

most valuable products from the land and labor employed in its cultivation. When I wrote my last report, I did not anticipate the loss of crop, produced by the late long-continued rains. Fortunately it was not our best crops that were injured, but those that were generally late sown, or the thin and scanty, grown on cold undrained soil. No doubt the loss is a considerable drawback from our expected very large produce, but still we have abundant cause to be thankful for the general result of the harvest. The potatoes are not yet all taken up, and are variously reported. Some are said to be perfectly free from disease, and in other situations they are said to be considerably affected. It is, however, clearly established, that on light, sandy and stony soils potatoes are not so liable to disease as on heavy and damp soils, or where very heavily manured. It is also a well established fact, that some varieties of the potatoe are not so subject to disease as other varieties, and all these circumstances will be a guide to farmers in their cultivation of this valuable root, and the varieties to be planted. It is also essential to plant early, to avoid the risks of very dry seasons and early frosts. I remarked this year the tops or vines withered, without any frost, and this circumstance was not as usual a symptom of disease, as the tubers continued perfectly sound, and I am certain we should have had a large crop of sound potatoes only for these late heavy rains. The Irish newspapers report that the tops have withered there without any symptoms of disease in the tubers. This may be some indication of a change in this unaccountable disease. I see that in France they have been cultivating a new kind of tuber from China, that is reported very favorably of, and is said to be equal to the potatoe, or even superior. We should introduce some of them here. Great care should be observed in storing potatoes this year, by picking out carefully the unsound, and drying them thoroughly before they are stored. It is also injurious to store them in very large quantities together, or in cellars that are of too high temperature and not well ventilated.

Now is the time to prepare the land for sowing, by any farmer who wishes to be able to sow in proper season in spring. Farming cannot be successfully carried on without skill and industry, and not putting off till to-morrow any work that should be executed to-day. Skill may be acquired by example of those who farm well and successfully. It is useless to strive to excuse our want of success by finding fault with our climate, while there is to be seen in every section of the country farming carried on with complete success. No doubt, wheat is subject to damage by the wheat fly, and potatoes subject to disease; but, notwithstanding these facts, it is equally certain that good crops of both wheat and potatoes are raised every year. Let us sow a suitable variety of wheat on land that is fit to produce it, and we shall not often fail. We must act in the same way with potatoes, by planting in time suitable varieties, on suitable soils, that are not too highly manured. Barley, peas, beans, and oats grow here in the greatest perfection, when properly cultivated, and all these bring a remunerating price. What excuse, then, have farmers for bad crops.

WM. EVANS.

Cote St. Paul, October 20, 1855.

THE CROPS IN FRANCE AND GERMANY.

The anticipations of a large crop of cereals in Central Europe has not been borne out by the returns of the harvest. In France and Germany the fact is admitted, that the crops have fallen short of an average yield. By the last advices from France it would appear that the government have lost no time in making the grain producing countries, and especially those of North America, aware that the supply in France will fall short to the extent of one tenth of the usual demand, and that to this extent at least, France must depend upon the foreign produce for a supply. The *Paris Moniteur*, in an official article, states that the deficiency in the wheat harvest is estimated at seven millions of hectolitres, which is equal to about twenty millions of bushels. In the North of Europe the harvest has also been short, and in the Principalities and the South and East of Europe it has been obstructed by the war. In Canada and in the United States the harvest, on the other hand, has been splendid, and it is estimated that full fifty millions of bushels of surplus wheat are available for exportation. The government of France, casting aside all idea of dealing with this great question by artificial means, and adopting in the exigency the bold maxims of free trade, have made known, under the authority of the Ministers of Commerce and of the Interior, that between the present period and the month of May, 1856, France will furnish a ready market for full one half of the surplus wheat raised in Canada and the States. That she will throw open her ports to the end of the year 1856 for the reception of all alimentary substances free of duty, and that she will facilitate their transfer to the interior, over railroad and canal, which the government control, so as to encourage purchasers and importations, and to equalize the price of grain throughout the country, and finally that she will ensure to the foreign grower and exporter the fullest freedom in his transactions, so that his produce, if sent thither, may find an immediate market.

This is unquestionably good news for the Canadian Farmer, and he should prepare to make the most of it, as his astute cousin over the border will assuredly do. The next best thing to having good crops, is to have good and accessible markets. For the year ensuing the ports of Dunkirk, Calais, Boulogne, Dieppe, St. Malo, Havre, Bordeaux, and Marseilles, and the entire frontier of France will be as free for Canadian cereals as any of the ports on our own lakes or rivers. For the ensuing year at least our farmers will have reciprocity with France as freely as they have it now with the United States, in as far as the great staple growth of our country is concerned. But this is not all, Germany must follow suit, and open her ports as freely

to our produce, or she may find, under the pressure of want, her people more difficult to govern than she now finds them. And the markets of Europe once opened to us, will not again easily be closed.

Thus then the political condition of Europe, and the partial failure of the harvest, will give us immediate access to the markets of the old world, and enable us to purchase in return and under favourable circumstances, the wines and cottons, and woollens and silks of Continental Europe. France may now if she pleases encourage direct commercial intercourse with Canada, and may bind us to her by the strong band of reciprocal interest. By our rivers and railroads we can send her, without stint, the food she needs, and receive in return the produce she can so well spare. Before another winter passes over, the report of M. De Belveze will appear; our great facilities for international communication will be shown. The *Paris Exposition* of Canadian Products, and the labours of our Essayists will have borne fruit, and ere long the French and the Canadian ports will bear evidences in our improved commerce and additional markets, of the great results that may be achieved.

Let our farmers then be on the alert, let them take the earliest possible means of sending their surplus produce to the new market provided for them. Let them bear in mind if the war continues, as in all human probability it will, that the new world must also continue to be the granary of the old, and that Canada, if she does her part nobly and well, will be advantaged more than any other by the rapid and permanent development of her agriculture and her commerce, and by the influx of valuable settlers, and the cultivation of her unreclaimed lands.

We extract the following from the *Paris Correspondence of the London Times*:—

The government has most fairly and frankly admitted that there is a deficiency in the harvest to the extent of seven millions of hectolitres of wheat to replace which there must be purchases made abroad. France will probably have to expend something like five millions sterling on foreign corn. Its exportation is forbidden, and the temporary law by which the ports are open for food of all descriptions is prolonged to the end of next year. In order to alleviate the distress occasioned by dear provisions, public works will be kept up, and industry encouraged by all possible means.

The *Moniteur* yesterday published an official article which deserves attention from the frank acknowledgment it contains of the extreme importance of the subject, and from the sound principles of political economy to which it pays a somewhat tardy homage. About two years ago, upon the occurrence of the deficient harvest of 1853, the French government adopted a different system, and it may be in the recollection of some of our readers that we protested at that time with some warmth against the absurdity of con-