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THE SEASON AND THE CROPS.

May was this year a cold wet month throughout, and the first half of June was little better. But the third and fourth weeks of June completely dried up the soil, the weather became excessively warm, and the hot winds had blown up the fires in the woods and enveloped a large portion of the Province in smoke. On 29th and 30th a heavy fall of rain completely changed the face of nature.

The season was not a favorable one for spring work. OATS, BARLEY, POTATOES and other spring crops are consequently unusually late; but they are making rapid progress. WINTER WHEAT has done remarkably well with us, although in Upper Canada and the Western States much of it has been winter-killed. POTATOES were not so extensively planted this season as usual, on account of the bad weather at planting time; but wherever they were put in early they are doing very well. The excessively hot dry weather retarded the sowing of TURNIPS, but the ground is now in good order for the seed.

The HAY CROP gave great promise during

the cool wet weather, but as usually happens, the June drought has told upon it. Everything depended upon a speedy shower of rain. Clover being deep-rooted, held its own for some time, but the other hay-grasses were already giving indications of checked growth, when the copious rains of the last two days of June gave a smiling aspect of fertility and beauty to the whole country.

We have not as yet much information from the Fruit Districts. But so far as we have observed the APPLE ORCHARDS are remarkably well set with fruit. Cherries are likewise fruiting nicely. At the beginning of June there was great promise of strawberries; the wild strawberries in some places had leaves and flowers as large as the British Queen. But the drought has told fearfully upon them. The fruit is as yet small and inferior. Currants and Gooseberries are fruiting abundantly. In some places the gooseberries suffer from caterpillars, in others from mildew. From what we have observed of mildew, it seems probable that copious waterings at the root with pure water, will remedy the evil. It is in warm dry situations and in dry seasons that mildew seems to be worst. GARDEN VEGETABLES are doing well; cabbages and cauliflowers, where not already out should be planted ere we lose our present rains.

STATE OF THE CROPS.

Pictou, 22nd June 1866.

DEAR SIR,—I was from home and did not receive your note of 18th inst., regarding the state of the crops, until to-day.

I have within the last two weeks travelled over a very considerable part of this county and conversed with a good many farmers. They all agree that the weather has been uncommonly backward and unfavourable for farming operations; that during the whole spring, one cold rain storm after another, has kept the ground in such a wet state, that it was almost impossible to work either plough or harrow, until the season had got so far advanced that it will doubtless require favourable weather to give the crops a fair chance of progressing.

Potatoes in most places are above the ground and look healthy; hay and grain look short for the time of year.

However the warm weather of the last week, has produced a favourable change in the general appearance of the whole crop.

W. H. HARRIS.