly,

PETER MACFARLANE.

Châteauguay, 30th May, 1899.

(1) Instead of, as usual, just harrowed in. Ed.

(2) The hay-crop, from Montreal to Ste Anne de Bellevue, is sad to see. Ed.