

The farmers in the neighbourhood of Sorel, in 1885, went crazy with indignation when they saw the late senator Guévremont, at our instigation, harrowing his wheat and oats when they were some three or four inches high, but he won the first prize, "for standing crops of grain," for all that! As for barley, we are doubtful as to the advisability of harrowing that crop, if the grain is want for the maltster. For grinding barley it would be all right.

STATE OF THE CROPS.

To the Editor of THE JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE :

Dear Sir :—This has been rather a peculiar season allthrough. To begin with, the spring was much later than usual then we had a cold May very backward then a heavy dash of rain early in June which did considerable damage to the sown grain. Corn and potatoes got perhaps the most damage.

The May the early part of July was rather light and during the month something over 7 inches of rain-fall kept the farmers from getting their hay cut when it should have been cut and saved. In many sections the hay was only cut in August, in fact a great deal of it is not yet harvested. In talking with the farmers why it is that they are only cutting their hay now the same lame excuses are offered as were or have been offered the last forty years and will answer for the same purpose for the next half century : the hay was so green that they left it to grow as long as possible and now the weather is so bad they cannot save it. In 1897 we had a very bad time to save hay ; also the crop of that year was poor also and being saved in such bad shape made things much worse. The harvest is now on in the westerly sections of the province but the rain has continued the first fifteen days of this month pretty regularly, so it has been rather a hard job to get it saved in any kind of shape.

Wheat :—Has done very well under the circumstances ; in some sections it lodged it grew so rank ; there has been very little thrashed out so far although quite a considerable has been harvested.

Oats :—In some section have been struck with the rust but on the whole they will be better than the average.

Barly :—Has done exceedingly well ; there is not a great average sown this year.

Pease :—Not a great deal sown ; on the whole it has not been a very good year.

Buckweat :—Has done well and will likely be more than the average crop.

Corn :—Has done fairly well. If we do not have any early frost will be a good crop. In some sections of the Dominion we had frost on the 13th day of this month which affected the corn and tender vines and plants.

Potatoes :—Have done remarkably well. I see my prediction that potatoes would be scarce and dear before another twelve month has actually been realized already. In some sections there is talk of that dread disease the potato-rot making its appearance ; it is to be hoped that it may not become very general.

Other roots :—Have done remarkably well and will be a good crop the damp wetaher has been good for them.

Apples :—Will be a fair crop in this Province, but not nearly such a crop as we had in 1896. I see by the papers where Mr Eben James a very large dealer in this kind of fruit who resides in Toronto Ont. predicts the largest apple crop this year of any yet. I do not say he is mistaken but nevertheless for this province I know we shall not have near such a crop as in 1896 Of course six months from now we shall be better able to judge whether he was right or wrong in his estimate.

Other fruits :—Were a pretty fair crop ; the most of the small fruits have already been harvested.

Pastures :—Have kept pretty green and furnished pretty fair feeding for the cows. Those farmers who got their hay cut in July will have fine after grass now and there ought to be a large yield of milk and in consequence of which there will be a large make of cheese and butter.

Cheese :—Has done wonders ; a very large make and has sold at good prices. Last season was counted an extra good one but up to date the price has averaged a good deal more than last year and the shipments nearly 100,000 boxes more than last year, so that both together the extra price and also the increase in the shipments mean at least one million more dollars to the farmers in this one item above.

Butter :—The shipments are not up to last years figures ; the price has been better than last year but not quite proportionately equal to that of cheese. Take the two combined and there is quite a fair margin in advance of last years shipments ; and remember last year was a record breaker a fraction