

CAPE BRETON COUNTY.

FROM A. G. MUSGRAVE, ESQ., NORTH SYDNEY.

North Sydney, June 23th, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—Yours of 23rd inst. at hand. In answer, I am able to report favourably on the prospects of the crops in this section of the county. Grass looks very promising. The past month has not been as favourable for grain and potatoes as could be wished for, but for the past few days vegetation has been very rapid, upon the whole I think the prospects are good.

FROM JOHN ROSS, ESQ., GLEN FARM, DOULDERIE.

*Little Bras d'Or,
June 26th, 1879.*

MR. EDITOR,—Vegetation never made an earlier start than it made this Spring, up to the 20th of May everything looked promising, and I do not know that I ever saw grass looking better in this district than it did at that date, but since we had a continuation of cold weather up to the latter part of last week; we had several heavy frosts that cut the early potatoes and even scorched the young clover, we now do not expect to have more than an average crop of hay, if it will come up to that. There is more wheat sown this season than ever before in this district and it looks well. A great many are complaining of their potatoes, that the seed rotted in the ground. Oats so far promising. Barley, very little sown. Turnips are only sown and cannot say what they may be. If we should have a fortnight now of warm, damp weather the crop in general would be good, and a fortnight of cold dry weather will put it below the average.

KING'S COUNTY.

FROM C. F. EATON, ESQ., LOWER CANARD.

Lower Canard, June 26th., 1879.

DEAR SIR,—Your favour of the 23rd is received. As requested, I give briefly my views on the present state and prospects of the field crops in this section of the country. Hay, this crop will be fair on good dyke and uplands, while on the poorer lands the yield will probably be less than an average. On the whole the prospect is not very flattering. Wheat, the sowing of winter wheat is becoming more general, and the result of a number of years has proved very satisfactory, it is looking very well at present. Some fields were headed out as early as the 12th inst. Spring wheat too is sown much more extensively than in former years, it does not, however, look as forward as we might expect to see it. Corn, not much planted, and this crop too has been kept back by the cold weather during the early part of the month. Oats,

large quantities sown and are looking usually well. Barley and buckwheat, but little sown. Potatoes, as usual in this country are extensively planted, and the remunerative prices paid last year have had a tendency to induce our farmers generally to make larger preparations for this crop than heretofore, and I am of opinion that there are more planted than in any previous year. The seed has been slow in coming up, but the recent rains and warm weather have caused a rapid growth, and this, to us most important crop, is looking very promising. Garden vegetables are looking fairly.

Fruit—Apples do not promise a large crop, though possibly an average one, and pretty generally distributed. The Canker Worms appear to have had their day, and, with a few exceptions, have almost entirely disappeared from our orchards. Much exertion has been made for their destruction, by using tarred paper, printer's ink, and Paris green, each of which has done its part in lessening their numbers; birds have also appeared in large numbers during the month of June and have greatly assisted in their destruction, and their scarcity this season leads us to hope that we shall not be troubled with them in the future as we have been in the past. Pears promise a good crop. Plums below an average. The country is looking beautiful at present, the warm weather having a most beneficial effect on vegetation generally.

PICTOU COUNTY.

FROM JAMES MACRAE, ESQ.

Pictou, June 30th, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—Yours of 23rd inst. received, requesting information on the present state and prospects of the crops in this district. In reply I have to state that the latter part of April and May has been very favorable for farm work, hence a larger area of land sown and about two weeks earlier than usual, prospects so far are encouraging. Wheat has been extensively sown, with a larger demand for imported and improved seed. Oats and barley look healthy and promise a good return. Potatoes, so far, doing well. Hay has a fine start in May, but owing to the cold, dry season during the latter part of May and first of June, the present appearance is not very encouraging, late rains, however, may revive it, and probably we may expect an average crop; I can say nothing about turnips and other root crops further than that a larger area has been sown than last year. Fruit of all kinds promised well during the first part of the season, but the cold and frost during the first part of June injured the blossoms materially, there will be, however, an average crop. Upon the whole, prospects are good.

LUNenburg COUNTY.

FROM B. ZWICKER, ESQ., KAHONE BAY.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your wish, I beg to say that the prospects of the farmer look cheering at present; the winter rye is very good; barley is also very good; the potatoes came up very regular and are looking well; wheat is not generally sown by our farmers, what I did see is looking well; cabbage will be very scarce this season for the want of plants; the dry, warm weather the first part of May made the little black insect that we call the flea, very destructive to the plants, and many farmers have none to set out, the hay is the principle crop, some people think it will be short of last year, my opinion is that there will be a fair crop, in rich land it is very good and forward, some few have cut a little round their buildings where it lodged. A good soaking rain now would crown the hay crop.

YARMOUTH COUNTY.

FROM CHARLES E. BROWN, ESQ.

Yarmouth, 27th June, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—Your circular of 23rd inst. respecting present state and prospect of crops, received. The Spring of 1879 is quite without precedent in this county. Up to the 19th inst, with the exception of one or two warm days in April, our weather has been almost a continuation of winter, ice making on several nights in June, an uninterrupted succession of cold, over-cast days, not north winds only were chilling, but all alike, while frequent rains kept the soil wet and cold. Seeds germinated but slowly, in many cases rotting in the ground, and when the plants appeared above the surface, growth from week to week was almost imperceptible. Crops under these conditions are all backward, the hay crop will be probably a quarter less than the average, the drought of last season having killed the roots, and the constant cold winds checking progress, pastures also are poor and dairy product will be high. The potato crop will be late, so far the plants are vigorous and healthy, high prices have stimulated planting (worth now 60 cents to 90 cents per bushel), if the later season prove favorable there will be a large crop. Grain fields, although late, look well, considerably more sown this season than heretofore. The root crop on the whole is now promising. The sugar beet is on trial to some extent, so far is growing as vigorously as the mangold. Turnips yet to be sown. Although we had a large fruit crop last season, and this was supposed to be the off year, trees were full of bloom again, and unless injured by the frosts, of which I do not yet see indications, there will be a good crop of fruit. The early strawberry blooms were