

Agriculturist and Canadian Journal.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 15, 1848.

STATE OF THE HARVEST IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

We have carefully looked over the reports from correspondents of the *Agricultural Gazette* in the different counties of England, Scotland, and Wales, as published in that paper of Sept. 23rd. These returns can no doubt be depended on for general accuracy, the names and addresses of the contributors being given, with several of whom we have the pleasure of an acquaintance. The returns embrace wheat, oats, barley and potatoes.

By comparing these returns, we conclude that the wheat crop of Great Britain will prove, upon the whole, somewhat under an average; oats may be called a full average, and barley nearly the same.

Both grain and potatoes in Scotland appear better than in England; indeed the northern portion of the latter is superior to the southern. This difference appears to have been occasioned principally by the state of the weather. In the south of England, the harvest month (August) was characterized by perpetual rain, which has materially injured the quality of the grain, a large portion of which is at present unfit for grinding. In Scotland and the north of England, where harvest operations are two or three weeks later, the weather became propitious, and the crops were secured in much better condition. We may just observe that in such a climate as the British Islands, a summer characterized by rain and clouds, and consequent low temperature (and such appears to have been the general character of the past season) is unfavorable to the cereal crops, particularly to wheat, which requires warmth and sunshine, with moderate moisture, to bring it to full perfection. We are sorry to observe that the potato crop in many parts of England, particularly in the South, may be considered almost a total failure. In Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Hampshire, and some other counties, it is reported as being worse than ever. In Scotland and the north of England, the crop is stated to be more or less diseased; but hopes were entertained of securing a considerable portion of sound tubers.

In Ireland, we learn from the last official return of the state of the potato crop, prepared for the use of the Poor Law Commissioners, and coming down to the latter end of September, that the prospect was rapidly growing darker. In some parts more than one-half was diseased, and the malady spreading among the apparently sound; while in other parts the crop appeared in a more promising condition. Wheat will fall far below an average, but oats promise generally an abundance. There is good reason to hope that Ireland will be in a much better condition as regards food in 1849, than she was in the lamentable years of 1816-7. The breadth of potato culture this year has been very large, and if only a portion of a large crop can be secured till spring, with other esculants that have been more extensively cultivated this season than heretofore, the condition of that unhappy portion of our Empire will be mitigated.

We take the following from an editorial of the *Agricultural Gazette*, relating to the attack of the potato blight as affording matter for speculation:—

"A peculiarity connected with the potato crop is deserving of particular notice—this is, the irregular manner in which the disease has attacked it. There has not been that uniform progress northwards which characterised its first appearance in this country. Certainly the southern part of the island suffered first this year as formerly, but the potato crop was materially injured in some parts of Forfarshire, and in some of the Hebrides it was

almost entirely destroyed, long before the very slight attack under which it yet labors in south-eastern and central Scotland, had been perceived, and in some parts of Cumberland and Westmoreland, the disease had been active long before people could find it in Northumberland and Durham. The drier places this year, just as the drier seasons in a comparison of years, have suffered from it the least. And besides, its earlier appearance in the lower latitudes, owing to the earlier ripeness of the plant, there is an earlier appearance in the wetter districts also, to which the otherwise inexplicable irregularity of its attack, must, we suppose, be attributed."

YANKEE PLOUGHS DON'T SUIT ALL.

Under this heading, the editor of the *Maine Farmer*, whose paper we regard as one of the most valuable of our exchanges, makes the following remarks in reply to our observations on the Yankee plough, in the account we gave of the New York State Fair. We like the spirit in which his remarks are conceived, so different from that in which another American contemporary has referred to the same subject. Nothing is gained, especially in the discussion of questions in agriculture, by a display of ill-feeling. Difference of opinion will always exist, and we shall always be willing to allow our opponents to defend their opinions, firmly, strongly, and even warmly, without complaint, but when improper insinuations and unneighborly language is used, we shall take the liberty of objecting. We have no room in the present number to remark upon the principles which our friend of the *Farmer* has brought under notice. We may say, however, that, admitting their general correctness, we believe the improved Scotch plough, for all soils of median stiffness, possesses the very requisites he mentions in the greatest perfection. Our contemporary will see, by statements in another place, that the question will, in all probability, be put to the test next Spring, between Canada and the State of New York. We shall then be glad to see that plough our friend speaks of, and if he will send an "up East" Yankee to hold it, we shall be willing to test its qualities in the same way:—

"The many improvements that have been made in the form and construction of the plough, during the last twenty-five years, one would suppose ought to be such that among the great variety of sorts, shapes, sizes, and constructions, everybody would be suited. This is not the case. We recollect that fault was found in England with some of the best ploughs that Mr. Colman carried from this country to that country. The ploughmen were not only dissatisfied with the shape, but with the work done with them. The editor of the last number of the *Toronto Agriculturist*, in his remarks upon the implements exhibited at the late New York State Agricultural Show and Fair, held at Buffalo, says:—"It was easy to see that their ploughs possessed but few charms for the Canadian farmer, who turned up his nose in contempt as he viewed their short handled, wide heeled, cast iron ploughs, and thought of his own iron or wooden Scotch plough at home. It is very strange that this important implement has not been improved upon a better model than that so much in vogue among our neighbours. Mr. Bell, from Toronto, had two of his excellent ploughs on the ground, which the Society might have purchased and retained as patterns with great advantage. In the cultivation of our soil there is no comparison between the two implements. Indeed a 'Yankee' plough will hardly be tolerated on clay farms except for cross ploughing, and surely the same kind of soil must be turned over on the same principles in one country as the other."

Now, making due allowance for the pride of country which every man feels or should feel, we think our friend of the *Canadian Agriculturist* either did not see some of the best models of the "Yankee" plough, or his judgment was a little warped by coming over the dizzy heights of Niagara. It is true that in some of the models of the Yankee plough, the manufacturer, in trying to avoid the cumbrous extreme of the Scotch plough, leaned too far the other way, and made his handles too short and too upright, and his mould-board also too short. Experience, however, taught him better, and we have many patterns among us which exhibit a just and reasonable mean between the two. Our friend is right when he says that "the same kind of soil must be turned over