

FROM HON. HIRAM BLACK.

Anchet, Aug. 25, 1881.

Your request for a brief statement respecting the crops in my district came to hand yesterday. Some pieces of oats have been killed by the tide, and some small patches of hay are so covered with mud that they cannot be cut. While the loss by the tide will be felt somewhat by a few persons, in the aggregate it will be very small. The loss by the wet weather is a serious one, and every day becoming more so; in fact, should the weather continue a couple of weeks longer it will become terrible.

Not one-half of the marsh English hay has been secured, indeed some large hay farmers have only one-third of their crop yet housed. The crop is above an average one, still I do not believe five per cent. of the English hay this year will be first class—cut in proper season and well cured without damage by rain or fog or tide. Under the best of circumstances the hay cut after this can only be fair to middling. There has been very little entirely lost, and very little also will be really fit to press. It will be nearly all fit for feed for young cattle, making fair but not fattening feed. If our hay has to contend in market with hay from sections of the country having had a good harvest, the commercial loss will be fifty per cent.—not so much, if all the country suffers alike, as the best hay that can be got will have to be used, poor though it may be. The later grasses are lighter than usual.

The weather has damaged the wheat crop materially, so rank a growth was produced that the rains lodged it so badly that almost every field has portions lying which do not fill and will be an utter loss. Then a kind of rust has attacked many fields, which will reduce the yield in quantity and particularly in quality. Other crops suffer from rank growth, but not so much as wheat. The potatoes are going with the rust, about the usual time of the month but, considering the season is late, early. Hay suffering to be cut; Grain ripening and no weather for harvest. Never saw such beautiful prospects for the farmer so blighted by a few weeks of bad harvest weather.

HIRAM BLACK.

FROM JOHN ROSS, ESQ., NEW GOSWOLD.

I have to inform you that in this district the crops have been looked upon as very favourable up to about two weeks ago. But the weevil has made its appearance with a most destructive effect. None has escaped as far as I can learn, except wheat sown in April and in the first three days of May. The damage done to the wheat crop in this county is enormous, as more wheat has been sown than in any

previous year. I heard one farmer saying that the weevil injured him to the amount of two hundred dollars.

There has been most unfavorable weather for hay-making since the 4th inst. A great many in this neighbourhood finished hay-making in the good weather in July, but further up the river and in inland settlements the hay crop is not nearly secured, and is greatly damaged in quality.

Potatoes, Oats and Barley are very promising.

JOHN ROSS.

New Glasgow, Aug. 24, 1881.

FROM THE PICTOU AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Pictou, August 27th, 1881.

In reply to your favor of the 20th, I have to state that the matter was brought before the meeting of our Society yesterday, and the information received is contained below:—

Hay, above the average, generally well saved, except on low lands.

Oats promise a large return.

Wheat.—Early sowing good; late sowing uncertain; some weevil.

Barley, good.

Potatoes, good; no disease as yet.

Turnips promise well.

Stone Fruit, excellent.

Apples, a poor crop.

The above information applies to our own district, where we have had a good deal of rain but no floods.

JOHN D. McDONALD,
Sec'y Pictou Ag. Soc'y.

FROM GEORGE WHITMAN, ESQ., ROUND HILL, ANNAPOLIS.

Round Hill, Annapolis, Aug. 27, 1881.

Your letter of the 23rd inst. was duly received. This season has been the worst here for many years, the frequent and heavy showers of rain from the 1st of April to the 15th inst. have very much injured the crops. The high and sandy soils have not suffered so much, but are more or less injured by the continued wet weather. The high tides of the 17th inst. overflowed and broke in some of the dykes near Annapolis Town and other places along the Annapolis River, and swept off the hay and damaged the grass, estimated by some about a thousand dollars. Hay, although an abundant crop, fully one-fourth has been so much damaged by rain it is worthless for fodder. This being the odd year, apples will not be anything like the abundant crop of last, but will not come far short of an average one. Wheat, a greater breadth sown than for many years, was much injured by the wet, but as a whole the crop is fair. Rye, oats, and barley have improved

in the fine weather the last ten days, especially the late sown, and promise a fair yield. Potatoes will be short of an average crop. Corn, with but few exceptions, a failure. Turnips, mangolds, sugar beets, &c., where the land has been properly drained, promise a good yield.

GEORGE WHITMAN.

FROM ARCHIBALD A. MCGILLIVRAY, ESQ., ANTIGONISH.

Antigonish, Aug. 29th., 1881.

In reply to yours of the 23rd inst, I am very happy to favour you with the pleasing intelligence that the present condition and prospects of the crops in this district are more encouraging than they were three or four weeks ago. We have had, since the first of this current month, weather which was calculated to be very unfavourable to all the crops, and the people felt that the total destruction of all the crops was inevitable, but now the weather having cleared up and become more favorable, the crops of all kinds show a healthy and prosperous condition. I do not mean but there are as usual exceptions, for some wheat fields show the ravages made by the weevil. Those exceptions seem to be limited to the wheat that was sown between the middle of May and the first of June. Early sowing looks well and is now fit to be bound, late sowing looks well and promises to be a good crop.

That a good deal of our hay crop has been housed in a partially damaged condition there cannot be a doubt, and that a good deal has yet to be made which is also partially damaged by the weather not permitting it to have been made in season, still it is impossible to estimate the actual loss.

ARCHD. A. MCGILLIVRAY.

FROM B. ZWICKER, ESQ., MAHON BAY, CO. LUNenburg.

Mahone Bay, Aug. 29th. 1881.

In reply to your request, I will give you, I think, as near a correct statement as can be given at present. The hay crop is very good, some of it was damaged with the wet weather, but none lost, there was a great deal more made than last year, the dry land was extra. The wheat is somewhat damaged by weevil, but I think will be an average crop, the wet weather caused a great deal of the grain to lodge. The winter rye is very good, some of it reached the height of eight feet; the barley I never saw look better, and, thank God, we have very fine weather to make it, it is two or three weeks later than last year; the blight has taken the potatoes, but I think if the weather continues dry there will be very few lost; other roots are very fine.

R. ZWICKER.