

FROM C. F. EATON, ESQ., CORNWALLIS,  
KING'S CO.

*Lower Canard, Aug. 30th, 1881.*

In answer to yours of the 23rd, making enquiry about present condition and prospects of the crops in this district, I beg to say: The hay crop has been the largest known for many years. The frequent rains have also given excellent pasturage. Grain of all kinds is a good yield, more than an average has been sown, both of wheat and oats, which are the principal cereals in this district. The potatoe crop is looking well, and, if the weather is not too wet the remainder of the season will no doubt be a good average yield.

Fruit, apples below an average, both in quantity and quality, so far as the present prospect indicates. Pears, plums, and other fruit generally, a good crop. The frequent rains have done considerable damage to the hay, probably not more than one half of the crop has been secured without being more or less injured. The fine weather the last few days has been greatly improved by the farmers in getting their hay and grain secured. The injury done in this district by the late high tides has been very trifling, in fact when compared with that done in other parts of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, is not worth naming.

C. F. EATON.

FROM W. H. BLANCHARD, ESQ., WINDSOR.

*Windsor, N. S., Sept. 2nd, 1881.*

In reply to your favor relative to the condition of the crops in this part of Hants County, I may say: The wheat crop, which this year is a very important one, is looking very well. The straw generally is strong but not very bright, the berry well filled and but little damaged by weevil. It was estimated that over 60,000 bushels of wheat were grown in this county in 1880, and I think that it will be increased by at least 50 per cent. this year. The crop is now being very generally harvested, and the weather is fine. Oats are quite an average crop. Barley looking fairly well, but not a great breadth sown in this vicinity. Hay a very heavy crop, but owing to the lateness of the season is not yet gathered in, probably half of it was mown during the rainy season of July and August, and has been more or less bleached, but quite a large proportion of the whole crop of hay will be harvested in good order. Probably it will be damaged to the extent of 10 per cent. by the bad weather and the late harvesting. With the exception of two or three instances no damage has been done to the crops by floods or the high tides breaking the dykes in this part of the County.

The root crops are looking fairly well, but it is feared that the potatoes have been seriously affected by the hot, damp weather of August.

W. H. BLANCHARD.

FROM JOHN MCLENNAN, ESQ., MIDDLE  
RIVER, VICTORIA.

*Middle River, Aug. 30, 1881.*

In reference to the damage done to the Hay crop by the continual wet weather during the present month, it may safely be estimated at one-third lost to this district, and what is saved is very inferior.

The Wheat crop may be reckoned an entire failure, owing to the ravages of the weevil. Large quantities were sown, calculating on a large crop, and hence the disappointment.

Barley and Oats promise to do well.

Potatoes being late in consequence of the cold spring were late before coming to maturity, together with the early appearance of the disease, will make the crop at one-half of last year's average.

Such a long continuance of wet weather was never before seen in this district and over the whole of the Island of Cape Breton.

JOHN MCLENNAN.

FROM JOHN MCKEEN, ESQ., MABOU.

*Mabou, Sep. 3, 1881.*

In compliance with your request, in letter of 22nd ult., for a brief statement of the present condition and prospect of crops in this district, I have to say, that at present the outlook is most encouraging. Should good harvesting weather favor us.

The Hay crop is above an average; but, of necessity, a great deal of it must have been secured in second-rate condition, and a great deal yet remains to be secured. Beyond this depreciation in the value of the hay from late cutting and bad curing, I think no actual loss has occurred from heavy rains and floods.

The grain crops never looked more promising, but the harvest will be unusually late, there being no grain cut in the county yet, except fall wheat, which proved an excellent crop, but little sown.

There is a much greater area under Spring Wheat than for many years, and the prospect of a good crop is very flattering. Little, if any damage from weevil or rust is reported, so far.

The Potato crop promises to be above an average. No blight to speak of except in cases where old, run out seed is used. Turnips, Mangold, Sugar Beets, and other roots are putting forth an extraordinary growth.

The Apple crop is light, but Plums are likely to be above an average.

Should we be blessed with fair harvest weather, the farmers of this district, not-

withstanding the almost sunless hay-making, may yet number this as one of their most prosperous years.

JOHN MCKEEN.

FROM ISRAEL LONGWORTH, ESQ., TRURO.

*Truro, Sep. 7, 1881.*

In reply to your late favor about the condition of the crops in this quarter, permit me to state briefly as follows:

First, as regards cereals. Winter Wheat has done well wherever sown, though, I am sorry to say, very few farmers have as yet given it a trial. A large quantity of seed will be sown this autumn on account of the great destruction done to spring crop by weevil. In many fields of late sown wheat the insects appeared in such numbers that the owners, instead of waiting for the grain to be eaten up, cut it down for fodder. Other grains.—Oats and Barley particularly, will be an abundant crop, and at no former period was a greater crop of straw known. The old barns are already beginning to burst with new straw.

Hay has been a good crop, although the weather for saving it could not have been much worse. A good deal of marsh grass is still standing, and the dyke lands will not be all clear short of a fortnight. I am inclined to believe that the injury done this crop hereabouts from heavy rains and the overflow of the dykes, will not be nearly as great as at one time was apprehended. In most cases the dykes were repaired to prevent a second tide from flooding the marshes, and heavy rains since have washed off most of the mud deposited by the first tide.

With the exception of potatoes, the root crop is fully up to that of any former year. The blight has struck the potato fields, but to what extent this crop is injured, cannot yet be predicted. On account of the very large acreage planted, should a quarter turn out bad, the crop will be a fair one.

Such a wet haying season has not been experienced for about eighteen years, and this is a blessing which farmers should not forget.

ISRAEL LONGWORTH.

MR. IVERS W. ADAMS writes from Bathurst, N. B. to *Forest and Stream*, that he tried a dozen prescriptions for repelling mosquitoes, flies, and similar pests, and found none of them effective until he came across the following, which are dead sure every time: "Three oz. sweet oil, 1 oz. carbolic acid". Let it be thoroughly applied upon hands, face, and all exposed parts (carefully avoiding the eyes) once every half hour, when the flies are troublesome, or for the first two or three days, until the skin is filled with it, and after this its application will be necessary only occasionally. Another receipt, equally efficacious, is: Six parts sweet oil, one part creosote, one part pennyroyal. Either of these is agreeable to use, and is no way injurious to the skin. We have both of these in our camp with us, and all flies keep a safe distance."