

SECOND LETTER FROM J. J.
O'BRIEN, ESQ.

NOEL, 17th July, 1873.

Since writing you a few days ago, I received, from a friend in west Hants, the following:—

"The hay in West Hants will be a fair average, but below that of last year in quantity; and that, owing to the coldness of the spring, there will be more weeds, which will render the quality less marketable. The grain and root crops promise remarkably well."

Yours, &c.,
J. J. O'BRIEN.

FROM JOHN ROSS, Esq., M. P. P.

BOULARDERIE, July 14th, 1873.

It is not easy to judge in our district how the crops may turn out. The spring has been dry, which favoured the farmer in getting a large crop in the ground; but it has also been very cold, which kept vegetation backward. When the weather became warm, it still kept dry, which injured the prospects of our hay crop, which, under ordinary circumstances, will hardly be up to an average.

The heavy rain we had since the 10th inst., I think, has been in time to save all the other crops, which look promising, though backward.

JOHN ROSS.

FROM GEORGE CAMERON, Esq.

GUYSBORO' INTERVALE, }
July 15th, 1873.

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your esteemed favour of the 8th inst.; and, in reply, I am happy to be able to report that the field crops look in good condition at the present time.

The weather in the month of May being exceptionally fine, and therefore very favourable for the operations of the husbandman, the result is that a larger breadth of land has been planted and sown this year than usual. And not only has the seed been put in in greater quantity, but, I believe, also, in very good condition, for, the ground being dry, the harrow performed its work splendidly.

The growth of vegetation was somewhat retarded by drought, in the month of June; but we have been more than compensated by the refreshing showers with which we have been favoured since the commencement of July, and the rapid growth of the crops has shown the beneficial effects of an abundant supply of heat and moisture. The seasonable showers have brought on the hay crop amazingly; and, I believe, it will be above an average crop. On low interval lands, this crop, as well as some others, has been damaged in some places

by the overflowing of the rivers, caused by the torrents of rain which fell on the morning of the 10th inst. and the preceding night. Spring wheat and other grains appear promising. The growth of straw will be good; but it is too early to form an opinion respecting the grain. I do not know of any winter wheat being sown in this district. The Potatoe crop looks well, and is growing rapidly; and there is prospect of an abundant yield, the dry weather in the early part of the season being rather favourable than otherwise to this crop. Fruit trees, especially plum and crab-apple trees, made a good show of blossoms, and there is prospect of a good crop. The grub have injured the Gooseberries. Currents are plentiful. The pastures are excellent, and the produce of the dairy will be large.

Upon the whole, the prospects of a bountiful harvest were never better, and there is every indication that the labors of the husbandman will be amply rewarded. The face of nature wears a cheerful and encouraging aspect; and the rich appearance of the fields cannot fail to inspire feelings of gratitude in the hearts of the people towards the giver of "Every good and perfect gift."

Yours obediently,
GEORGE CAMERON.

Communications.

THE OAKFIELD DEVONS.

OAKFIELD, JUNE 2ND, 1873.

Dear Sir,—As the thorough-bred Stock imported by the Board of Agriculture are brought here for the general benefit of the Province, although they become the property of individuals, I feel it my duty as the purchaser of the herd of Devons last Fall, to inform the agricultural public through your columns of their present state.

Heifer "Pink" had a heifer calf in January—doing well. Heifer "Primrose" had a heifer calf in March, which had some obstruction in the throat, which prevented it swallowing, and died after about ten weeks' nursing. Cow "Lady Anne" had two heifers in June, and they are both doing well, she gives plenty of milk to raise both calves.

"Maid of Miller Hill" will not calve for some time. She and "Blossom" are both going on and growing nicely. I depended for some time on the Devon bull belonging to our County Society, which is kept near Gay's River, but the "facilities" offered by the freight trains for moving valuable cattle are not great, and I have been for some months past trying to purchase a thorough-bred bull in this or the neighbouring Province. I had nearly given up my search as hopeless, but through the

kind assistance of Hugh McMonagle, Esq., the well known stock raiser of Sussex-vale; I was enabled to complete the purchase from W. B. Scovill, Esq., of Kings Co., N. B., of the four year old thorough-bred Devon bull "Havelock," imported from Ontario by the New Brunswick Board of Agriculture in 1870, and I am happy to say that he arrived here safely by rail yesterday.

My Devon Herd therefore, now consists of a bull, three cows, two heifers and three calves, and I trust I may be able to convince the farming public that pure blood stock can be raised to as good advantage in Nova Scotia as in Ontario, so that our Agricultural Societies may obtain such improved stock as they want without sending their money out of the Province.

My Ayrshire Herd now consists of one two year old bull—Senator; one cow with heifer calf; one two year old heifer, in calf to the celebrated New Brunswick bull, Chieftain, and which will shortly calve; and two yearling heifers. The four heifers were purchased by me from the celebrated herd of Hugh McMonagle, Esq., of Sussex-vale, and were exhibited by him last October, at the Sackville Exhibition, where I bought them. These Ayrshires are all of the dark brown colour, now so much preferred, and are very pretty cattle, small, light limbed and graceful.

I regret, however, to find that on a large place, such as mine, there are many inconveniences in keeping up two separate herds of cattle, and I have therefore decided upon disposing of the Ayrshire herd and confining my attention more particularly to the Devons as being a breed of more general utility, both for dairy and beef purposes.

I remain yours obediently,
J. WINBURN LAURIE.

WANTED—A STUMPING MACHINE.

DEAR SIR,—Can you give me any information as to the best sort of Stumping Machine? I get all sorts of advice. Some say, heat and fire to burn out the stumps; others tell me that the quickest way to deal with stumps is to chop round them, and then trust to a pair of stout oxen to turn them out. This may be so, but in these days of mechanical invention, it hardly seems reasonable to assert that brute force is better than science; and I think that there must be machines better capable of doing the work. Perhaps some of your readers can give me some information as to a suitable machine, and the best way to use it.

Faithfully yours,
J. WINBURN LAURIE.

Halifax, July 22nd, 1873.