

duce is, with one exception, favorably reported.

The extent of our Crop Reports has necessitated the omission of other matter intended for the present number.

"Farm Implements—their Use and Abuse"—is the subject of J. W. L.'s communication this month. We hope every farmer and every mechanic in the Province will read it, and act upon it.

Several competitors have made Entries for the Prize of \$50 offered by the Board of Agriculture for the greatest acreage of Hemp. Mr. Rupert Fulton has a field of Hemp in Middle Stewiacke, five miles from Brookfield Station, and Mr. Charles Mitchell has likewise entered his field at Merigomish, in Pictou County.

SIR,—I wish it were the business of agriculturists to write for your *Journal* more than they generally do; it would be opening up more information upon all kinds of subjects connected with agriculture, besides the enquiries and answers, and likewise arriving at a general idea of our own country; and for this purpose allow me to say a word about the crops and times of Nova Scotia, and where I may differ from others I hope and wish to be met in the same spirit that I give this, so that truth will prevail.

First, I start with, that this is not the time for our farmers to complain, (politicians are and always have been complaining, but it is all to serve a certain purpose,) but now I speak only of farmers. The crops last year were as large as man would wish, being more abundant than they had been for years. More wheat was raised in Colchester and East Hants than had been for many years; and prices for stock, poultry, butter, and all that farmers have to sell, brought much higher prices than have been realized for many years back,—so that the farmer, with a bountiful harvest, was able to realize a much larger sum for the same stock than usual. For example, this spring I have seen what I have not experienced for forty years—being in the habit of always selling hay and potatoes to smaller farmers in the spring, neither myself nor my neighbours could do it this year, for this reason, that they, the farmers, did not want them, having enough of their own; and when the farmers have these two articles, they being the two great requisites that are required, other things that are scarce will look out for themselves.

The farmers as a class are much better off than they have been for years past; and in some parts of our province are laying up money, more than was ever

done in the same places before. Every thing about them looks tidy, snug and comfortable. Even the school-houses have put on a new appearance, which you will meet every five or six miles, with the little fellows of the neighbourhood in them, the poor man's children receiving instruction with the rich,—this of itself is a great boon to the people. Free schools, and a country will prosper, as it is one of the means. But, as I have said, there is quite a change for the better, the railroad has given a great stimulus for going ahead, not so much in going West, as the road is but lately finished, but on the road going East. You have but to arrive at the junction and you see a brick establishment, as at Elmsdale, a large work of brick, and a pottery likewise at Shubenacadie, where there are four different establishments, with their engines playing, making lumber, leather and brick, besides others being talked of going up. So in Truro, where they built upwards of twenty houses and stores last year, and by appearance will do the same this year, and so on until you come to Pictou. If this does not show an improvement in the times, let croakers or sane politicians say to the contrary.

Now, I shall conclude in speaking of 1870. Providence has given us, Nova Scotian farmers, a season almost as good as we would wish,—a fine spring and a fine summer,—a fortnight being rather dry. More land sown than usual, and in Colchester and East Hants three times the wheat has been sown. All grain looks uncommonly fine, as well as roots, which do not show that the drought has done them any harm. Hay is going to be light on old or worn out lands, but fresh or new lands look very well. Norway oats look well, but time will tell.

I remain, yours, &c.,

A COLCHESTER FARMER.

July 7, 1870.

GLEN FARM, LITTLE BRAS D'OR, }
July 14th, 1870. }

I am in receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., inquiring about the present condition and prospects of the farm crops in this district.

The hay crop will be very light, owing to the long continued dry weather in spring, it being too far advanced to be much benefitted by the late rains. Oats and potatoes are very promising, and at present there is every prospect of a good crop. Wheat looks well, but there has been very little sown in this district. Turnips have come up very regular, and as we have had a good deal of rain lately, the prospects are decidedly good.

I may say, that, with the exception of the hay crop, farmers seldom had a more promising crop at this season of the year.

I remain, &c.,

JOHN ROSS.

Mr. Editor,—You ask me to favour your *Journal of Agriculture* with a brief statement of the present condition and prospects of Farm crops in Lunenburg County.

I have lately been visiting some of our best farms and farmers—and from observation and inquiry believe the following is a very fair report of the condition and prospects of our crops, &c.

Up to the first of June the season was very forward, farming having commenced a fortnight earlier than usual, and the larger portion of the grain and grass fields I noticed were of a good dark green colour, promising an abundance of hay and grain, and root crops gave a like promise of abundance. Soon after this, large fires spread in the woods which continued through the greater part of June, a yellow haze pervaded the air, we had no rain during that time and the landscape gradually presented itself in a yellow hue. The grain generally became stunted, parched and tipped yellow; the grass and roots suff'rd from the same causes, and up to the eighth of this month there had not been rain enough to "lay the dust," and the weather was most of the time uncomfortably warm with drying winds. In consequence of this, the scythe was brought a fortnight earlier into exercise than usual, about the first of this month, and the hay will be about two thirds the usual crop. However, most farmers have some hay left from last year, and the refreshing prolific showers on last Saturday will not only help the under and after grass, but give promise of saving the grain and root crops. Of the orchards, although rather early to give a decided opinion, yet I think they do not look likely to give an average yield. The past winter, although unusually mild, from some inexplicable cause, was a hard one on fruit trees, vines, &c.

I observe our limestone soils have this summer generally exchanged their usual crop of red clover for one of white clover. Last year, and year previous, we had a superabundance of red clover, this year we have the long leaved grasses. Why is it that clover should thus suddenly make its appearance for a few years and then suddenly disappear? No doubt there are some of your readers who can give a reason for it. I should like to see it accounted for in your *Journal*. Possibly a natural rotation of crops may have to do with it and similar phenomena.

Many of our old grass fields are covered with daisy or white weed—the feed poor, scanty and innutritious. The farmers are to a great extent blameable for this. If they will not try to exterminate it, but go on year after year for dozens of years, using the same land and producing the same kind of crops, the soil must become impoverished and exhibit its poverty in this manner.