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Omnium rerum, ex quibus aliquid acquiritur, nihil est agriculturâ melius, nihil uberius, nihil homine libero dignius.—Cicero: de Officiis, lib. I, cap. 42.

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HALIFAX, N. S., JULY, 1879.

No. 28.

Halifax, July 9th, 1879.

THE present season has presented several remarkable meteorological features. In Halifax and general other counties an unusually early, warm and dry spring time in April, enabled early crops to be put in, and gave opportunity for preparing the land for later ones. There was hot weather in May, but in the third week of that month a cold freezing period set in, and then a succession of changeable rather untoward weather, a mixture of warmth, night frosts and seasonable rains. The Atlantic counties seem to have escaped the June rains, and in Halifax, where the soil is naturally dry and sandy, the crops were being burnt up with the long drought. The only crop that has not suffered is the potato, which gives great promise of an abundant yield of excellent tubers, provided the country is not deluged with rain before the crop is ready to be taken up. The heavy rains of last night and to-day will greatly improve all crops.

Mr. LONGLEY reports prospect of an average HAY crop in Annapolis, which is confirmed by Mr. Whitman. A similar report comes from Antigonish per Rev. A. C. Macdonald, although Mr. Chisholm fears the deleterious effects of the cold spring if these are not speedily neutralized by fine weather. In Colchester Mr. Johnson reports, in similar terms. Col. Blair and several observers in other counties, that on well cultivated lands the grass is very good, on poor lands it is poorer than usual. The remarks of Mr. Archibald of Upper Musquodoboit are

emphatic on this point. Mr. Dickson speaks well of the grass in Cumberland. In Guysborough, according to Mr. Connolly, the grass looked well in May, but the early frosts of June threw it back. In Hants Mr. Blanchard reports a good show on dyke and good lands, but less than average on cold soils. In King's county Mr. Eaton also speaks of fair crops in good dyke and upland, whilst the promise on poor land is of less than average. Mr. Musgrave writes from North Sydney, "grass very promising." Mr. Ross of Boularderie refers to the early start of the grass, and to its retardation by cold and frosts, as likely to reduce the crop to below average. Mr. McRae, of Pictou, writes in the same terms. Mr. Brown shows the season at Yarmouth to have been remarkably ungenial, although the root crops are now promising. Col. Starratt reports that in Annapolis, cattle were in pasture fully two weeks earlier than usual.

A large increase of the WHEAT crop is reported from counties of Annapolis, Antigonish, Colchester, (where Dr. Peppard says the indications are splendid) and Halifax.

OATS and BARLEY have been retarded by cold and wet. Col. Laurie notices particularly that the cold, dry weather since the middle of May has retarded the growth of late sown grain.

An average crop of APPLES is looked for. Trees bloomed well, but fruit failed to set, in some instances from frost, in others from cold and wet or exhaustion of the trees. PLUMS "very scarce."

CHERRIES, even at Bear River, few. In Antigonish county all fruit crops are inferior. The Rev. Mr. Godfrey finds consolation for the June frosts in their efficacy in destroying insects.

Mr. Zwicker foreshadows a scarcity of CABBAGES, which will be good news to our friends in St. John's, Nfld. (see report in a previous number).

Not only is there an increase of winter and spring wheat on our farms, but of other grains as well. Veal is scarce in the markets,—farmers are raising their calves. Root growing is extending rapidly, the Sugar Beet is being tried, and everything indicates that our farmers are waking up to a sense of the duty that lies upon them, to feed the people of Nova Scotia, so that they may cease to knock at the door of the western granary.

THE Provincial Exhibition will be opened on the 29th September for arrangement of Exhibits. The public opening will take place on Tuesday, 30th September, at 2 p. m., when an Opening Address will be given.

THE Provincial Exhibition Building is being erected on the large field lying between Tower Road and Robie Street, south of Spring Garden Road, and not far from the Public Gardens.

HEAVY frosts destroyed many patches of potatoes and tender vegetables in parts of Pictou, Colchester, Halifax, and probably other counties, on the night of 5th July and following nights.