

LETTER FROM KING'S COUNTY.

Canard, June 23, 1866.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to your enquiry relative to the state of the crops in this county, I beg to say that I am not in possession of much information beyond my own district, and cannot state with certainty the condition and prospects of the crops of the county generally.

Grass started this year much earlier than it did last; and the damp cool weather heretofore has been rather favorable for both hay and pastures on rich and highly cultivated ground, but the continued cold, and now the drought, is pinching the pastures as well as the meadows, especially the late ones. Just at present the prospect of a good hay crop is rather slim. The weather is quite warm enough but rain is required.

Diked marshes look well, much better than usual at this season of the year.

The quantity of grain sown is larger than heretofore, especially oats, which are looking very well. Winter rye is already headed and looks very promising. More wheat would have been sown if seed could have been obtained, especially any variety more free from the midge than that cultivated amongst us.

The usual quantity of land is planted with potatoes, and those planted early on sandy loams are looking very well. The wet season prevented many farmers whose soil is naturally wet and clayey, from getting in this crop as early as usual; but the present warm weather will bring them along with great rapidity.

It would seem that the American "notion" of 25 cents gold duty does not deter the Nova Scotia farmers from cultivating this valuable esculent, as prices rule nearly as high as under the Reciprocity Act.

Corn looks sickly and feeble in consequence of cold weather.

It is almost impossible at this time to speak with much certainty about the crops, as much depends upon season rains just now.

There is a fair prospect of fruit. Apples are fairly set. Cherries, plums and pears, and the smaller fruits, are about as usual, as far as I can learn.

The curculio is at work destroying the plums, and many persons are complaining that their fruit is almost wholly destroyed,—while in other localities they are partially exempt.

Less injury has been done to the apple crop by the caterpillar this year than heretofore, owing to more diligence in its cultivation.

I am, Sir,

Your obdt. servant.

C. C. II.

'TIS FORTY-SEVEN YEARS SINCE.

A CHAPTER IN THE AGRICULTURAL HISTORY OF CUMBERLAND.

It is refreshing to see now and again an effort made to raise the character and increase the efficiency of our agricultural societies. As regards Cumberland County this is attempted in the Amherst Gazette by bringing under the notice of the Cumberland farmers some details of the working of the Cumberland Agricultural Society that was established during

the winter 1818-19. The editor observes: "We have had placed in our hands a document issued by the Cumberland Agricultural Society and dated the 13th day of January, 1816.

"The author of those celebrated letters on Agriculture, signed "Agricola," had that year offered six silver medals as incentives to Agriculturists, and the Committee of the Cumberland Society met at Amherst on the above date, to use their influence to induce some of the members of the Society to compete for the medals, and, if possible, secure at least one of the medals for Cumberland.

"While in session, the President called the attention of the Committee to a letter which appeared in the Halifax *Free Press* purporting to have been written in Cumberland, and signed "A Farmer," slandering the Society and its originators, calling it a "sham society," a "mock society," and using other offensive expressions.—The Committee, in an indignant manner and explicit terms, repelled the charges made against the Society, and published the paper we refer to in defence, in which they give a list of subscriptions for that year, to show that the Society was not only a reality but that it was generally and liberally supported.

"Five shillings was the admission fee and ten shillings the annual subscription; the amounts above fifteen shillings are donations. We have added all together for convenience:—

"LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

James S. Morse, Esq., President,	£12	8	4
Mr. Stephen Oxley, Vice-President,	6	11	8
Cha. Baker, Esq., Judge Com. Pleas,	2	15	0
Henry Purdy, Esq., do.	2	15	0
George Oxley, Esq., do.	1	18	4
Edw. Baker, Esq., mem. Com. J. P.,	0	15	0
Charles H. Chandler, Esq., Sheriff,	0	15	0
Richard Blair, Esq.,	0	15	0
G. Purdy, Esq., mem. of Com. J. P.,	1	5	0
William Freeman, Esq., J. P.,	2	15	0
D. M'Farlane, Esq., m. of Com. J. P.,	0	15	0
Wm. Baker, Esq., Treasurer, J. P.,	2	5	0
John Black, Esq., J. P.,	0	15	0
William White, Esq., J. P.,	3	5	0
Elijah Purdy, Esq., Secretary,	1	5	0
Mr. Samuel Freeman, mem. of Com.,	5	15	0
Thomas Chapman,	2	15	0
Robert M. G. Dickey,	5	15	0
Joseph Oxley, member of Com.,	1	18	4
Joseph Morse,	1	18	4
Charles Baker, jr.,	2	5	0
John Morse,	1	18	4
John Watkins,	2	0	0
Asa Fillmore,	1	18	4
Andrew Foshner,	1	18	4
Lewis K. Purdy,	2	3	0
William Harrison,	1	18	4
John Smith,	1	15	0
Capt. Bougois,	1	15	0
Thomas Lusby,	1	15	0
John Fillmore,	1	15	0
Joshua Chandler,	1	10	0
Richard Black,	1	6	8
John Oxley,	1	5	0
John W. Oxley,	1	5	0
Thomas Logan,	1	6	8
Robert Reed,	1	5	9

Henry Atkinson,	1	5	0
William Dickey,	1	5	0
Hans Baker,	1	5	0
Mathew Donkin,	1	5	0
William Ackles,	1	5	0
John Bent,	1	3	0
Hugh Taylor,	1	0	0
Jonathan Davison,	0	15	0
Thomas Dunkin,	0	15	0
Joshua Brundie,	0	15	0
Thomas S. Black,	0	15	0
William Tindall,	0	15	0
Isaac Bliss,	0	15	0
Samuel Purdy,	0	15	0
Samuel Holsted,	0	15	0
Samuel Williams,	0	15	0
Robert Scott, jnr.,	0	15	0
Andrew N Stevens,	0	15	0
George Revell,	0	15	0
James Page,	0	15	0
Lemuel Bent,	0	15	0
William W. Bent,	0	15	0
Smith Holsted,	0	15	0

Total, £111 7 8

"On comparing the above list with the present one dollar subscriptions, it does not seem to indicate progress in our farming community; instead of advancing the past half century, it looks very like retrograding.

"A combination of farmers can accomplish easily what it would be difficult for one to do, both as regards gaining practical information, how to realize the largest and most profitable crops at the smallest expense, as well as importing and raising superior stock, and the best seeds. Hence the necessity and advantage of farmers forming themselves into Agricultural Societies to accomplish by united effort, what would otherwise be impossible; but it must be remembered that such Societies are powerless unless adequately supported,—that effort is indispensable to their success. It would, no doubt, be for the future interest of many of the farmers in this County to follow the example set them nearly fifty years ago, and pay into the Agricultural Societies now organized, donations of twenty and fifty dollars a-year for a few years, and give the Societies the means to accomplish the object for which they were formed. Although the Legislative grant is liberal compared with the sums subscribed, the purchase of one good animal would exhaust the treasury of any of the Agricultural Societies in the County.—We trust the several Societies will be more liberally supported this year, and that the Agricultural Shows to be held the coming Autumn may be creditable to the farming interests of this County."

The above remarks apply very well not to Cumberland County alone, but to every County in the United Province of Nova Scotia and Cape Breton. There are only two Societies in the whole province whose annual subscription for members exceeds one dollar, viz., the Windsor Society, and the Western Halifax Society,