

The crops of Minudie, River Hebert and South Joggins, are reported by Job Seaman, Esq. :—

Hay on uplands, a fair yield, equal to 1872.

Marshes: English, less than 1872 by 12½ per cent.

The Hay has been secured in better condition than it was in 1872, which makes this year's crop nearly equal to that of last year.

Wheat: Excellent yield with increased average makes the crop 50 per cent. over that of last year.

Oats: Good yield. Larger amount sown than in last year and 75 per cent. larger return.

Barley: A very fair crop but less sown. Deduct 25 per cent. from crop of 1872.

Buckwheat: Less yield, and about one-half less planted this year than last.

Rye: Not much cultivated in this district, there being only two fields that I have seen—one Wint r, and the other Spring Rye—both splendid crops.

Peas and Beans: Not much cultivated.

Potatoes: Looking well, a larger amount planted than in 1872. Safe to allow 25 per cent. over last year.

Turnips: Excellent; larger crop than 1872.

Beets, Carrots and Parsnips: Where cultivated, looking well.

Cabbages: Only poor except a few in gardens.

The Crops in this district may be put down as good. The storm did us but little damage, except in the case of a field or two of late sown Oats.

No. 7 Polling District, comprising Pugwash, and Pugwash River, Gulf Shore, Port Philip, Victoria, &c., is reported upon by J. A. Elliot, Esq. :

Up to the time of the big storm the prospect for good crops was better than usual, and had it not been for it our crops would be over an average.

The Hay crop is over an average, and the weather having been fine it was cured.

The Wheat crop, we think, is not quite an average with other years, but it is said to be better than last year.

Oats are scarcely an average crop, but we think it better than last year.

Barley about an average, but very little raised here at any time.

Very little Rye sown.

Buckwheat nearly all destroyed by the storm.

Potatoes are a good crop, far ahead of last year.

Turnips as good as usual.

Other vegetables about an average crop.

The Fruit crop is damaged very much. Plums and Apples are, we think, not more than half what they were last year.

We think from the information we could get from our farmers in this district, that the crops on the whole are something better than last year, and had it not been for the damage done by the storm we think they would be at least one-third in advance of 1872.

At the present time there is probably no subject more deserving the attention of the farmers of this Province than the Factory System as applied to Butter and Cheese making. There have been recently published in the *Journal of the Royal*

Agricultural Society of England, and reprinted in the *Journal of the New York State Agricultural Society*, two letters from M. Juhlin Dannfelt, the Superintendent of the Experimental Farm at Stockholm, in which a very clear and most instructive account is given of the Dairy Factories of Sweden :

The greater part of the land of Sweden is divided into small farms, which are cultivated by the peasants owning them, and on which the number of cows kept for breeding, or for the production of milk, seldom exceeds ten or fifteen. The quantity of milk obtained on these farms is therefore small, especially as the animals generally receive insufficient nourishment during the long winter. One consequence has been that, as large quantities of milk are indispensable for a regular and rational method of dairying, this branch of husbandry has not until lately been developed to any considerable degree, although the climate, the nature of the country, and the manner of living of its inhabitants, are all favourable to its advancement.

In order to further this subject, various measures have been taken during the last ten years, both by the Government and by the agricultural societies, and efforts have been directed towards drawing the attention of the small farmer to the advantages to be gained by the application of the idea of association to this branch of husbandry. These endeavours are, however, of too recent a date to have as yet produced any very obvious results; but from what has already been gained, it is evident that the dairy-factories constitute the most powerful means of obtaining on small farms a considerable revenue from dairy-produce. The price which the milk has realized by such associations, greatly exceeds what the small farmers—especially those in the northern provinces—have hitherto been able to obtain for it single handed. The system is therefore gaining ground daily, and is exercising a beneficial influence on this class of farmers, as well as stimulating a more careful treatment of the cattle; and this influence is already reacting in a salutary manner on other branches of agriculture.

The modes in which dairy-factories have hitherto been arranged vary in different places. In some districts a person—generally some tolerably wealthy farmer—purchases, at a certain price, the milk produced on neighbouring farms, and subsequently prepares butter and cheese from it; the owners or tenants of the farms taking no part either in the profits or losses. In other places on the other hand where more agreement and confidence prevail between neighbours, several persons residing within the same village, or in each other's neighbourhoods, have established a dairy-factory, which is worked on the account of all the proprietors, and the

profits of which are divided *pro rata parte*. The best results have been obtained by the latter method; and it will, beyond doubt, become the more general, being of incomparably greater advantage to all concerned.

1. *Average number of cows*.—From 50 to 200; the average number about 100. Experience has, however, proved that wherever a factory has been established, the number of cows has speedily increased.

2. *Size of buildings*.—This depends to a great degree on local circumstances, and the system followed in the management of the milk. Most of the dairies are managed according to the so-called cold-water system, by which expensive cellars are avoided. Such a dairy generally consists of a building from 50 to 60 feet long, and from 25 to 35 broad, containing a milk-room (being either a cellar on the Holstein system; or, where the cold-water system is introduced, a room with splint walls and a water reservoir); a curd kitchen, where the cheese is made; a cheese room, where the ready-made cheese is kept and ripened; a butter-cellar, and one or two dwelling rooms. There are, besides, in several dairies a churn room and a room used for the sale of part of the milk, where either the skimmed or new milk, or the buttermilk, is disposed of directly from the dairy. Most of these dairy-houses are built of wood.

3. *Cost of buildings*.—The cost of such a building greatly depends on the price of the timber and the labour, the disposition of the interior, &c., &c.

Thus, in the northern provinces, where there is an abundance of timber, and where the labour is generally performed by the associates themselves, it is stated not to exceed 50*l.* to 70*l.*; but in the middle and southern provinces, on the other hand, it probably amounts to from 120*l.* to 150*l.*

4. *Cost of machinery*.—The machinery is generally exceedingly simple, especially in the northern provinces. There it is stated that this cost amounts at the most, to only 15*l.*; in the middle provinces, to from 30*l.* to 50*l.*; and in the southern, to as much as 100*l.*, in which, however, are included a boiler, with a system of tubes or pipes leading to a double-bottomed curd-tub, a hot-water tub, &c., a churn with a horse-gear, English screw-lever cheese-press, &c., &c.

5. *Capital invested*.—In most cases the requisite capital for the construction of the buildings and the purchase of the machinery, is obtained by loans from the respective agricultural societies. These loans vary between 60*l.* and 300*l.*, and are to be repaid by annual payments within 5 to 10 years, being partly exempt from interest, and partly not. In the case of a company raising the loan, all the shareholders are liable for the same.