

REPORTS ON THE PRESENT CONDITION OF CROPS THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE.

Truro, June 26th, 1878.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your note, it is extremely gratifying to me to be able to report that the crops in this part of the Province look as promising as I have ever known them for the time of the year, and betoken more than an average harvest. The season having been very favorable for timely sowing and planting, enabled farmers to cultivate more ground than usual, a result which, to some extent no doubt, may be attributed to the fact that the Provincial Agricultural Exhibition will be held in Truro this Fall. One pleasing and very noticeable feature in the character of the crops, is the large percentage of wheat compared with the yield of late years, to say nothing about that of former times. Perhaps you are not aware that in the early history of this County, wheat was more plentiful than money, and instances have been known where bonds were drawn in the alternative, leaving it optional with the obliger to pay one hundred pounds, or other large sums, in coin or in wheat. Contrasting the successes of the old times farmer in wheat culture, with the poor results of the labours of their successors in the same directions, many Nova Scotian husbandmen have deplored their lot in the language of the poet:—

"Men are we; and must grieve when even the shade
Of that which once was great has passed away."

However, thanks to the achievements of modern agriculture—a better acquaintance with soils, and more knowledge of manures—our farmers are beginning to realise that the great wheat days of Colchester have not passed away. Those who raised wheat last year were so much encouraged with their success that they sowed more this year, and their example has been followed by others. Last season David Lynds of North River, Onslow, from four and a half bushels sown, harvested fifty. This spring he committed ten bushels to five acres, and will doubtless get a return of one hundred bushels. Robert J. Pollock, Esq., of Lower Steviacke, also sowed a five acre field this spring, and there is hardly a farmer of note in any section of the County but has an acre or more under crop; and in the district of Tatamagouche—the mussel-mud region—the appearance of the fields is quite up to the idea of those who are desirous that our farmers should raise their own bread.

Haying will be on early, and a heavy crop may be expected. The late rains have done much to improve this crop. Potatoes, oats and barley are abundant in every direction, and present the finest appearance. Small seeds of all kinds look well this season, and the plants are getting ahead of the grubs, and it already appears pretty certain that a good crop of large roots is only a question of time, and, unless the remainder of the season is one of unusual drought, is assured. However our farmers have done their part, and must leave the rest to Him, who giveth the increase, and should

Never trouble trouble, till
Trouble troubles them."

Yours, &c.,

I. L.

Shubenacadie, June 24th, 1878.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of the 19th inst., I would say that the prospect for a bountiful yield of all kinds of crop is very promising at present. The grass is very forward and will be a good crop; more wheat has been sown than for many years, and it generally looks well. Oats and barley, a full average crop, has been sown, which also looks well. About the same breadth of potatoes as last year has been planted, they also look well, although planted later than last year. In some places they have rotted in the ground owing to wet shortly after planting. Turnips, carrots and mangolds, about the usual quantity sown. It is too soon to say what this crop will be, we have had some very warm days lately, which has caused great growth, and now it is raining heavily

Yours, truly,

J. B. FRASER.

Mailland, June 24th, 1878.

PROFESSOR LAWSON,—The fine weather in April gave the grass an early start, and seasonable showers since have kept it growing so that we shall probably have a full crop. In May the wet weather prevented farmers, especially those on heavy and wet lands, from getting their crops in early. On dry and underdrained land, where sowing and planting were done early, the crops look well. A larger quantity of wheat has been sown than for many years, in fact almost every man with an available half acre has it in wheat, while larger farmers have proportionably larger fields; at present it has a good appearance.

Less oats and barley are sown than some other years. Potatoes, especially early planted ones, are looking finely, and give good promise for a bountiful crop. Mangolds, turnips, carrots, &c., a larger quantity than common has been sown, but with many have only been in the ground a short time, and the result is uncertain. Taken collectively the crops look well, and the prospect is bright of an abundant harvest.

Yours, truly,

STEPHEN PUTNAM.

Port Williams, 25th June, 1878.

A favourable growing season gives a fine appearance to our country and the promise of an abundant reward on the farmers labours. The busy time of seed planting is over, yet the farmer must work amongst and watch the growing plants. The hay crop is ahead of average years, both in time and quantity. On the dyked marshes clover was in bloom the first week in June, and timothy was headed the twentieth June. Winter grain came out well this Spring, both wheat and rye are now headed and promise a good crop. Spring wheat was much more sown than late years, the variety most sown being the Lost Nation. A new variety called the Golden Sheaf, introduced from Ontario, is having a trial. Barley was a good deal sown. Some enquiry was made about the Sicilian and Annat varieties of barley, for which prizes are offered in the Truro Exhibition prize list for 1878. Would some person give an account of these new sorts. Potatoes, the principal crop, are just growing above the ground, less breadth is planted than last year (some of last years crop did not pay the cost

of producing) the variety most planted is the Garnet Chili. A mark of improvement is the fine vegetable gardens now seen amongst us. The fruit trees are not all left in the fulness of their beauty, the Canker Worms in some orchards have stripped the trees as bare as winter, we might estimate about half the trees taken in this section. One of the remedies tried was Paris Green, the effects of which we do not yet know. The best time for fighting the little pest appears to be in the Autumn when the little millers are climbing the trees to deposit their many eggs.

EDWIN CHASE.

Paradise, June 22nd, 1878.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to your enquiries of the 14th inst. respecting the state and prospects of the crops, I beg to say that the hay crop promises to be unusually good. Cereals of all kinds promise well, excepting Indian Corn, perhaps. Potatoes, mangolds, &c., also look well. The apple crop will probably be unusually good, despite the ravages of the Canker Worm in some places; pears, plums and cherries will be plentiful, I think, especially the latter.

The dairying business is being carried on extensively in this region, but the returns will not probably be correspondingly larger.

Speaking generally, the weather has been fine; the crops promise well, and the prospects for the farmer may be regarded as more than ordinarily cheering.

Yours truly,

A. LONGLEY.

Lower Canada, N. S., June 21st, 1878.

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 19th is to hand and in reply, I beg to say, it is pretty early yet to venture an opinion upon the crops in this County, but so far as I can judge, the prospect looks favorable for the farmer in almost every respect. The hay crop will, without doubt, be very large, and will probably be harvested earlier than for many previous years.

Oats, more than average quantity have been sown, and are looking well. Winter wheat is not sown very extensively, but the crop is looking very finely indeed. Rye, barley and buckwheat look fairly, but not very much so."

Potatoes, the great staple of this County, have been planted quite as extensively as in other years, but it is yet rather soon to say much more of this crop. Garden vegetables look well.

Fruit.—The apple orchards in some parts of this County are looking well and promise a bountiful harvest. But in some districts they have been much injured by the Canker Worm, indeed some orchards are entirely stripped of their foliage. Various experiments were tried last autumn for their destruction, but apparently with but little success. This Spring some have tried dry (or powdered) Paris Green, mixed with water, at about the rate of a tablespoonful to a pail of water, and applied by means of a hand or force pump, this has, I think, done well, and with two or three applications in as many days, while the worms are small, will, I think, save the trees. But the crop this year will be very much lighter than it otherwise would have been on account of this pest. Pears are looking well. Plums, below an average. Other small fruits promise well generally.