

Communications.

LUNENBURG COUNTY.

STATE OF THE CROPS—AGRICULTURAL
IMPROVEMENT—WHAT IS NEEDED—
MEANS EMPLOYED.

A very perceptible change in the appearance of the fields has taken place since last month. The then waving fields of grain and grass are changed to the stubble of the early harvest and stems of grass. And the barns now are well-filled with the products of the newly shorn fields. The weather has been propitious. Haying and harvest have been very little retarded by rain. The grass crop must average about 25 per cent. above that of last year, and we might safely say the same of all crops of grain. The expression almost every where meets us,—“we never had such large crops.” My field of grass averaged fully $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons to the acre, and other fields near by have yielded nearly, if not quite, as much. My success is attributable to the large quantity of salt mud and decomposed drift spread directly and profusely on it last Autumn from the sea shore; although many at the time conjectured that it would destroy the grass, but the experiment has proved quite otherwise.

The root crop in all its varieties promises well, with exception of potatoes. Since the beginning of this month a great change has taken place in their appearance. The vines have a luxuriant growth, but the leaves are shrivelled and edged with black. The tubers have as yet suffered very little, though in passing fields a smell is noticeable, which is very indicative of what is likely again to be the result of this infection. I was in great hopes that the new variety—Goodrich Seedlings—would escape, but a visit to them this morning has somewhat diminished the hope. They do not appear to be as tender as other kinds, and look fresh, with the exception of edges of leaves which are slightly tinged with black.

I am glad to report an increase in the quantity of wheat sown this year. Insect depredations had almost induced our farmers to entirely abandon the sowing of it. The prospects of a successful return are good.

There is also a gratifying change in the quantity and quality of stock raised. The value of beef sold out of the county within the last three years is reported as aggregating a sum greater than that of any 10 years previous; and yet the quantity of stock now in the county has not diminished.

For fruit, it is now quite certain that in all its varieties it will be under an average harvest.

We need a greater diffusion of agricultural knowledge among the people.

We want to know how to make farming profitable, and how to bring back to productiveness the worn out land.

Every occupation to which the energies of man are devoted, requires, and has always received a particular and special education. Farming seems to have been an exception. For this pursuit, there seems to be an idea that every body has been born fully armed, drawing all his powers of usefulness from nature, and capable at once of scattering plenty over the smiling land. In fact that it requires no special education to be a farmer. The question is often put,—Why need we more information than our forefathers who raised good crops in a rough way with rude implements? This may be answered that they had a virgin soil, rich and fertile when first cultivated, capable for a time of producing in abundance all crops suitable to the climate. The soil has now become at least partially exhausted by over production; and not returning the necessary quantity and kinds of manure, we begin to raise larger crops than the ordinary manures will justify. We must increase our amount of manure. How is this to be done? What ingredients are necessary to replenish and revive the sick land? What proportions would be profitable? What kinds are best adapted to each particular case and locality? The manner and extent of applying it? The science of agriculture will give this very important information, and much more of which the larger portion of our farmers are ignorant.

In this age of progression and free schools, when farmers with all others can educate their sons for the highest fields of usefulness, every friend of enlightened agriculture feels that care should be used, and the prosperity of the country requires that proper steps should be taken to educate the young men *to live on the farm*, as well as *to leave it*.

That the agricultural interests are becoming one of the leading objects of public regard is manifest by the active and efficient measures taken by our Legislature within the last two years to do something towards the advancement of this calling, which is so congenial to the natural tastes of man, as every day's experience shows us. For we find men of the highest professional standing, together with those engaged in literature, retiring. And their thoughts and efforts devoted to this attractive, truly intelligent and noblest of all occupations.

The establishment of a Board of Agriculture by our Government with means at its disposal to induce the formation of County and District Agricultural Societies.—The importation of stock, the diffusion of information and education through the Journal of Agriculture,—The holding of Provincial and County ex-

hibitions and Fairs, all show a disposition to do everything that can be done at present. Very much depends upon the manner in which the Board discharges its duties, and the information and suggestions it may bring before the Legislature, to induce it to further advancement. A model or experimental farm should be well and carefully considered. But on that and other matters I must reserve a few remarks for a future day.

H. A. N. K.

Lunenburg, 18th Aug.

AGRICULTURE AND POMOLOGY
IN CORNWALLIS.

BY DR. C. C. HAMILTON, M. P. F.

August 24th, 1865.

Yours of the 14th is at hand, and in reply I beg to say that it would afford me much pleasure to furnish you with any information in my power relative to the crops in our county, and especially the fruits, but there is but little to add to what I have already written you, so I must be content with a remark or two at this time.

Haying is over with us except the salt grass, which is now being cut; on the whole the hay crop is quite an average and never was secured in better order.

The early grain is gathered, and the oats and winter rye are very fine.

Wheat is much damaged with the weevil, and in many cases will scarcely be worth cutting.

Late oats are filling very well and this fine weather is ripening them very fast.

Potatoes continue to look well, but a few fields early planted are beginning to show signs of maturity. I have not seen any signs of the potato disease as yet, neither have I heard of any person noticing it. The early planted I should think too far advanced to be much affected, and the late planted, with warm, moist weather, might suffer. On the whole the potato crop promises well.

Corn promises to be a good crop. My early planted (the Canada) is now quite ripe, and the late kind is quite too hard for us to use green.

Garden vegetables, peas, beans, &c. are looking well.

The fruit crops seems to be maturing very early.

The Early Harvest, and an earlier kind a small red apple, are quite ripe, and of a fair size. The Bough, one of the finest of early apples, is fast coming to maturity and I think I have seldom had them so large and fine at this season of the year. Last year I kept them until the middle of October, (Exhibition at Bridgetown, but I fear I shall not be able to do so this year. They are a fair bear with every year.

It is astonishing that persons in sel-