

REPORTS ON THE PRESENT CONDITION AND PROSPECTS OF THE FIELD CROPS AND ORCHARDS IN NOVA SCOTIA.

ANNAPOLIS COUNTY.

FROM COL. W. E. STARNATT, PARADISE.

Maple Grove, Paradise,  
June 27th, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to your enquiries respecting crops in this district, I may say that we have had an early spring—the cattle being put to pasture fully two weeks earlier than usual.

Fruit trees bloomed fairly, giving at the present writing a prospect of only an average crop,—Nonpariel and Pippin very good, other varieties being very much under the average. Plums very scarce.

There has been a large area of wheat sown from seed purchased in the Upper Provinces, which is looking finely and gives promise of a good yield.

Corn but little planted, and that very backward, owing to cold weather of May and June.—Potatoes on light soil came up well, and the warm weather of the last few days is giving them a good start—those planted on heavy soil rotted in ground.—Grass on rich uplands, as well as on the marshes, good: but old fields are light.—Oats and barley were somewhat injured by the cut-worm, but are now getting better root and making rapid growth.

The cheese factories are receiving a large quantity of milk, and dairymen are looking forward to better prices under the new N. P.

FROM AYARD LONGLEY, ESQ., M. P.

Paradise, June 27th, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your enquiry about farm crops in this district, I would say,—that grass looks well, and the chances are greatly in favour of at least an average crop of hay. Grain of all descriptions looks well, and there is a greater area than usual sown this season. Indian corn came up pretty well, but its growth has been very slow for the last fortnight, in consequence of the cold weather. On the whole the prospect of the corn crop cannot be pronounced promising, but a fortnight's warm weather would work a surprising change in its favour. Potatoes, turnips, mangolds, carrots, &c., look very well.

Fruit.—The chances are in favour of a light apple crop. There was a fair show of blossoms, but the fruit has not set well. Indeed, in many cases where the trees were full of blossoms, there is now no appearance of fruit.

In view of the unparalleled apple crop of last year, it would be surprising if we had even an average crop this year.

Of pears, plums, cherries, &c., I cannot speak very definitely, but probably the yield of these will be about the average. Speaking generally, the country looks well, and the husbandman has fair promise of reasonable returns for his labour. I am glad to say the farmer is becoming more and more alive to the importance and honor of his calling, and a general determination is prevalent to grow more wheat, and, if this is carried out it will ensure better cultivation, and better and more abundant crops generally. All classes are taking commendable interest in the forthcoming Provincial Exhibition to be held in Halifax, in October next, and probably the Provincial Exhibition of 1879 will surpass any ever held in the Province.

FROM REV. W. M. GODFREY, ST. CLEMENTS.

St. Clements, June, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—Your note of enquiry, June 23rd, reached me only on Thursday, 26th, giving me but a very short time to ascertain such agricultural intelligence as you desire.

Just now the farmers hopes are on the rise, the warm days, and the more necessary warm nights, have come, and brought with them the much wished for change of weather. June 17th, 18th and 19th, were remarkable for snow, frost and ice, to the great injury of the spring crops. Buckwheat was destroyed; early beans perished; and potatoes on many farms were cut down,—while the corn seemed almost beyond cure, turning yellow and drooping; but the change came, and now the grass is rapidly recovering its usual greenness.

Our apple crop, however, has unexpectedly been benefitted by the cold—which destroyed insects and the eggs in large quantities. So we learn to put one thing against another, and keep up our hopes.—Wild fruits will be very scarce. The strawberries few, small and sour; raspberries generally are damaged; and the blue, or bløberry, is already pronounced a failure. The cherries also, for which Bear River is famous, will also be this season very few. Indeed, in many localities, the biting east wind has withered the leaves off the trees. Yet, notwithstanding these losses, our prospects are fair. Winter wheat presents a good dark green color and stocky growth, which is always a hopeful sign; and I think our farmers will increase that crop in future years. Oats spring up thick and strong, and promise a good harvest. Of barley we can say but little at present, not much yet sowed. Potatoes generally look well, especially those planted in April or May, the later kinds do not give much promise as yet; indeed, in some fields they have perished entirely, and the farmers are sowing turnips instead.

Generally speaking, our whole crop is much later than usual; unfortunately we contrast it with that of 1878, and begin to grumble because the present is not quite as good as the former. The currant worm and the squash bug have eaten up almost every plant with which they came in contact, and are able now to withstand hellebore, white pepper, or paraffine oil. We have not yet tried Paris green, being afraid the remedy would be worse in unskilled hands than the disease.

Our farmers are raising young cattle this season, having slowly learned there will be a greater demand and a better price hereafter for all the good stock they can raise. At present all stock rules very low, except horses, for which Annapolis has long been noted. Young lambs sell for two dollars. Veal is very scarce, and cows fluctuate in price, from seventeen to twenty-five dollars each. Possibly the Exhibition at Halifax, and at home, may exercise a wholesome influence over purse, property and man. May it come soon.

FROM GEO. WHITMAN, ESQ., ROUND HILL.

Round Hill, June 28th, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of the 23rd inst., was duly received. The prospects for field crops as a whole are good—the wet and cold weather in May made many late planting and sowing, but the warm weather the last week has brought on vegetation rapidly, and grass, though late, looks well, and, with sufficient rain, hay bids fair to be an average crop. Apples give promise of a better crop than was expected, after the abundant crop of last year; in many orchards the yield will be above the average. The apple crop is one of the most remunerative to the farmers of Annapolis. Last year upwards of thirty thousand barrels were shipped from here to England and Scotland, some cargoes of which (but were properly packed and arrived sound) sold at fair prices, especially when we take into consideration the depressed state of trade and the enormous quantity sent there from the Upper Provinces and the United States.

Grain.—A larger area sown than for many years, especially wheat, and gives promise of a fair yield. Corn is late, owing to the cold weather the first part of this month, and the late frost in some districts injured the corn, beans, squashes, pumpkins, &c. Some of our farmers have planted small lots of sugar beets as an experiment; the soil appears to be well suited to their growth, they give promise of being a valuable crop for the farmers in the Valley to raise, either to feed to stock or sell to the sugar factory.

Potatoes.—A larger area planted than last year, and look well.