

And now to my text, the great crop of this province is oats. I suppose that nearly one-half of all the grain grown in this province is oats. This year will be about as usual.

*Wheat.*—There is not a great quantity of this cereal sown, the price of flour is quite moderate, in fact, it is very doubtful if it pays to sow wheat at its present low price. There is some talk of the farmers uniting together and making a monopoly of the price and put it up to a dollar. There will have to be a lot of mission work in Russia, India and elsewhere before we can hope to see such a result. Until there is somewhat of a rise in the price, the farmers would do better to sow some other grain, as it always takes the best piece of land on the whole farm to grow wheat, and some years only an indifferent crop at that.

*Oats.*—As I said previously are the staple crop and about the usual quantity is sown again this year, the early sown is looking very well, whether there will be any eaten by the wire-worm or grub it is almost too early to say just now.

*Pease.*—They did not do well last year as a rule, not a great quantity sown this year; few adopt the proper method in order to secure a good crop, they want to be covered very deep, in fact the best way is to plough them in with a shallow furrow. (1)

*Barley.*—There is a fair amount of this grain sown, it is usually a fair crop and makes good feed for the cows or pigs.

*Rye.*—Only very little, on light sandy soil, is sown, although it makes a very good mixture to sow with oats.

*Buckwheat.*—The season for buckwheat is too early, next month will be time enough.

*Corn.*—In the southwestern part of the Province there is a great quantity of corn grown, mostly for the silo. The weather has been rather too cold in many sections to plant corn. Corn wants heat, heat when planted, heat to make it grow well, and quite a heat when in the silo.

*Potatoes.*—There was a great crop of these last year as I predicted last spring there would be a great quantity grown last year—as the price was very high—every one planted more than usual, this year they are very low in price. I would now predict that there would not be so many planted this year as last.

*Other root crops.*—There are not so many roots

grown as there should be. A great many farmers are short of help; and one cannot raise many roots without plenty of help.

*Hay.*—The land in hay has come through the winter fairly well—not very much being winter killed, we had lots of snow fell through the winter, but mild weather usually followed the big storms—so that, though the fields did not have very much of a covering, on account of the mild weather they were not much hurt.

*Grass.*—The same applies to grass or pasture land that applies to the hay crop. In some sections, cows are doing fairly well on the grass, while others are still feeding in the stable.

*Fruit.*—The apple trees are now in blossom and a fair show, but those who expect much fruit will have to work to save it from that dreadful pest the tent-caterpillar. Some try to poison them, some attempt to burn them with coal oil, others try to shoot them off with a gun, while others keep killing them by hand as they gather on the limbs and branches. The best time is early in the morning as they are then in great clusters altogether.

Other small fruits have a fair show of blossoms for the season of the year.

*Butter and cheese.*—The make of butter will be small the early part of the season as cheese has been ruling high; so far the shipments to date of butter are very small.

*Cheese.*—The price has been ruling high, and the shipments are some 10,000 ahead of last year. Both butter and cheese did exceedingly well last year, they can hardly be expected to do quite so well this year. The great drought in England helped Canada last year. Feed the cows well and I feel sure you will not regret it before next Christmas; allow them free access to salt, and plenty of good pure water, and you will have a good deal of money in due time for your cheese and butter: if you persevere.

Yours truly,

PETER MACFARLANE.

May 29th, 1900.



(1) Quite right. Ed.