

## CROP REPORTS.

FROM HENRY TOWNSEND, ESQ.,  
BROOKSIDE FARM, NEW GLASGOW.

DEAR SIR,—In answer to your favor of the 3rd, allow me to say that we are not a fruit growing people here,—speaking of the immediate vicinity, nor do I think, after a fair trial, that this is a fruit growing spot. For the past 9 years I have been wrestling with an orchard, and now it is a poor sample of what my thoughts pictured to me when I began the venture. You may think I did not work the thing right, and that I did not have experience. Well, I had the advice of every apple tree man that visited New Glasgow for the past 8 years, and heard each one of them tell me what a cheat and blockhead the fruit tree man was that had been here before. Why did I not underdrain and cultivate about my trees, wash them with soap suds. I have done all that. Well then, the varieties were such that they did not suit our climate, they were either American or Canadian. Why did I not buy Nova Scotia trees? I did it all, and the upshot to day is, I have got something like one hundred and eighty trees, and I think they may be worth \$5 if worked up into cord wood. Now, instead of trying more apple trees, I have bought a gun and an immense English mastiff dog, and woe betide the fruit tree vendor that pays Brookside Farm a visit with an eye to business.

Still, as I write I can look out of my window and see one of the largest young orchards probably in eastern Nova Scotia, an orchard of some 1000 trees, that seem to be doing quite well, and owned by Mr. Adam C. Bell, M. P. P.; he has expended quite a large amount of labor and money in underdraining and otherwise preparing for and looking after the orchard I refer to. I hope it will be a success, I trust it will; but I cannot help thinking that our soil is not suitable for apple culture.

With us this has been an unusual dry summer, and, in consequence, our pastures have suffered very much, and, without hand feed, our milking stock would make but poor returns; our hay crop must be 25 per cent. short, but what there is of it is prime. Just now we are having rain, the good of which is incalculable. Grain crops will be short in straw, but again the return per bushel of grain will, I think, be fairly good. Our potatoes are looking very well, and, speaking for myself, our turnips sown on the 1st of July never looked better. Farming is looking up here with us. We are beginning to breed better stock, and take better care of them, by feeding better and keeping them warm and clean.

We have full herds of Ayrshires, Short Horns, Holsteins and Jerseys, thoroughbred Clydesdale and other highly bred stallions and mares. The first standard thoroughbred colt ever produced in Pictou County made his bow two months ago at Brookside Farm, and a beauty he is. During the past two years there have been sold and shipped from New Glasgow not less than twenty-four car loads of horses to the United States, buyers coming from there here and taking them away, and paying good prices for them. This we think very encouraging, and more, the better the horse is we have to offer the more eager the buyers are to get him, and for which they are quite willing to pay. Four hundred for pairs and as high as three hundred for single drivers has been paid for some. Since your visit here some four years ago, when you honored us with a lecture on Agriculture, much has been done hereabout in the improvement of farming and its belonging, and I am satisfied if you again felt disposed to honor us, you would meet a hearty welcome from the farmers of New Glasgow and its vicinity.

FROM W. V. VROOM, ESQ., SECRETARY,  
CLEMENTS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

*Clementsport, Aug. 5th, 1885.*

DEAR SIR,—With pleasure I reply to your request of the 3rd inst. with regard to the crops of Western Annapolis. The orchard crops are almost a failure. Nonpareil, Baldwins, and Bishop Pippins, our most staple kinds, will yield comparatively nothing. Some of the early kinds promise better, but the crops on the whole will be much below the average. Pears and plums, of which there are but few grown, promise better. Our field crops in general will give a large remuneration. Hay very good, both upland and dyke. Our uplands have been harvested in an excellent condition. Hood crops of all kinds are looking well. A favorable spring for planting and sowing, a warm summer, with seasonable showers, have done their work in bringing forward and almost maturing these valuable products. Oats, largely sown; barley, spring and winter wheat, will give a good yield. Buckwheat and peas also promise well.

FROM A. B. PARKER, ESQ., SOUTH FARMINGTON.

*South Farmington, Aug. 5th, 1885.*

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 3rd at hand, and I beg to say that orchard prospects are not, in general, promising, by any means. I believe below an average even for a short year. General yield of crops good. Hay, above the average, and mostly gathered in prime condition. Yesterday's wind with to-day's rain and

wind, are very unfavorable for grain crops, they being quite stout in growth of straw and heavy headed; to-day mostly laying flat. Potatoes, splendid growth. If present wet and heat continues it must produce blight. Roots, small area, but look very promising.

FROM COLONEL W. M. BLAIR, M. P. P.  
*Truro, Aug. 4th, 1885.*

DEAR SIR,—In answer to yours of the 3rd inst, I beg to say that the fruit looks fairly well, but as you are aware, there is very little grown in this locality. Potatoes bid fair to be a heavy crop. Turnips are backward on account of the continued dry weather. The grain looks well but requires rain. Hay, below the average in quantity, but excellent in quality, as far as secured, but a large quantity yet to house. Taken altogether, there is a good crop, and farmers have no room for complaint, considering the manner in which many of our farms are cultivated.

FROM C. B. WHIDDEN, ESQ., M. P. P.  
*Antigonish, Aug. 7th, 1885.*

DEAR SIR,—The hay crop in this county, which is now largely housed is at least 25 per cent below a fair average crop. Grain crops look well. The very welcome rain of the last two days will add materially to the growth of straw, as well as the filling of the grain. It is to be hoped that dry weather, which has prevailed ever since the 1st of May, is now past, and, with seasonable showers, in addition to what has already fallen, the farmers can look forward to a good crop of grain, potatoes and roots.

FROM HON. A. C. BELL, M. P. P.  
*New Glasgow, Aug. 7th, 1885.*

DEAR SIR,—Small fruits have been abundant. Apples are a short crop. Other fruits not much grown here.

FROM HON. ISIDORE LEBLANC, M.E.C.  
*Arichat, 1st Aug., 1885.*

DEAR SIR,—We are just commencing hay making. In Arichat the crops are generally good. Potatoes and all kinds of vegetable are looking well.

FROM C. F. EATON, ESQ.  
*Lower Canard, Aug. 5th, 1885.*

DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt of your favor of the 3rd inst, and in reply I beg to refer you to my letter of the 14th ult., to which I can add but little. The hay crop is now about harvested, and a very fine lot of hay has been secured. Grain harvest about commencing, and will be a good crop.