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THE SEASON.

It must be confessed that up to this period, the end of January,—the present winter has been distinguished by somewhat remarkable characteristics. With the exception of two periods, each consisting of only a few days, the thermometer has indicated both night and day, an unusually high temperature; so much so indeed at the commencement of the year fears began to be established that fruit buds would be brought into premature and dangerous activity. The Horse chestnut and the buds of some other trees actually began to swell in warm, sheltered situations. Since then the average temperature has been sufficiently low to prevent danger from this cause. Snow has fallen at different times, and in some districts to a moderate depth, enough to render the country roads practicable by sleighs for a few days only, when a rapid thaw would set in, and leave the ground almost bare, and the roads in the worse possible condition for travelling. Apart from this draw-back the season on the whole has been pleasant, with a number of dry and warm days, reminding one more of the first opening of spring than mid-winter. There has been however on the whole an absence of bright sun shine. Some people have begun to entertain fears for the safety and well-doing of fall wheat: but from the information that has reached us we incline to the belief that as

yet no serious mischief has been done. In flat, wet land the plant has no doubt been subjected to injurious influences by the frequent melting of the snow and its congealing into ice, and in such situations, especially should the more advanced season prove unfavourable—the results may prove disastrous. On dry, warm and well farmed lands the wheat plant exhibited at the commencement of winter a strong and healthy growth; and where sown early, as was done by many last fall, the check which the plant has received must be regarded as beneficial. March and April are in general the most trying period for wheat in Canada; the alternate freezing by night and thawing by day, under the increasing power of warm sunshine, produces the “throwing out” of the plants, which no subsequent artifice can thoroughly correct. Rolling, however, has often been advantageously applied as soon as the state of the ground will admit of the operation. Upon the whole, we incline to the hope that up to the present our prospect for wheat has not been materially affected. Prices for this article continue low, although the last year’s crop, except in some few isolated sections of country, was characterized neither by abundance of yield, nor goodness of quality. And although the English wheat crop was originally deficient, yet that being an open cash market, to which all countries can readily send their surplus produce, prices have ruled low, with little to