

## Agriculturist and Canadian Journal.

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### THE CROPS.

From all we can hear and see, there is every reason to expect that Canada will be blessed this year with a fair, if not bountiful harvest. The spring crops are looking exceedingly well, and the fall wheat, though in many cases much damaged by the winter, has recovered wonderfully within the last few weeks, and bids fair if no untoward circumstances happen between this and harvest to yield more than an average. It is impossible to tell with any certainty thus early in the season, what the result may be at the time of harvest, but this we know that with a bad winter and bad spring, and poor looking crops of all kinds in the latter part of May, it requires no great experience or prophetic power to foretell that there will be a bad harvest—that the farmer will be disappointed in his expectations—that if he be in debt he will find himself deficient in the means to pay—and if he had intended to make improvements or incur expense, he will do well to keep clear of all unnecessary liabilities. On the other hand, with even a bad winter, if the spring be favourable, as on the whole the present has been, and with the various crops promising as fairly as they now do, he may reasonably entertain the hope that his labours will be well rewarded, and that he will have the means to help himself in the way he had laid out. But it must be borne in mind, that the Canadian Farmer has to contend with new enemies—to overcome difficulties, the nature and extent of which he is hardly yet able to justly estimate. The potato disease is a serious evil. The potato crop was one generally cultivated in Canada, and nearly, if not quite as much relied upon for supplying food to the family as wheat, and for feeding cattle and fattening hogs, it was of course more in use.—Whether the disease will appear again this year is indeed uncertain, but the probability is that it will, and with this expectation a much less quantity of land than usual will no doubt be planted. It would be unwise to risk the loss of much time and labour in attempting to raise a large crop of potatoes, until there is good proof to shew that the disease has disappeared. Among the numerous remedies that we have seen recommended, is a recent one said to have been discovered, and tested for the last three years by a German Chemist, Dr. Klotsch. He is to receive as a reward the sum of \$1,400, from the Prussian Government, if the remedy proves successful this year. The mode he adopted was—to pinch off about one-half an inch of the end of each stalk or branch of the plant when it grew to eight or nine inches in height, and to repeat the operation in the tenth or eleventh week after planting. This would be a process somewhat tedious, and in this country where labour is so dear, too expensive to warrant the raising of large crops. In the case of small patches it might be done, and we would recommend the trial of the experiment at all events.

Another evil that is much complained of, and seems every year to be getting worse, is the freezing out of clover, especially on clay land. After repeated trials many farmers have become discouraged, and despair of being able to grow clover to any profit. A friend of ours near this city had a field of clover, which yielded last year from two and a half to three tons per acre, and a good crop of seed besides; this year it will not pay for mowing. The roots were all left above the surface of the ground by the action of the frost, and have withered and died. Now, if two year's crop could be depended on when a field is laid down to clover, there would be some encouragement, but in this case, and in many others only one was obtained. Timothy and other grasses soon introduce the wire-worm,

which proves itself a formidable enemy. It is impossible for farmers subject to these evils, to keep a large stock of cattle; because in Canada the pitch fork must have something to keep it bright, more than half the year. The dairy therefore in such circumstances can hardly be profitable. Wheat is the great resource, but in addition to the increasing casualties of weather, the *Hessian Fly* threatens destruction to this crop. Its ravages may not be so extensive this year as last, but we fear they will be greater. We have thus touched on a few points in Canadian farming which suggest important reflections. One is, the great necessity that exists for the application of more science, and more skill to the cultivation of the soil, in order to grapple with these difficulties and overcome them. Another, which is all we shall mention at present, more particularly refers to the wheat crop, and is this; that we should not build too much on present appearances. While our commercial and monetary affairs remain in their present unsatisfactory state, every farmer as well as every other person should zealously avoid debt, whether the crops be good or bad.

### CHEESE DAIRIES.

(From Transactions N. Y. State Agricultural Society.)

"The choice of those who perform the duties of the dairy should never be entrusted but to persons in whose unremitting care and gentleness the utmost confidence can be reposed. All its operations should be conducted with the most punctual regularity, and with such extreme cleanliness that no speck or taint shall be discoverable either about the interior of the house or the utensils. Throughout Ireland, Scotland and the north of England, it is invariably left to women, and were men to be employed they would consider themselves degraded; but in the southern counties, great hulking fellows may be seen seated at the udder, and handling the teats with their huge fists, as if they had the delicate fingers of a girl. Females are in every way competent to the work, to which they are better suited by their delicacy and tenderness than men; it is, indeed, a truly feminine employment, and to their hands it should be left.

"The nature of the land, the oldness of the pasture, the age of the stock, and the state of the season, have each a separate influence upon the quantity and quality of the milk; thus the milk given by cows in autumn and winter is decidedly richer than that produced in spring and summer, and yields the greatest quantity of butter in those months, with the least cheese; and therefore, no general average can be made with such accuracy as to merit confidence. The same remark will apply with even greater force to the produce of butter and cheese; for, besides these circumstances, cows even of the same breed yield a different amount from equal quantities of milk. Generally speaking, a fair annual product of either from each cow in good condition, may be considered as about 160 to 180 lbs. of butter of superior quality, and 350 to 400 lbs. of whole milk cheese, with a small quantity of whey butter."

"On proper attention to the construction of the dairy house, materially depends the perfect manufacture of cheese and butter, and nothing should be spared in rendering it as complete in accommodation as the nature and size of the farm will admit. The apartments which are peculiarly appropriate to dairy husbandry are, one for milk, another for scalding, pressing and salting cheese, and a third for the implements, and a store room, in the cheese dairies, which may be placed under the roof. The building should be apart, (though convenient to the farm-yard,) from any immediate contact with the odor of the farm-yard or other impurity, as well as from any pond of stagnant water, as nothing more readily acquires an unpleasant taste or smell than milk or cream. The site should be such as to be as little as possible affected by extremes of heat or cold, as a uniform temperature is all-important. The floor should be raised a few inches above the level of the outer ground, with slanting gutters to carry of the water used in washing, which is frequently done, both for cleanliness and coolness. On this, it should be observed, that every particle of milk that happens to be spilled on the floor should be carefully washed off, or its sourness will impart an unpleasant odor, which will infect the entire house; and it is extremely material that the building should be kept as dry as possible, as damp is also highly prejudicial to the operation of the dairy.

"The utensils of the dairy are familiar to all engaged in the business. The form of these utensils, is matter of secondary importance, in comparison with that of extreme cleanliness which is the chief requisite in all the operations of the dairy; and those vessels which can be the most easily cleaned, are the best to be employed. The dairy maid should be a careful, cleanly person, and the floor of the dairy should be kept dry, for water thrown down in bad weather, will necessarily be again in steam, and effect the milk with its humidity. The vessels