

made for improved cultivation. There will be a surplus of all kinds of crops, but the want of a market is our great obstacle to improvement; throw us open the markets of the United States and we will hear no more talking of our young men emigrating. I think it would be a wise arrangement for the Board to import a small quantity of winter wheat for next season to give it a trial; and also to import more early spring Fyfe, it has made a great improvement, but the quantity was so small when distributed that a further supply is needed. I would like to hear, through the next issue of the *Journal*, some account of the Alsike clover, if it has been sown by any of our farmers, and how it has yielded. We are making an effort to increase our subscription to the society; the want of money was never so much felt in the meantime.

## COLCHESTER.

[From F. R. Parker, Esq.]

*Statement of crops at Shubenacadie.*

The season has been all that the husbandman could desire and the hay has been more than a usual crop, being with many one-fifth more than last year, and got into the barns in the best of order and with little expense to what it used to be formerly owing to the usefulness of machinery in many ways. Grain promises very well, there being a much larger quantity sowed than last year—it is generally one foot higher or longer in the stalk than formerly, some fields of wheat will average about five feet high—some show symptoms of midge, while others have none or very little. All other grain looks as I said, very well. All roots look well, but the blight has just commenced with the potatoes, to do its old work. Turnips and carrots promise very well. Indian corn which has been planted by many (and which of late years has not been raised) looks magnificent, some being to the height of eight feet. Many of our farmers have commenced under-draining by putting pipes in, which can be got at the brickyards, and they at once show the advantage to crops, which in a few years must pay, besides the advantage of working the land much sooner after a rain.

*Shubenacadie, Aug. 27, 1869.*

## KING'S COUNTY.

[From Dr. Hamilton.]

*Cornwallis, August 27, 1869.*

Agreeably to your request of the 9th inst., I beg to state for your information, that the present season, on the whole, has been a very favorable one for the growth and cultivation of all kinds of farm crops. The spring, it is true, was rather wet, but not as much so as last year, and while it prevented the early cultivation of some of the more loamy and clay soils, most of the crops were got in at or near the usual

time of planting. The continued dampness brought the crops forward very rapidly, and to a state of growth and perfection which prevented them from being injured by the subsequent dry weather. The wet spring and continued rains during the months of May and June have produced more than an average crop of hay of excellent quality; and I scarcely ever knew a finer season for securing it than the present one. There was no very hot weather; scarcely any wind, and only a few showers of rain, which were of short duration. I do not think the hay crop was ever secured in as good order. I am sure it was never of better quality, there being a fair proportion of timothy and clover.

The improved machinery, consisting of mowers, tedders for turning, horse rakes of an improved kind, with forks for pitching into the barn by horse power, render the operation of getting in the hay crop a trifling one compared with former years. Most of the grass on the dyked marshes, meadows, or intervals, and much of the upland, are now cut with the mowers—the improved Buckeye seeming to take the preference.

You may judge that we have some pretty good hay lands when I tell you that Mr. Levi Eaton, of Canard, took from ten acres of dyked marsh on the Wellington dyke, forty-one tons of hay by weight; the hay being weighed when it went into the barn well made and cured.

In reference to wheat, I am sorry that I cannot report a larger breadth sown. Of winter wheat I only know of one person trying it besides myself. I only sowed about 100 rods of ground and harvested forty-four stocks of wheat, of as fine a growth of straw and as well filled and as perfectly free from the ravages of the weevil as I ever saw. The berry is nearly equal to the seed which was imported from Ontario in 1866, and that was the second prize winter wheat at the Toronto Exhibition of that year. Several persons have applied for wheat for seed, and I am in hopes that it will be more generally cultivated in Nova Scotia.

Summer wheat as far as I can learn is filling pretty well, and but little injured by the weevil. I had a small quantity which was sown in April, and it escaped the fly and is very fine.

Winter rye is good, and I think there is but little summer rye sown this year.

Oats much more than an average crop this season, there being a much larger quantity sown than usual, and the weather has been all that was desirable for their even ripening; the cool nights and cloudy days have prevented any serious consequence from the dry weather.

Potatoes, as usual, are planted very extensively, and are looking remarkably well—a rather dry season being more

favorable for their growth and perfection than a wet one. The early kinds are exceedingly fine in quality and really taste like the potatoes of by gone years before the disease affected them. I hear of no complaint about the disease, and should the weather continue as at present, rather dry, there will be no danger of it affecting them this season. More attention is being paid of late years to the cultivation of garden vegetables, onions, beans, corn, &c., and I am in hopes that until we can obtain a more permanent market for our supplies of potatoes, that the farmers will cultivate more grain, vegetables, or something of the kind, which will be more remunerative and advantageous than the prospect for the potato is just now.

As regards the fruit crop, I hardly know what to say. Upon the whole, however, I think the crop will not be as good as last year; and unless there are more seasonable rains from this time forward, they will be less in size than usual.

The August or Harvest apple, the Early Joe, and the Astracan are now ready and are being sent to market. The Early Bough, a splendid apple, is but little cultivated, and would come in after these mentioned, and before the Gravenstein; and I would advise any person setting out a young orchard, to select a fair proportion of this sort. They bear moderately every year, and are a large, handsome, and very fine eating and cooking apple. The prospect is, that plums will be plenty. The Nectarines are already marketed and the Washington is now nearly ripe. The Green Gage is the next most important plum on the list. Old pear trees are bearing well, but from some cause or another few pear trees seem to grow or come to any size nowadays.

The canker worm, which destroyed the crop of fruit in Messrs. C. F. and Levi Eaton's orchard in Canard last year, were prevented from doing any mischief this year, by the timely application of tins and boxes around the trunks of the trees last autumn, which prevented the fly from ascending the tree to deposit their eggs. It is remarkable that no other orchard in the place was injured but these two, both young, healthy and vigorous. I am in hopes that the worms are completely checked, and that we will not suffer in this county as we did about twenty-eight or thirty years ago, when for three years the trees were stripped of their foliage, until they looked more like being scorched with fire than anything else. Many of the trees were so injured by stripping them of their foliage in the heat of summer that they died, or never recovered their vigor and productiveness.

The weather of late being very dry, the after feed on the dykes and meadows will be rather short.