

AGRICULTURAL REPORT FOR CANADA EAST.

From the date of our last report to the end of June, it continued cold and wet for the season. From the first of July, however, the weather has been extremely favourable, and vegetation has made great progress. With the exception of barley and peas, the grain crops are backward. Wheat has been generally late sown, in order that it might have a better chance to escape the fly. We sowed spring wheat on the 23rd of May, and on the 16th Instant, the ear was nearly all shot out, and the fly appeared very numerous, and actively employed in depositing their eggs in the ear. To what extent they may injure the crop, it is impossible to conjecture at present, but we fear that a large proportion of it will be destroyed. Our fall wheat was not in ear before the first week of July, though sown the 6th of September last. The wheat fly appeared about the 27th of June in our fall wheat, but we expect it will not be injured to any great extent, as the ears are very large and strong, and the grain is covered with thick, rough glumes, which we believe the fly was not generally able to pierce with its ovipositor, in order to deposit its eggs. We have examined several ears, and though we found the larvae of the fly in many grains, yet we hope the injury is not extensive. When we sowed this wheat last fall, we expected it would be in ear early in June, (we had, on one occasion, spring sown wheat, in ear the 12th of June), and thus escape the wheat fly, as we never have seen them before the 25th of June. This year, however, was unfavourable to fall wheat, as it got injured in consequence of an insufficient covering of snow in winter, and the spring was so cold that its growth was greatly checked, and it was not in ear so early by a fortnight or three weeks, as it might have been in ordinary seasons. From our experiment this year, we recommend strongly, sowing fall wheat early, on well drained and well prepared rich soil, either in drills or ploughed lightly in. By sowing in this way, on rich soil, we would expect, in ordinary seasons, the wheat would be so forward in spring, that it would be out of all danger before the fly would appear, and this we believe to be the most certain means of producing wheat at present in Eastern Canada. There is too great a risk in sowing late in spring. We know that our late spring wheat is, at this moment, extremely liable to be destroyed by rust or mildew, and if it be in the slightest degree affected with this disease, while in a soft luxuriant state of its growth, the crop will scarcely be worth cutting. It may, however, escape if the weather is dry and favourable. All other late sown spring wheat is liable to the same casualty, and particularly so, where the crop is rich and luxuriant.

Barley, generally, has a very promising appearance of a good crop. Oats is backward from late sowing; and we have never before seen the crop so full of weeds, particularly wild mustard. Indeed, we have seen fields so yellow with this weed, that it is impossible to know what sort of other crop is growing with it. This proceeds from constant cropping with grain, without either summer fallow, or allowing the land to repose under grass. We believe, that in no other country are weeds allowed to prevail to such an extent as in Canada. It appears as if farmers,

when they cultivate and sow a field, are indifferent whether it produces useful plants or weeds. They cut and gather whatever happens to grow in it, and cultivate and sow in the same way the succeeding year, with exactly the same prospect of gathering as much useless weeds as valuable grain, from their land and labour. It is really discreditable to farmers to have the country so over-run with weeds; and it is full time that some efficient means should be adopted to check their growth. On land suitable for peas, we have seen some excellent crops, but where the land is heavy and moist, the crop will not be good. Peas should not be sown on land that is not perfectly dry and suitable for them. Indian-corn, generally is a poor crop. On some naturally dry, and warm soils, it may prove an average crop, provided the remainder of the season is favourable; but hitherto this spring has been very unfavourable for Indian-corn. This plant, above all others we cultivate, requires a dry and warm season to produce it in perfection, even on the most suitable soils. A large quantity of buck-wheat is sown, but we cannot yet report what the crop is likely to be, as it has only made its appearance over ground. Potatoes have been planted to a great extent, but we have observed considerable failures on land insufficiently drained, and from dry rot in the seed. This spring has been very unfavourable for the cultivation of potatoes on clay soils. Such soils, were not in a good state this season, for the ploughings necessary for potatoes. The consequence is, that the earth put up to the potatoe plants in a damp state, becomes subsequently so dry and hard, that it is impossible for the crop to be good. At all times of the cultivation of potatoes, the soil requires to be dry and loose, and in most seasons like this, it is almost impossible to cultivate potatoes advantageously on heavy clay soils. We do not, therefore, expect that there will be a large average produce from this crop this year.

