

The Farm.

STATE OF THE CROPS

To the Editor of the *Journal of Agriculture* :

Dear Sir,

Wheat.—Whatever was sown early is looking well. Some farmers may have sown later this year on account of the great rise in price of this cereal, but in recent years, late sown grain has not done so well.

Oats.—Are looking well also, though I have heard of some fields that had to be resown on account of the grub and wire worm having destroyed them, and some others are looking a little measly. I think in nearly all these cases it is on spring ploughing, so far I have not noticed it on any soil that I knew to be fall ploughed.

Barley.—Not much sown, but looking fairly well for the season.

Pease are looking fine. A good deal has been sown I fancy, after having visited many localities.

Corn.—A large average has been put in and is still being put in. Many, last year, lost the first seeding on account of the cold, damp spring. This year has been much earlier, but some farmers were afraid and held back; last week the corn grew very fast.

Potatoes.—The high price of tubers has encouraged many to plant far more potatoes this year than usual. Last year they were so cheap that not very many planted an extra quantity and the crop was very light. They are 3 or 4 times dearer than last year, so of course every one will plant more this year, the potato beetles seem to be watching already for their prey, in great number, in a few I had in our garden, while going through them, on Saturday, I could see plenty of beetles.

Other root crops are coming up nicely and growing well for the time of the year.

Hay is looking excellent; a fine appearance; the showers of rain have not been too heavy and still about enough to make things grow nicely. We used to have a saying long ago: "a leaky May makes great hay;" May has been leaking pretty often lately, so the hay has grown immensely during the past fortnight; not much has been winter killed.

Clover is an excellent crop this year. Last year, in this province we had very little, while this year it is just the reverse.

Fruit.—All kinds of fruit seem to be abundant, if blossoms prove anything we are going to have an extra crop, although it is rather early to say very much about it. Currants, gooseberries, etc., are doing well, the latter are about half grown.

Pastures are very good. There ought to be an exceedingly large make of both butter and cheese for the month of June. Prices are low, perhaps a blessing in disguise as the low price will increase the consumption and with no strikes in Great-Britain at present, the market for both articles should be in a healthy shape before very long. At present, butter is paying fully better than cheese. I hope every farmer took the advice tendered him some time ago, and prepared some green-fodder to cut by and by when the pastures begin to dry up. About that time, I look for better prices for both butter and cheese. Cheer up! They say that the darkest hour of the 24 is just before the dawn. We are on the dawn of better prices, so keep up your courage and you will be both pleased with and surprised at the results at the close of the year.

Chateauguay, 30 May, 1898.

PETER MACFARLANE.

The Failure of an Agricultural College

From advices to hand we hear that a well known Agricultural College in Australia has been closed. The reason given being the drought, and the falling off in the number of students, and possibly these reasons may seem sufficient to those who take no interest in agricultural education, but to interested people they are far from satisfactory.