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Omnium rerum, ex quibus aliquid acquiritur, nihil est agriculturâ melius, nihil uberius, nihil hominè libero dignius.—Cicero : de Officiis, lib. I, cap. 42.

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CROP REPORTS, JULY, 1885.

FROM C. B. WHIDDEN ESQ., M. P. P.
Antigonish, July 14th, 1885.

DEAR SIR.—In reply to yours of the 7th inst., I beg to say that, at the present date, it is almost impossible to forecast the crops of this season, much depending upon the weather of the next few weeks. Occasional showers will add much to the growth of hay and grain of all kinds, whereas should the weather continue dry as at present, we can scarcely expect an average crop. The spring opened early; May was dry, enabling the farmers in this county to complete their seeding at least ten days earlier than usual. The first half of June was dry and cold, the remainder of the month very warm; vegetation for a time stood at a standstill. The very welcome showers of the first few days of July caused a marked improvement in the appearance of the country, vegetation being very rapid; potatoes look exceptionally well; turnips and mangels not promising as last year. Haymaking will commence next week, if the weather favourable.

FROM HON. GEO. WHITMAN, M. L. C.
*Round Hill, Annapolis,
13th July, 1885.*

Hay and fruit are the principal paying crops grown here; and this season, where the land has been properly drained, the yield of hay promises to be above average.

Fruit.—The late frost in June did much damage, especially to plums and pears; and the continued dry weather in June has so injured the crop in light soils that the yield of apples will be far short of an average.

Grain.—Not so great a breadth sown as last year, looks well. Potatoes, more planted, and give promise of a yield above the average. Turnips and mangolds and other root crops, where not injured by the dry weather, have, since the late rains, grown rapidly, and throughout "the beautiful and fertile" valley of the Annapolis, crops as a general whole give promise of a fair yield.

FROM COLONEL W. E. STARRATT.
*Maple Grove, Paradise,
July 13th, 1885.*

In answer to your request, I submit the following relative to the crops in this district. The hay and grain up to June 20th did not give promise of being an average crop, but the frequent rains, with continued warm weather since, have infused new life into vegetation, and caused a very rapid growth, and I am able now to report hay the heaviest crop for five years, and of good quality.

All kinds of grain look promising—the oats especially. Wheat not much sown. We had a favorable spring for potato planting, and a large area is under cultivation.

Our farmers are beginning to realize the value of Mangel-Wurtzel for winter feed for dairy stock; hence increased attention is given to the growing of

them. Indian corn not extensively cultivated, but is shewing good color from the warm weather of the last two weeks.

The products of the dairy have fallen off the last few years, owing in part to low prices obtained for cheese and butter in our local markets, but we hope by adopting a better system of manufacture, by a knowledge to be obtained through the organization of the Nova Scotia Dairymen's Association, to bring this important industry up to a standard equal to that existing in other parts of the Dominion, as well as receive corresponding financial benefits.

Fruit culture is rapidly increasing, and fruit is considered one of our most valuable crops; but I cannot report favorably of the apple crop this year, as it will be much below an average one. The Nonpareil, the King of the Apples as a long-keeper, and a variety that has no equal in the English market in the late spring shipments, will prove a failure.

FROM C. P. BLANCHARD, ESQ.
Truro, July 15th, 1885.

In answer to yours of the 7th inst., asking for report on state of crops in this county, I am pleased to say that all our crops, with the exception perhaps of turnips, are looking well. Haying has about commenced, and there is promise of a good average crop, having improved vastly within the last ten days; potatoes are looking very fine, although the acreage is somewhat below the average, owing to the state of the market last