

early, and early kinds of seed, to drain the land well and make small ridges, and otherwise expedite the growth as much as possible. The early sowed Sole wheat escaped last year, in many instances, in the very centre of the weevil's destructive ravages. The maggot is generated from a fly blow deposited in the blossom by a very small greyish fly with a small stripe of orange down the back, and it is most busy when the wheat is in full blossom, about the first of July.

Another way of accounting for our unusually low averages of wheat is—that a great deal of our best and earliest, being unprotected by snow last winter, was actually killed by the intensity of the frost—not wintered out as is common in Spring, but actually killed in the depth of winter; there being some few days when the thermometer stood 16 degrees below zero, and no snow to protect the wheat in open situations.

Another reason is that the number of acres of wheat being too large a proportion to the acres of cultivated land, in proportion to our means of manuring. There are 27 082 acres of wheat and 127,876 of cultivated land, making about two acres of every nine, or 22 in every 100 under wheat.

These bad crops and present low prices will give a great check to the growth of wheat, as farmers must turn their attention to other branches of agriculture.

The actual cost of raising a bushel of wheat (even with an average crop of 17 bushels per acre, the usual average), is 3s 6d per bushel. Thus—on the summer fallowing system almost universally adopted in this County—the expense is—

To two years rent on interest of value of cleared land at 10s per acre, the cleared land on each farm having to pay interest for the wild land - - - - -	£1 0 0
To one-third of expense of manuring the land, the other two-thirds being charged to the following crops at 25s per acre - -	0 8 4
To Seed, seven pecks at 4s. per bushel - -	0 7 0
To three plowings and draggings and rolling and water furrowing - - - - -	1 0 0
To cradling and binding an acre at 5s per day, for men boarded - - - - -	0 6 3
To drawing in, threshing, cleaning, and taking to market at 6d per bushel - - -	0 8 6
	£3 10 1

Deducting 10s for straw, this leaves the actual cost of raising an acre of wheat £3, which at 17 bushels is as nearly as possible 3s. 6d. per bushel.

The average price this season has been only 3s 4d, so that the farmer has not even laborers' wages at this price—but when the average is unfortunately (as it is this year) less than ten bushels per acre, the loss upon the wheat crop is

about 24s per acre; the cost of raising an acre of *poor* wheat being very nearly the same as that of raising an acre of *good* wheat. The rent, seed, ploughing, dragging, cradling, binding, and drawing in, and cleaning, being exactly the same, the threshing and taking to market only being a trifle lower, but always counter-balanced by the *quality* being also deficient.*

Spring grain, Barley, Peas, and Oats, and in some cases Indian Corn, and also Hay have paid the farmer much better than wheat this year, the great increase in the lumber trade has created a great demand for coarse grain and Hay.

POTATOE CROP.

The great failure in the Potatoe crop is unaccounted for by the most scientific men of all countries and still remains a mystery. Liebig himself is quite at a loss—he supposes it to be occasioned by something peculiar in the *air*, but as the disease is over the whole world at the same time, is it probable that the air *everywhere* could be infected? This at all events we know that our average crop which used to be 180 bushels, is this year only 50 per acre.

The average expense of raising an acre of Potatoes stands thus—

One year's Rent or Interest	£0 10 0
Three ploughings and draggings.....	1 0 0
One third of Manure.....	0 8 4
Seed 12 bushels at 2s.....	1 4 0
Moulding, cleaning, and weeding per acre.....	0 5 0
Ploughing out and storing 180 bushels.....	0 15 0
Taking to market at 2d. per bushel.....	1 10 0

Total expense of cultivating an acre of Potatoes.....£5 12 4

* The extremely low average of wheat referred to by the author, should be regarded as purely *exceptional*; and the causes which have produced such a result in the County of Hastings, must be understood as operating within limited areas. The weevil wears itself out in the course of a few seasons; and much lies in the power of the cultivator to arrest or modify its progress, as stated in the report. It is but seldom that wheat is so extensively killed in winter, in the manner described, even in the coldest and most exposed localities of the Province. And we believe that there is no portion of this vast Continent better adapted, both in point of soil and climate, to the production of wheat,—and other ordinary agricultural cereals, than UPPER CANADA: but under altered circumstances, chiefly of a fiscal nature, originating with the Mother Country, it now behoves our farmers to pay more attention to articles which hitherto have been little thought of, but which may be made of great service in a more comprehensive, ameliorating, and profitable system of Husbandry, which is, we have good reason to hope, on the eve of being gradually and generally introduced. Old Country readers should remember that the *Western Peninsula* of Canada, enjoys a winter not only much less severe, but a month or six weeks shorter, than the Eastern portions of British America, and the North Eastern States; and affords a wide and most encouraging field for the profitable employment of Capital and intelligent, persevering Industry.—[EDITOR.]