

pensate for that. In the new townships, on the Free Grant Rôlds, it is well worthy of remark that the rot has not affected the potatoes in the slightest degree, and the crop is generally excellent both in quantity and quality. The grain crops also in these localities bear the same character for excellence.

The inferences I would draw from these hundred returns are

1st. That the whole wheat crop of Canada for 1848, including both winter and spring wheat is about 25 per cent. below the general yearly average, allowing for the good quality of the spring wheat and winter wheat which have escaped the midge, and rust, the samples of both being excellent.

2d. That the crops of rye, barley and oats are about a fair average, notwithstanding the partial failure of the last named.

3d. That the pea crop is a little beyond the average, say ten per cent.

4th. That the potato crop is about 25 per cent. deficient, allowing for the excellent quality, which is above par.

5th. That the Indian corn crop has been much less cultivated than usual, owing to the planting season being extremely wet, and that there will be a very small surplus of this grain beyond what will be required for domestic purposes, forty-seven returns having reported that there is little or none grown this season.

If these deductions are correct there is a slight improvement upon last year's crop of wheat, which was 31 per cent. short of the general yearly average, this year's deficiency being calculated at 25 per cent. The potato crop also is better than that of last year, which is an item of considerable importance in the year's supply of food.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM HUTTON,

Secretary.

ARE CLEARED LANDS MORE SUBJECT TO DROUTH THAN OTHERS?

The writer has often read in articles which have appeared in the agricultural papers touching the bad effects of cutting away our native forests, that where so cut away, the land becomes more subject to drouth than before. We fancy such theory can only apply to the fact that clearing away the forests and opening the land to cultivation, gives a freer passage to the water, as it falls or collects in various bodies, as swales, swamps, springs, &c., and passes it off into the larger channels; for we do not see how the simple fact that trees, averaging not over eighty feet high, can attract larger bodies of water through the clouds thousands of feet above them, than the surface of the earth could do without trees. The face of the country has much more to do with it. Hilly and mountaneous countries in the temperate zones, are usually more showery than plains; and whether the hills be bare or forested, appears to make no difference. The natural laws of atmosphere, climate, evaporation, winds, and the locality of bodies of water, we imagine to be controlling causes in the falling of rain, or the occurrence of drouths.

We are led to these observations by the immense rains of the present season, which have fallen all over our Western States, almost with the violence and continuance of a deluge, and the vast prairies, stretching for thousands of miles in extent, seem to have had, if anything, the worst of it. There are no mountains there—the Alleghanies being the most Western range, east of the Mississippi—and none more for a thousand miles beyond it. Nor is the country even hilly; but one immense champain of level and rolling timber and prairie faring about alike in each and every year with rain or drouth.

We have a good many weather wise acres in the land, and many meteorological tables have been kept; but we confess with all our investigations, we have as yet been unable to work out any conclusive problem to guide or regulate our judgment in atmospheric phenomena, other than the barometer and thermometer; the one giving us only a day or two's indication of what weather may come, and the other telling the fact as it is at the moment.

There is no sort of regularity, year by year, to our American climate, except in the revolution of the seasons.—*American Agriculturist.*