

ANTIGONISH COUNTY.

FROM REV. A. C. MACDONALD, BAYFIELD.

The Rectory, Bayfield,
June 26th, 1879. }

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your enquiry as to the present state and future prospects of the field crops in this district, permit me to state as follows:—

Hay crop.—Is promising only fairly. The long continued cold and drought of the first three weeks of the present month, the usual season for starting the grass rapidly forward, has retarded its growth considerably. Still, in rich and well cultivated meadow land there will be a good average crop, while showery weather, with the heat that has set in since the 22nd June, will wonderfully change the condition of all growing crops.

Grain crop.—The area in all kinds of grain has been considerably increased this year. The success attending the cultivation of wheat last year, which was comparatively a very successful yield, rising in some cases to twelve to one, has acted as a stimulus for our farmers to sow more this year. The attention of our people has been fairly directed to the importance of this matter, and what with the hitherto large drain upon our available resources, ready cash being the principle one, in procuring this staple, and the fear of the N. P. effecting a higher price in the imported article, as well as a better knowledge of the value and application of fertilizers, are producing such results as will place our farmers upon the high road to prosperity at no distant day. An effort commensurate with the saving to our country of some \$80,000 in money is surely worth the trial.

Root crop.—We have just awoke to the importance of raising this crop in its varied branches. Not only so, but a determination has been made to feed these crops on the ground, the only plan that will prove practically valuable and profitable. Considerable quantities of Mangold Wurtzel seed has been sown in this district, and it is to be hoped that such a result will be obtained as will prove this root to be the *Sheet Anchor* one, for feeding stock. The introduction of a high grade fertilizer has at length dawned upon us, Mr. Jack having been instructed to send us something like a half dozen barrels. When skilled labour and a still higher knowledge of the value of commercial fertilizers have been more forcibly impressed upon us, our success as husbandmen will surely be realized.—Upon the whole, I am thankful to say, that the prospects of husbandry are quite cheering, and that when “the early and later rains” have fully contributed to this end, and the clouds have dropped their fatness, the harvest will be truly plenteous and bountiful.

FROM D. CHISHOLM, ESQ., ST. ANDREW'S.

St. Andrew's, June 22nd, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your communication of the 23rd inst., asking for a report on the prospects of field crops in this district, I must say that during the month of May the weather continued cold and dull, with very little sign of any growth. For the last few days we have had refreshing showers of rain which have revived the crops to some extent, and I am happy to say there are now indications of an average crop. However, it largely depends on the weather from this until the middle of next month. If drought prevails for any length of time it will retard their growth, and we will have every reason to dread a very great failure. On the other hand, (as they have already a fair start, and should we be blessed with showers and the soil become heated) I have no doubt but our crops will be good. To be as brief as possible, grass, oats, wheat and potatoes, which are our principal productions in this township, do not look very promising just now, owing to the cold weather, which has rendered them lighter than they would have been with a continuous growing season. As regards fruit, roots, vegetables, &c., I must say, from personal inspection and information received from reliable sources, they will not yield as well as they have done for the past two or three years. Viewing the present prospects of crops upon which the husbandman (who is the stayman of our country) depends, it is no ways encouraging; the general depression in trade, and a continuation of hard times, (so-called) will place the country in a straitened position, from which it will take many years to relieve itself.

COLCHESTER COUNTY.

FROM COLONEL W. M. BLAIR, M. P. P.

Onslow, June 30th, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—In regard to crops, I would say hay on other than rich soils, light, much injured by late frosts, but recent rains will improve it. Oats light, a large breadth of wheat sown and looks fair. Potatoes backward, a large breadth of roots planted and coming on fair.

FROM JAS. JOHNSON, JR., TATAMAGOUCHE.

Tatamagouche Bay,
June 28th, 1879. }

DEAR SIR,—With pleasure I answer yours of 23rd inst., in reference to the state of crops and their prospects. The spring being exceedingly fine and warm, vegetation was early and farmers sowed and planted two weeks in advance of previous years on the average. The grain is looking nicely, that is, on dry, sandy

land, but on clay and loam not nearly so well, not so far advanced as we think it should be. Potatoes have the appearance of an abundant crop, about one-third more planted than usual, and looking well. The grass on well cultivated lands or fields is extra good, but on poorer fields it is quite inferior, and will be, unless we have very extra warm rains; in our estimation the hay will not be an average crop, but if rain should come soon it would improve the field crops very much, we hope for it.

FROM DR. FARRARD, LONDONDERRY.

The hay crops up and down our Bay shore promise an average yield; rain is greatly needed to make the crops as good as last year. There has been a larger number of bushels of wheat sown last spring than for years before; at present the indications are splendid. Potatoes did not come up regular on account of cold wet weather after planting, those that survived look strong and healthy. Turnips, mangolds and carrots are looking well for the time of the season. There has been more planted this season than ever before. The early frosts of June did great harm to the root-crops. Fruit: no apples; cherries, and the small early fruits of our fields have been injured by frost and will be a failure.

FROM F. R. PARKER, ESQ., SHUBENACADIE.

Shubenacadie, June 30th, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours, I beg to say, and I will commence with the hay crop first, as it is the article we mostly sell, that marshes, intervals, and good uplands adjoining promise to give a very good crop. The lands in the settlement east and west of Shubenacadie will not be an average crop. Double the quantity of wheat has been sown than last year, and looks well; and if it turns out as well, the farmers will have nearly enough bread to do them, if not altogether. Oats look pretty well, and it is hard to say whether it will be an average crop or not. Barley and buckwheat not very much raised, but look very well. Potatoes a little more planted than usual, and look very well. More turnips, mangolds, carrots and sugar beets put in the ground than usual, and all look very well for the season. Taking the crops as a whole, there will be more raised than last year, as there is a larger area of ground cultivated, and at the same time every farmer could cultivate in green crops one-fifth more if he wished. There is quite an improvement in our farming than there was many years ago, and still there is great room to go on.

[A communication from Israel Longworth, Esq., of Truro, mailed some time ago, has not yet reached us.]