

## BRIGHTENING PROSPECTS.

THE harvest is now sufficiently advanced, to enable us to speak with some certainty as to the result, and we are delighted to be able to say that the most sanguine hopes of bountiful crops have been fully realised. Indeed, were we to accept as quite correct all the glowing accounts which are to be found in the local press of Ontario, we would have to conclude that never did that Province yield such crops before. In some sections we believe this picture is not too highly coloured, for wheat, barley, oats, potatoes—in fact every species of crop—are unusually abundant, and the quality by no means deficient. But in other localities, where the surface of the country is flat and the soil has a cold bottom, the large rain-fall during the summer has been injurious, and the yield is not above the average. After making allowance for this, however, we feel every confidence in setting down the harvest now partially reaped, as one of the most abundant ever obtained in this country. The crop of oats is worthy of especial mention as being something extraordinary, which fact must have an important effect upon the prices to be obtained for this grain. But the barley and wheat crops are also much heavier than usual, and what is rather remarkable regarding the latter, in some sections in which the farmers have suffered greatly of late years from the depredations of the midge and other wheat pests, this season scarcely one has been seen. This is a rather singular circumstance, but it doubtless is attributable to the unusually cool summer we have had. Individuals who have given some consideration to these destructive insects, assert that not getting sufficient heat at the proper time, very few of the little creatures got beyond the larvæ stage. This may or may not be correct, but it appears a very reasonable solution of their mysterious disappearance this season. Many believe that we will not be troubled much with the midge again for some years, and the writer knows one locality, at least, in which the farmers intend to act on this expectation, and sow Soule's and other fine qualities of wheat this fall. The potato crop—to go back to the subject we have more immediately in hand—will be more variable than the others. On high lands, there is abundance, we might almost say more than abundance; but on low, wet soils, they have turned out poorly. We hear of the rot in some of the latter districts having proved quite destructive. However, the large crops will more than make up for the poor ones. So there will be no lack of this popular article of food. The best evidence of the general excellence of the potato crop is, that in some places they have already fallen from \$1 to about 30c. per bushel. The fruit crop is expected to be a fair one—although not above an average. Never was there such a season for strawberries and cherries as this one has proved; they have been literally a drug in the market, and prices have been quite low compared with former years. The supply of apples, peaches, plums, &c., does not promise to be as large as usual. The root crops, such as carrots and turnips, look promising. The latter is getting to be a very important crop to many sections of the Province of Ontario. This arises from the fact that far greater attention is now being given to stock-breeding than formerly, and turnips constitute one of the principal articles of food for the cattle during the winter months. In most they look well so far, and the same may be said of mangolds and similar roots. Taking the whole harvest into view—that which is already reaped and that yet in the fields—the country has reason to congratulate itself on the result. We are convinced that 1869 will be known as a red letter year in the harvest line—one in which the Omnipotent Giver scattered His gifts with unusual liberality. It has already caused feelings of hope and satisfaction throughout the whole business community. Experience has hundreds of times shown that, in Canada at least, abundant crops mean better times, and after the brief season of depression we have had, the change will be exceedingly acceptable. A deficient harvest this fall would have proved quite a calamity to the business public. Let us be thankful to the Lord of the harvest that any such danger is now past, that the labours of our husbandmen have been crowned with abundance, and that our prospects are brightening before us.

**NEW WHEAT.**—The first load of new wheat of the season was brought to town yesterday by Mr. M. S. Gilmour, it having been raised on his farm, Lot 2, Concession 6, Caister. It was of the Amber Michigan variety—a very fine sample—and was sold at \$1.10 (silver) per bushel.—*Hamilton Spectator.*

## THE HALIFAX REPEALERS.

THE kindly feeling shown by the Dominion Parliament towards Nova Scotia last Session, as evidenced by confirmation of the "better terms" secured by Messrs. Howe and McLellan, has not been without a good effect. We have good reasons to believe that it has turned the majority of the Repealers into a minority, and that only the more rabid of that extreme party now seek to dismember the fair fabric of British American Union which has been erected.

But the spirit of the Repeal Party still exists, and it has been manifested in Halifax, and in a way by no means creditable to those concerned. It is well known that at present some of our Ministers of the Crown are visiting the Maritime Provinces, and that His Excellency the Governor General has gone down the St. Lawrence, and intends to visit some of the principal places in Nova Scotia. Some of the citizens of the City of Halifax—which was to be Sir John Young's head-quarters whilst in the Province—deemed the occasion a fitting one to extend a welcome to His Excellency, as Her Majesty's representative, to that part of her dominions. A meeting was called by the Mayor with a view to get up a banquet in honour of the visit. But this did not suit the more violent "Antis." It was feared that a simple compliment to the Governor General, which possesses no political significance, and is generally shared in by men of all political parties, would in some way damage or interfere with the petty aims of the rag end of the Repealers, and so the hospitable project was opposed, the meeting turned into a faction fight by the Anti-unionists, and its object frustrated.

This conduct on the part of the Repealers, certainly reflects very little credit upon them, and has placed the enterprising City of Halifax in a rather unenviable position. We trust, however, the majority of the citizens do not sympathise with the action that has been taken towards Sir John Young, and repudiate the course of those who have made their fine city appear inhospitable and churlish in the eyes of the world.

