

Agricultural Journal

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AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR AUGUST.

The month of August has been very favourable up to this time for the growing crops, and harvesting either hay or grain. Perhaps we never had a better time for securing hay without injury than the present year, and we believe it could not be better saved. This will greatly add to its value, and make up in some degree, for decidedly a short crop. We would prefer 20 lbs. of good well saved hay, to 30 lbs. ill saved, and we are confident the former quantity would be more valuable than the latter, as food for animals. A considerable proportion of the wheat came to maturity in August, and perhaps all the barley. The wheat has filled much better this year than last, and will produce a superior sample. It has not suffered materially by the fly or by the rust up to this time, although there has been some damage from each cause. Wheat has been sown to a great extent, and if the crop was heavy in proportion, we should have a large surplus, but we have observed that a considerable proportion stands very thin in the field, owing, we suppose, to the soil not being in the best state for seed when sown, and the weather subsequently being very dry. We cannot see from what other cause the crop could be so thin, as there is generally as much seed sown where the crop is the thinnest, as where it is thick, and a good crop; consequently it would appear that much of the seed did not come up, or that the young plants perished after they had appeared. A field of wheat or other grain may be poor and head badly, but it may stand sufficiently thick in the ground—but the thin crops we have noticed could not have one-third

of the plants they should have from the seed usually sown, and this we are certain is often the case in Canada, that much of the seed perishes and never produces a crop—and it may readily be understood what a great loss this must be to farmers—the seed forming a considerable item of the expenses of the crop of whatever kind. There cannot be any cause for this, in most instances, but the imperfect preparation of the soil and insufficient draining. When the soil is ill ploughed, some of the seed is buried so deeply that it cannot come up. If the soil is too wet when sowing, some of the seed rots, or, if it do happen to come up, the plants are feeble, and do not come to maturity, when the soil becomes hard by heat where before it was so wet. The last case is—when the seed is sown, when the land is hard, stiff, and in large lumps, that will not break down with the harrows or cover the seed properly, there will be a certain loss of seed and want of healthy plants. The price of the lost seed alone, if applied judiciously, would often remedy this defect, and ensure a fair crop, where now it is very light. The quantity of barley sown this year is, we believe, much less than usual, but generally a fair crop, and the sample greatly better than last year. Oats is not a heavy crop, particularly in straw. A very dry season is not the most favourable for oats, although the most so for wheat, barley, and indian-corn. Peas are generally good where any justice has been done to them in cultivation. This year was favourable for bringing beans to maturity, although the straw may not be heavy, or the pods very numerous. Indian-corn looks well, and cannot fail to be a good crop on suitable soil. Potatoes are not planted extensively, except on very few farms; but we have never seen them look better than they do at present. The other root crops we have observed to be short of plants in numerous instances, we suppose, in consequence of the very dry weather we have had from the time the seed has been put in the ground. Every competent farmer who would make a tour in