

With regard to other crops, rye, barley, oats and peas appear to be full average crops, with very few exceptions. About ten report failure of the oat crop from rust and wet, and partial failure of the rye crop from the midge, which they assert has attacked that crop, and in some cases barley as well as the wheat, and the cause of rust is universally attributed to be want of proper drainage and of free circulation of air. Two returns from Essex, two from Kent, two from Frontenac, two from Middlesex, one from Northumberland, and one from Elgin report almost a total failure in the oat crop, in all cases attributed to rust. With these exceptions, the crop is reported nearly an average of about 30 bushels per acre.

With regard to Potatoes, the returns are by no means favorable as to quantity, although very much as to quality. Almost all report a deficient crop from various causes. Twenty-nine attribute the deficiency to drought or to wet weather at the time of planting; seventeen to the common rot; forty-two state distinctly that there is no rot, and twelve have made no report. In parts of Northumberland, Durham, York and Leeds the grasshopper has done very serious injury to the Potato crop, as well as to Clover, Wheat, &c. The general average given in the returns is 112 bushels per acre. Taking the average at 150 bushels, of 56 lbs., the crop is about 33 1-3d per cent. deficient in quantity, but the excellence of the quality will in some degree compensate for that. In the new townships, on the Free Grant Roads, it is well worthy of remark that the rot has not affected the potatoes in the slightest degree, and the crop is generally excellent both in quantity and quality. The grain crops also in these localities bear the same character for excellence.

The inferences I would draw from these hundred returns are :

1st.—That the whole wheat crop of Canada for 1858, including both winter and spring wheat is about 25 per cent. below the general yearly average, allowing for the good quality of the spring wheat and winter wheat which have escaped the midge, and rust, the samples of both being excellent.

2nd.—That the crops of rye, barley and oats are about a fair average, notwithstanding the partial failure of the last named.

3rd.—That the pea crop is a little beyond the average, say ten per cent.

4th.—That the potato crop is about 25 per cent. deficient, allowing for the excellent quality, which is above par.

5th.—That the Indian corn crop has been much less cultivated than usual, owing to the planting season being extremely wet, and that there will be a very small surplus of this grain beyond what will be required for domestic purposes, forty-seven returns having reported that there is little or none grown this season.

If these deductions are correct there is a slight improvement upon last year's crop of wheat, which was 31 per cent. short of the general yearly average, this year's deficiency being calculated at 25 per cent. The potato crop also is better than that of last year, which is an item of considerable importance in the year's supply of food.

I am Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HUTTON,

*Secretary.*