

and any ploughman who did not finish within the time was disqualified. The usual time allowed to plough half an acre was three to four hours according as the soil was easy or difficult to plough.

ST. FOY, COUNTY OF QUEBEC,
14th October, 1850.

Sir,—I take the liberty to forward you a small quantity of a peculiar quality of oats, which I find to answer this climate extremely well, and to be profitable as to the quality and quantity of meal it yields; its flavour is peculiarly agreeable, —I got a small quantity of these oats last year, which I sowed the 20th May last, in light soil which, the previous year, had been under potatoes, and reaped them on the 20th August. The straw was of good length, and not too rank, and therefore not subject to lodge.

I hope the sample I send you, when tried, will induce farmers in the Province to prefer it to other oats, as more profitable, yielding as good, and a more certain crop

I have the honor to be,

Your most obedient humble servant,
MATHEW DAVIDSON.

Wm. Evans, Esq.,
Montreal.

It appears from the following extract, from the Bankers' Circular of September 20th, that the wheat crop in England is far from being a very heavy crop. We have also seen Reports from several English counties and from Ireland, that state the damage to the wheat crop, by the wheat-fly and other causes, is very extensive indeed, it is said that the crop has not been more deficient for twenty years past in England. We have no particular Reports of the state of the wheat crop in Scotland, but it appears that in the latter country, the season has been very dry this year, and that was favourable to wheat:—

“There has not been in England a season for twenty years, in which the diseases in the wheat crop were so various so extensive, or so general. The midge, the smut, the red-gum, and the mildew, have appeared more or less in moist countries of England. The two first may be passed over as being of partial range, and comparative-

ly unimportant in effect. The red gum, or, as it is termed in some counties, the red robin, may be found in all seasons, but in no former year for a long period of years has it ever been so general or so destructive as in the year 1850. Many farmers will tell you that it has destroyed one-half of their wheat crop. Such extreme cases, however must be rare. There can be no doubt of the extent and of the destructive nature of the disease upon the wheat crop of 1850; I have discovered it in all the midland, western, and eastern counties of England; also in Durham and Northumberland. As far as my observation enables me to determine, it was most first in Berkshire, Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, and Gloucestershire, and the counties lying between them and the coast counties of the eastern shore. Careless persons are apt to treat the red gum with indifference because it prevails more or less every season; but they will find that in this year it spread to an extent that will make a serious inroad on our annual supply of wheat of domestic growth. I believe it has struck out a quantity greater than that which has been lost by mildew, because it spread much more extensively, and affected nearly all districts—some to a lamentable degree.

“The mildew prevailed in Northamptonshire, Rutlandshire, Leicestershire, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire, partially; in the low lands of Cambridge, Lincoln, and East Yorkshire, very extensively. On two lines of railroad through Lincolnshire you could scarcely find a single field of full-cropped wheat without mildew; some of those crops were almost wholly destroyed by this destructive disease. All the way from New Holland, through Grimsby and Boston, to near Peterborough, it was quite melancholy to look over large fields of wheat beaten down flat, of a dark dingy green colour, showing that the corn would never ripen, and would never assume any other hue. The same from Retford, through Lincoln, to near Peterborough. When you reached within about five miles of that city, the wheat crops presented a healthy harvest colour, and one could observe very little of this disease all the way from that point to London; some in Huntingdonshire, while Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire were comparatively free from it. The mildew also prevailed extensively throughout the low marsh lands of the East Riding of Yorkshire; neither were the wolds entirely free from it. The *Times* newspaper still talks about an average crop of wheat; but in its report of the corn trade in Mark-lane on Tuesday last, there is this significant passage: ‘The samples on sale from Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire for delivery by railway, presented a striking contrast to the Essex and Kent, as—although a few were fine and bold—the principal part were shrivelled and light.’ To be sure they were, as the writer might have known they must be, if