

was on the 11th March, it was a very fortunate circumstance, as, on account of the dry season last fall, there was very little ploughing done. Those who began early did well, as the severe frost that set in about the 20th mellowed the clay down and caused it to work nicely, as some say: like an onion bed. The hard frost only stopped the plough about a couple of days, and on one or two forenoons, so that by the 10th of April, or in about one month, the greater part of the farmers had got their ploughing pretty well done up and began their sowing.

Wheat.—In the Province of Quebec very little fall wheat is sown, only an odd piece here and there, unlike Ontario. There, they sow it nearly altogether, they had an excellent crop last year and it brought a fair price; the first for quite a few years.

There has been a little more spring wheat sown this year than for the last 4 or 5 years; on account of the high price, no doubt—it looks well so far.

Oats.—There is quite as much of this cereal sown this season; perhaps if anything I should say rather more; and perhaps less of some others.

Pease.—The past two years have been unfortunate for those who sowed this pulse. When the season is favorable, pease do well, not hard on the soil, and grand for pulverizing hard clay. The grain is very rich—and when mixed with oats or barley ground makes very desirable pork when fed to pigs, it makes good winter feed for milking cows also, so, taken altogether, farmers should try to grow more pease.

The great difficulty is: farmers to not get them in deep enough, they should be covered 3 or 4 inches deep, many successful farmers plough them in. (Good. Ed.)

Barley.—Very little barley is now sown, as the price, the past few years, has been very low, so only those who use it for ground feed sow this grain.

Rye.—Only a very few sections sow this grain, on sandy soil it seems to do well; either fall or spring.

Buckwheat.—It is too early for this grain. The price is now looking up since the war began.

Corn.—It is also too early for corn; the old Indian rule for planting corn is a good one: when the plumbtrees are in blossom is the time to plant corn, and not before.

Roots.—In my tour last winter through the Province I advocated the sowing of more roots—I hope farmers will profit by the advice given, as 30 tons have often been raised on an acre—of course it is work, but it is a kind of work that pays.

Hay and pastures.—The winter has been very favorable for both of the above; so unlike last year; I hardly think the hard frost of the 20th March did any very great damage.

Fruit.—It is too early to speak of fruit, this is the year for apples in this district. If nothing happens within the next few days in the way of frost, there will probably be a large crop.

Cheese and butter are both low, but there is some chance of a rise in price. At the price they are at now, the consumption should be enormous in England, so that upon the whole we have great reason to be thankful and have buoyant spirits.

Yours truly,

PETER MACFARLANE.

Chateauguay
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THE EXTENSION OF PASTURES IN ENGLAND.

Causes—Labour question—Profitable point of view—Meat and milk.

Within the last twenty years there has been a great extension of grass land in England. Many causes have combined to necessitate the conversion of arable land into meadow and pasture. Chief among these has been the low price of grain, the reduced capital of agriculturists, and the increased cost of labour, and these factors seem likely to remain. For the last year the price of wheat has been better and the British farmer has benefited a little.