

STATE OF THE CROPS IN KING'S COUNTY.

*Cornwallis, King's County, }
August 27, 1868.*

DEAR SIR.—A short account of the season and of the fruit and other cultivated crops of this locality, might not be uninteresting to the readers of the *Agricultural Journal*.

The season has been in some respects peculiar, yet on the whole not unfavorable for the cultivated crops. Winter and extreme cold weather commenced as early as the first of November; and some think the early and severe frosts injured the sap of the vines and more tender fruit trees, which, from this, or some other causes, have suffered severely. Grape vines and pear trees have been injured, and in many instances killed. Even young apple trees have suffered. Fruit of all kinds, therefore, will be of a light crop. I do not think the apple crop will be over one-half of former years.

I hear of but little depredations from the caterpillar—the common pest of the apple trees; but the canker worm, a still more unmanageable and destructive insect, has made its appearance. Two orchards have been destroyed the past two seasons, and, strange to say, they have not spread to the surrounding orchards, a very unusual thing. Some twenty or more years ago they completely, for three years in succession, swept everything in the shape of apples, foliage, &c., from the trees, and then disappeared, and I have not heard of their being in any part of the Province since until now.

Cherries, pears, plums, &c., will not be of more than half a crop.

The causes of failure in the fruit crop are fast increasing, and unless more knowledge of the nature, habits, &c., of the numerous insects, which now infest our fruit trees, become known among the cultivators, there will be but little use in extending our orchards. Many of these insects are perfectly manageable, for instance the curculios, slugs and caterpillars as soon as a person become acquainted with their habits, nature, &c. It might not be out of place here to remark that the Fruit Growers' Association are doing very much to disseminate correct information not only in reference to the culture of the various kinds of fruit, but to the various kinds of insects which are now so common and destructive, and which seem to be yearly increasing. They have now a small library of the latest and best works upon the subject, which are in circulation among its members.

Winter wheat was tried by several persons, and while it looked well in the fall, proved almost a total failure. Rye did better.

The spring opened very promising, and

farmers who were fortunate to have their lands prepared in the fall for the crops, got in the wheat, rye and oats before the extreme wet weather set in,—these have matured early and will yield well. The later sown wheat suffered more from the fly, but the oats, with the present favourable weather, are maturing rapidly and will yield well. All grains have made a strong and vigorous growth in the straw, which often is light.

Many farmers planted a portion of their potato crops early, but, in general, they were planted later than usual. They are both looking very healthy and vigorous, and up to this time I have not heard of any serious damage either in blight or rot. The weather is all that could be desired for ripening this crop,—cool, with occasional showers. I do not think that the crop will be a heavy one, for I have seldom known either those planted very early or very late to yield a large return. One thing is very desirable in this county, a good potato digger. Some persons are now at work trying to get up one, and a few days will determine with what success. I notice that one has been patented in Ontario, and from the account and description, it is the best I have seen yet. Machinery for lightening manual labor is gradually extending; and I look forward for the perfection of a good potato digger, as I do upon the already nearly perfect Buckeye mower, by which, with a pair of horses, a man can cut from six to eight acres of grass per day. I may mention here that fifty Buckeye machines have been sold in this county during the season, and they work very satisfactorily.

The hay crop is a fair average, but the foggy and smoky weather in the fore part of the season made the securing of the hay rather a tedious process,—and I fear much of it has been housed not in a fit condition to keep and be good. The latter part of the season has been much more favourable.

Corn never looked better, and I am pleased to know that the quantity planted has been more than usual.

About the usual quantity of other grains and roots are planted except peas, which appear to be almost totally ignored, and yet are a valuable and sure crop. Take the cultivated crops as a whole they promise well.

The farmers and others begin to manifest more interest in the contemplated Exhibition as the time for holding it approaches. I think there will be quite a number of cattle sent from King's, with what success time will tell.

Yours, &c.,

C. H.

THE CROPS IN UPPER STEWIAKKE.

As respects the crops in this locality, they are generally very good. The hay

crop is fully an average one; oats considered above an average; barley and buckwheat are also good; respecting the wheat crop, I cannot write particularly at present.

J. S. TUPPER.

31st Aug., 1868.

WEATHER AND CROPS ON THE GULF SHORE.

In a letter from Dr. Honeyman, dated Gulf Shore, N. S., August 24, 1868, he observes:—

This is delightful weather for the farmer as well as the geologist—for the latter, however, it is, if anything, a little too warm. I have been all day at very up hill and down hill work, following the wayward courses of intrusive rocks. Cooler weather would have been preferable. The grain crop in this part of the country is remarkably good.

D. HONEYMAN.

To the Editor of the Journal of Agriculture.

THE WORKING MEN'S FLOWER SHOW.

Edinburgh, August, 1868.

On arriving in Edinburgh from the "kingdom of Fife," I was informed that a show in connection with the above named society was to be held in the Corn Exchange. Therefore, I determined to go and see for myself, as I had grave doubts that such a show would prove a success after such a long drought, as vegetation in all parts of the country has suffered; the turnip and grass fields in some places are looking as brown as the road, and even the grain crop will be deficient in straw,—such a hot summer has not been known for some time back, and farmers, corn dealers, &c., are all adrift with regard to their plans and speculations. But, notwithstanding, the show was a complete success, the competition being sharp, (the life of a show) and the subjects shown excellent, foliage of the plants having that rich green that you would hardly expect to find in plants grown in confined quarters; moreover, they were well grown and would do no discredit to a skilled professional. It was interesting to see how that good old maxim was proved to be a reality, namely, that "necessity is the mother of invention," for all sorts of vessels and contrivances were used to grow the plants in—from the old wife's discarded teapot to that indispensable article in every Scotch household, namely, the "kail pot,"—the prize ferns (and it was no mean example of culture) being grown in the last named article. The committee acted wisely in confining the competition to such plants as the geranium, fuschia, ferns, lobelia, mignonette, hydrangea, southern wood, etc., for they are within the reach of