

month of June was exceedingly dry, scarcely a shower during the whole month. July has brought fine growing showers. Hay on dry land is light, but on damp meadows it is good, I think we will have an average crop. Oats and barley are short for the time of year; with a few more showers there is a prospect of a fair crop. We take no stock in wheat in this part of the country. Mangolds look well and more sown than formerly. Turnips are just making their appearance; they are not sown here before the first of July, and some as late as the middle, to escape the turnip beetle. Buckwheat is looking well and is now covering the ground. Potatoes never had a better appearance, they are looking splendid. Farmers are turning their attention more every year to stock-raising, I have never seen larger flocks of calves than this year, nor larger fields of potatoes and roots, and fields of oats barley and peas, all for raising stock. We have had no storms to injure the crops, and, with a few weeks of favorable weather, the prospect upon the whole is good.

FROM JOHN ROSS, ESQ.

New Glasgow, July 14th, 1885.

Your note received, and in reply I may say that the country as a whole looks well. The month of May was favourable for putting in the crops, and they got an early start, but June being very dry retarded their progress somewhat; the hay crop especially suffered greatly for want of rain, and will be twenty-five per cent less than last year. There was not much wheat sown in this district but what was sown looks promising. Oats look very well. Potatoes also are good. Other root crops were not largely sown and cannot yet be reported on. The crops, except hay, will be as good as the average and would be fine but for the scarcity of rain.

FROM T. R. BLACK, ESQ., M. P. P.

Amherst July 11th, 1885.

Your favor of yesterday duly received, and in answer to your questions in regard to the present condition and prospects of crops in our districts, may say that it is with pleasure we contrast our present prospects with those of the past year. The month of May was very fine and most favourable for putting in large crops, and the planting and sowing earlier than usual. The month of June cold with high winds, thereby retarding vegetation to some extent, so that at the close of the month the prospects on the worn out uplands and badly drained marsh lands indicated very short crops, indeed the late sown grain, especially buckwheat, was suffering from drought

to some extent; most so, where sown late.

But from the first of this month to the present, a marvelous change has been wrought, and it appears as if the powers of nature were combined to produce wonderful results, the frequent showers combined with the extreme heat, the thermometer sometimes near 90° in the shade, the effect of this has been so marked that I cannot better convey to you the facts than to add that crops of all kinds are looking excellent.

The potato bugs in some places are committing slight depredations, but a few doses of well diluted paris green, carefully applied, will terminate most of them, at any rate prevent severe loss.

FROM CHARLES E. BROWN, ESQ.

Yarmouth 10th July, 1885.

Yours of 8th inst. received. The unusual snow fall of the past winter insured us an early release from frost, and in many parts of the county, a soil dry enough for planting towards the end of April. Abundant rains in May gave promise of a good grass crop, but the first half of June was cold and dry, so that the general estimate at the end of June through this county, was a light crop. The heavy rains of last week may improve it somewhat. On the 15th June, I saw a dense growth of orchard grass, from four to five feet high, being mowed in a neighbor's place. This grass is coming into favor here, especially as a forage grass, for which its quick and luxuriant growth, and the preference given to it by all kinds of stock, eminently adapt it.

Grain fields look well, so far as I have observed, also potato and other root crops, the area of which, chiefly Swedes and Mangolds, is annually extending to the exclusion of Siloes, of which we have not a single instance. Home grown peas in the market \$1.50 per bushel.

The fruit crop promises to be a large one, with favorable conditions through the season; among my own trees, since the last ten days of wet weather, I observe a good deal of dropping of the apples, but possibly only from a too abundant setting.

Strawberry plots came through the winter in fine condition, even those entirely unprotected, and the market is well supplied now at 10 to 15 cent per quart, with Wilson, Crescent, Sharpless and other varieties.

Gooseberries also show a large crop and are in the market for early use; but little trouble this season so far from the worm. About my own bushes, I applied last season a liberal dressing of sifted ashes (wood, hard and soft coal) say two or three bushels to a large bush; wherever the ashes were used, I have not

since seen any worms, there is also a stronger wood growth and more fruit. Both gooseberries and currants find a ready sale in the home market at 10 to 12 cents per quart.

Raspberry canes in many instances were winter killed as to the buds, the canes remaining green. A late growth from prolonged mild weather in the fall, whence partially ripened buds, may explain it; where shaded from the sun, buds are all right.

THE Secretary for Agriculture has undertaken to send to Dr. Masters, F. R. S., London, for publication in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, the leading Horticultural publication in England, a weekly report upon the progress of the orchards in Nova Scotia, for the information of fruit salesman and others interested in the fruit trade. Fruit growers will confer a favor, and assist in promoting the interests of fruit growing and marketing, by furnishing information as to the condition of their orchards, the prospects of the crop, as regards quantity and quality, of the several varieties of fruit known in the market, and any other matters likely to be of interest to persons engaged in the sale, culture or consumption of Fruit in England or elsewhere.

WE are informed that some of the enterprising stock men of Cumberland have formed themselves into a company called the Cumberland Stock Improving company, and have delegated two of the company to purchase a superior Percheron stallion, who are now on their way to New York State, U. S., for that purpose. The president of the company is M. A. Logan, Esq., the secretary and treasurer, Mr. Chas. C. Black, son, we believe, of T. R. Black, Esq., M. P. P., a young gentleman whose Agricultural tastes have been fostered by his intercourse with stockmen and the effective teaching of the professors and tutors at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

A PRIMULA CONFERENCE will be held at South Kensington, London, at the end of April 1886, in conjunction with an exhibition of the National Auricula Society. It is hoped to bring together as complete a collection as possible of wild and cultivated species of the genus *Primula* and its allies. Papers will be read, and discussion invited on the conformation, mode of growth, and cultivation of Primulaceous plants. Dr. Masters, F. R. S., is secretary.

SAMPLES from the Annapolis Valley of winter rye, winter wheat, black oats and potatoes, have been received at the Canadian Court of the Antwerp Exhibition, from Mrs Spain of Wilnot.