We should think this shabby treatment of Her Majesty's representative on the part of the leading Repealers in Halifax, would rebound upon their own heads. The people of that Province must be becoming tired of the extreme and rabid course which the Antis have for some time pursued. Before the "better terms" secured by Mr. Howe, which certainly do, to say the very least of it, give full and complete justice to Nova Scotia, they may have had some excuse for their conduct. But after the generous and kindly action of the Dominion Parliament, they are without excuse, and their continued agitation of Repeal must arise from a desire to further the selfish schemes of party, and not from any desire for the good of the country. Their action is all the more unjustifiable, when it is considered that the bounds of the Dominion are about to be immensely increased by the admission of the North-west, Newfoundland, and possibly of Prince Edward Island. The idea of Repeal of the Union under these circumstances, is simply preposterous, and we feel well assured, if such Repeal could be had, no Province would regret it more than Nova Scotia before five years were over.

Another reason which shows the folly and wickedness of further agitation by the Repeal Party of Nova Scotia, is the fact that the trade between the inland and the seaboard Provinces is increasing annually. At one time it was predicted that we could not do business profitably with each other. But what do we find to-day? We find that nearly all their breadstuffs are now obtained from Ontario, and that not a few of our manufactures find their way to the principal cities. It is also with especial gratification we observe that the shipments of Nova Scotia coal to Quebec and Ontario is steadily augmenting, and that the trade ultimately promises to become extensive. The fact is becoming more patent every day that we can cultivate a profitable commerce between the different Provinces, and that before many years we shall have that commercial as well as political union, so necessary to our prosperity and stability.

From what we can learn of public feeling in Nova Scotia, we incline to the opinion that Repeal is nearly defunct. The action of the Halifax Antis may be regarded, probably, as one of the last kicks of the party, indeed, it is more than hinted if the Dominion Government would only conciliate the rest of the leading Antis as they have done Messrs. Howe and McLellan, the political horizon would speedily become serene. It is to be hoped nothing of the kind will be

attempted. The rest of the Dominion would never consent to it. Nova Scotia has already received, as we have previously said, full and complete justice, and the great majority of the people, will soon, if they have not already, discover this, and accept the union in good faith. Time is a quiet but wonderful worker. It has already done much—a little longer and Repeal will be a thing of the past.

## DEFENCE.

SO much poltroonery has been written and spoken concerning the inability of Canadians to defend themselves with any hope of success against the overwhelming armies that the United States could send against them in the event of a war, that a stranger would naturally fall into the error of thinking our people a very womanish lot; and we cannot after all greatly condemn our neighbours for taking us at the low estimate so many of our own citizens have placed upon us.

For our own part, however, we sincerely believe Canada can be made so strong in defence as to be virtually impregnable to attack. Not to costly fortifications—though they too are probably necessary—do we look for our chief strength, but to the brave men who are prepared to fight, and if necessary to die for their freedom, and who will never submit to the disgrace of foreign servitude. That without any very costly expenditure, the bravery and patriotism of these our citizens could be made available against a day of need we also believe. And the way by which this can be accomplished is simple, one already tried to a certain point, and failing in effectiveness chiefly from not going far enough. Arms and ammunition, with ability to use them, will be our surest safeguard against compelled servitude. A rifle for every man capable of bearing arms and instruction and practice in its use, should be provided by Government in some way or other.

We have before us the score of a rifle match between two Western clubs—the Victoria, of Hamilton, and the Toronto, of that city,—Hamilton being victorious. For the winners, the summary records an average of 3½ per shot, 86 bull's-eyes, 100 centres, 22 outers, and 8 misses, in a total of 210 shots. The distances were 300, 500 and 700 yards, 7 shots at each range. At the 500 and 700 yard ranges, the shooting was a trifle better than at 300 yards. The leading scores at 700 yards, were in one instance of 6 bull's-eyes and 1 centre, and in two others of 5 bull's-eyes and 2 centres. Only two out the entire ten marksmen scored at 700 yards less than a centre.

This it must be acknowledged is exceedingly good shooting, and we refer to it now to shew what might be done by careful training and practice in the use of the rifle, at a minimum of cost to the country. Here are ten men, selected from a club of limited number, who shew themselves able at a distance of 700 yards, or exactly two fifths of a mile, to hit their mark in the centre 29 times out of 70, to hit it within a radius of about a foot from the centre 38 times, to strike it once outside that distance, and to miss altogether only twice. Let us suppose now an available force of 20,000 such men acting on the defensive, armed with the best breech-loading rifle to be had! What army that could be brought against them whether twice or twenty times their number, but would melt away under the destructiveness of their fire like snow beneath the rays of a summer sun? Why a thousand men well posted behind even very inferior defences, or even in rifle pits, could keep a host at bay as long as they were supplied with provisions and ammunition enough for their work. No powder with them would be thrown away; every shot almost would kill or disable a foe. No average soldiers in fact could be brought forward in face of such a fire as could be kept up from the time of coming within long range till they reached the concealed marksmen.

Now we know that our Government have already taken steps to cause a more general practical acquaintance with the use of the rifle, but they fall far short of what is required. Our own opinion is that no money whatever need be expended in keeping up either a militia or volunteer force, except perhaps artillery, and that with half the money now comparatively wasted, every man in the country might be taught to shoot with good aim, if not deadly accuracy, and good rifles be kept in store ready for use in case of invasion. Very little drill would be necessary to enable men to march in an orderly way to meet a threatened attack, and very little manoeuvring would be required. A small force of highly skilled riflemen