

On the whole the country is looking delightful, with the exception of a few blighted orchards, and, if any of our friends in town are troubled with that unpleasant feeling sometimes called the "blues," a drive through the King's and Annapolis valley would be the best prescription that I could offer for its cure.

I am, dear sir,

Yours very truly,

C. F. EATON.

Paradise, June 24th, 1878.

SIR,—Yours of the 19th inst. received, requesting information on the present state and prospects of the crops in this district.

*Wheat.*—Owing to last years success, both Winter and Spring wheat are more generally sown this year, which promise well, and we are looking forward to the time when our farmers may, by improved culture, and by the aid of Phosphates and other manures, be enabled to grow enough required for their own use.

Corn is not so extensively planted as in former years—this may be in part owing to the very low prices of corn meal. The present warm weather is giving it a good color and rapid growth. We cultivate no special varieties.

Barley and Oats are largely sown, and promise a heavy yield. We grow but little Rye.

Beans and Peas are much thought of, and are grown for feed for cattle as well as for family use.

Potatoes not so largely planted this year. Mangold Wurtzel and Turnips are more generally cultivated for dairy stock, and are consequently taking the place of potatoes, which we consider a step in the right direction, seeing that large returns are obtained.

The Hay crop promises to be an abundant one, and will require to be harvested at least ten days earlier than usual. The farmers are giving more attention to top-dressing their land for Grain and seeding down to grass.

Dairy husbandry is an important branch of business in this District. The Paradise Cheese Factory is receiving daily, about 7,000 lbs of milk, and which is being converted into first class cheeses by the skill and judgment of the foreman, Mr. C. Wiles.

Fruit culture is considered the most important, as also the most profitable of any of our resources, for the money invested. Where the Catterpillar and Canker Worm have not made a raid on the fruit trees, a very large crop is anticipated.

The fruit is abundantly set, and the prices received this Spring for good apples, viz., \$4 per barrel, being yet fresh in our minds—we are naturally looking forward for a continuance of the same, and which is also one of the cheerful outlooks of a farmer's life.

Yours very truly,

W. E. STARRATT.

Round Hill, Annapolis, June 24, 1878.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of the 19th inst. was received. Hay and fruit, the most reliable and profitable crops in Annapolis, give promise of being above an average crop. In some orchards the apple trees have been stripped of foliage by Catterpillars and Canker Worms; but most orchards not injured by insects promise an abundant yield. Large

flocks of small birds (and strangers here) are destroying the insects, and it is thought will prevent further injury to the trees this season. More grain of all kinds has been sown this year than usual, and looks well. The prospect of crops generally is quite encouraging. If the farmers would raise more wheat we might save at least a portion of the money sent out of the county to purchase flour. With the agricultural resources of the county and a population of less than 20,000, to import nearly 30,000 barrels of flour at a cost of about six dollars per barrel, \$180,000—such things ought not to be.

Yours very truly,

GEORGE WHITMAN.

Bridgetown, June, 24th, 1878.

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 19th inst. was duly received, and by request I shall now give you a brief report of the prospects of the crops in this district of the county. Fruits of all kinds are promising an abundant yield, particularly apples, which must be above an average one, excepting in a very few orchards which have been destroyed by the Canker Worm. Root crops are all coming forward nicely, and promise a good yield. The Hay crop by appearance must be above an average one, and in some parts of the county having has already commenced. Grains of all kinds are looking very well, and on the whole, the farmer has, at the present, the promise of an abundant harvest.

Yours truly,

CHARLES B. WHITMAN.

Mahone Bay, June 24th, 1878.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to yours of the 19th received yesterday, I am pleased to say that I do not remember a season that the prospects of the farmer were so favourable as this and so early. The grass in rich soil has been lodged three weeks ago, and it is quite likely that some farmers will have to cut it this week in some places. There is every prospect of an abundant hay crop. The grain and potatoes look equally well at present, but so early in the season we cannot say how they will yield. The winter rye is excellent. God has been pleased to send us a bountiful season so far. We had a very heavy thunder storm early this morning, accompanied by lightning and very heavy showers, rather too much for some of the crops.

We bought a very fine yearling Bull this Spring from Mr. John Allison. He is three quarters Durham and a dash of Jersey. He is very large, equal to any of the thorough bred Durhams I saw advertised.

Yours, truly,

B. ZWICKER.

DEAR DR. LAWSON:—

In compliance with your request, I send you the following notes on the present state and future prospects of the crops in this Township.

Our remarkably mild winter appeared to usher in the Spring some three or four weeks earlier than usual, but the coldness and dampness of the whole month of May, as well as the greater portion of June, brought vegetation, at the middle of the latter month, to the same state of development as it has usually attained at that date in former years. It is my own conviction, formed after some attention to the subject, that instead of there being

earlier and later seasons, as is constantly supposed and affirmed, our vegetation, both as regards Flora and the various products of husbandry, there is not perhaps the difference of one week in one season over another.

The prediction of our Meteorologists as to a dry summer, has not, certainly up to the present, been verified, for as I write, 26th June, we are enjoying most copious and seasonable showers, the growing crops having been abundantly supplied with moisture. On the other hand, the prediction of a low temperature for the month of June has been fulfilled. In the Island of Cape Breton, and indeed in the eastern parts generally, the thermometer for three or four days in the second week of June fell to 34°, a lowness of temperature unparalleled for the season. But this low temperature having been unaccompanied by frost at night, something also unusual, the growing crops sustained no injury. Altogether the season has been most favourable to the growth of crops, and as a consequence the hay crops in this township of Tracadie, where the land is even in fair condition, is looking very well, and if it can be properly made must prove an extra one. It is true that the old meadows that have become impoverished never show their best until July, therefore it is rather early to judge of what may be produced from this quality of land. It is to be regretted that so many of our farmers will persist in spreading out their labours on large areas instead of concentrating their energies and applying their skill for the purpose of enriching lesser areas. This would give them better results with less labour. The absence this year of little winter-kill will increase the quantity of our hay crops. I am of opinion that the same remarks will apply to all sections of our county.

In considering our grain crops, I shall confine my remarks to two characteristics, viz., the area sown, and their prospects. When it is remembered that in this naturally fine Agricultural County, flour to the amount of \$80,000 worth is imported, it is satisfactory to know that our farmers are beginning—and it is only beginning—to sow more wheat, as well as to employ more intelligent means for securing better crops of that grain. I am, at the present, assisting my friend J. W. Macdonald, M.D., in obtaining statistics as to the quantity sown this season in this locality. They are not yet sufficiently complete to speak with certainty, but it is safe to set down the number five bushels, as the average sown by each farmer, while a fraction of less than one-third of the farmers do not sow a single grain. It is quite common to see farmers sowing from thirty to forty bushels of oats and other grains than wheat, and be contented with a return of five to one, but if a large return of wheat is not obtained they at once become discouraged. I cannot understand this, for I do not care to set down our farmers as too slothful to prepare the ground for this grain. They ought to remember that the success achieved, however highly laudable in raising other grain, is altogether out of proportion to the means employed. Wheat, it may be said, above all other grains, requires, from time to time, a change, and the carrying out with strictest exactness the principle of Scientists, propagation through the "survival of the fittest." Indeed, this is a necessary motto to be observed by farmers with regard to all seeds. From the present very promising appearance of all our grain crops, it is safe to predict an abundant har-