The hay crop has greatly improved since the first of July. On good rich meadows, the crop will be excellent; but on old meadows that were not very fertile or sufficiently drained, the crop is yet very short and light. The mowing of hay is commenced this week in the neighbourhood of Montreal, and we hope the weather may be favourable for the hay harvest. The slightest rain falling upon hay that is once cut down, is extremely injurious to it, unless it be put up in well made cocks. We would recommend all farmers, who desire to have good hay, rather to allow their men to be idle, than cut down hay in wet weather. When hay is cut down in the wet, one hour's hot sun will destroy the colour of it, and very much deteriorate the quality and lessen the value. The farmer who cuts down his hay in wet weather is sure to lose more by the injury the hay sustains, than he can possibly gain by the saving of time. Pure timothy is easy cured, and the less it is exposed to dew, or sun, more than is necessary to dry it, the better it will be. It is a bad plan to allow hay to remain in small cocks longer than is required to save it. Clover or soft natural hay, may require some time to season in cocks; but the hay, of whatever sort, that remains long in cocks, will be more or less injured on the outside and at the bottom of the cocks: and this injured part mixed with the good part, deteriorates the quality of the whole. We

therefore, from our own experience, recommend that hay should not, if possible, be exposed to rain or dew, from the moment it is cut down; that it should not be exposed to the sun, more than is necessary to dry it; that all the sap should be preserved in it as much as possible; and that it should be put up as soon as it can be dried and cured, in barns or well made stacks; putting about half a gallon of salt to each load of fifty bundles of timothy, and from that quantity to one gallon to a load of clover. We increase a little the quantity of salt applied, if the hay has suffered injury in curing, or to hay of coarse quality. We have found the dew particularly injurious to new mown hay, that has been for any time previously exposed to the sun. It will change the colour of it as much as rain would do. To prevent this, all hay cut in the forenoon, or up to three or four o'clock of a hot day, should be put up in small cocks in the evening. If hay loses colour or sweet smell, it is a sure token that it has not been well cured. The colour may sometimes be injured by slight fermentation; but if the hay so discoloured retains its sweet smell, its quality is not injured. It is only when fermentation proceeds so far as to cause the hay to have a sour and musty smell, that it is sure to be injured. For the use of our own stock, we would wish our hay to ferment slightly, provided it was not from wet it had received in the process of curing. Pure timothy, we conceive to be the best sort of hay that is known when well cured. On rich lands, that are occasionally top-dressed however, it is impossible to grow pure timothy, some clover will be sure to be mixed with it. Provided there is not too large a proportion of clover, the hay is not of less value for having some clover in it. In England, clover sells for a higher price than any other hay brought to market. Where pure timothy grows, the crop is, generally thin, and the whole produce light. A heavy crop of timothy and a little clover mixed with it, will pay the farmer best; though the price may be something less in the market. For our own consumption upon the farm, we would always wish to have our hay mixed in reasonable proportions of timothy and clover. A heavy crop of clover is difficult to cure and preserve the colour, unless the weather is very fine. It requires the greatest attention and that the cocks should be carefully made; for if not, in case of heavy rain, it will be sure to pass through them to the bottom, and if once thoroughly wet, after it has been partly dried, it never recovers its colour, or is of so much value as if it had been carefully managed. It is not for the instruction of competent farmers that we offer these remarks, but for the consideration of strangers coming to the country, and others who may take an interest in reading our communications.

The pastures are generally good this year, and the produce of the dairy abundant and cheap. Cattle and sheep should fatten well this year, as the weather is neither too wet nor too hot, to allow them to feed and thrive. The price of butchers' meat is low, and we do not see any reason that it should not continue so all this year. Some of the orchards in the neighbourhood of Montreal, have been much damaged this year by caterpillars, that have completely stripped them of their leaves and blossoms. Fruit, however, is of so little value here, that to lessen the quantity will not be a material loss. Labour is to be had in abundance, if the funds were forthcoming to