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THE SEASON AND CROPS.

HALIFAX, 26th July, 1870.

Through the kindness of our correspondents we are enabled this month to present our readers with a series of Reports on the State and Prospects of the crops throughout the various counties of the Province. These will be found to contain not only information of immediate interest, but instructive and suggestive remarks that will prove of permanent benefit to every thoughtful cultivator of the soil. We therefore bespeak them a careful reading. To the numerous gentlemen who have so promptly responded to our request for information, we beg to return our best thanks.

It will be observed from these Reports that our Hay Crop is to be unusually light, partly from injury to the marshes by the Saxby storm of last year, and partly on account of the drought of May and June burning up the poorer class of meadow lands. Land well worked and manured,—that is, land in good

heart"—can withstand a severe drought; but this season some of the best lands seem to have a short crop.

Wheat and other grains are very favorably reported, and we trust our farmers will be encouraged to increase still farther their acreage of grain, not as a "stolen crop" on new land, but as part of a regular rotation. The United States is not going to supply the whole world with wheat. As the new lands of the West become used up, the Wheat yield decreases. A considerable rise in the price of Flour and Wheat was telegraphed from the New York market a few days ago. Is this to be wondered at when we reflect upon the short crops in Europe, the sudden outburst of war there, and the remarkable fact that in the United States, with a rapidly increasing population, there is this year a decrease of five per cent on the land under Wheat of the whole Republic. There are 930,000 acres less Wheat in the States this year than in 1869. There is an increase in the acreage of Spring Wheat in

Nova Scotia, Maine, and New Hampshire.

There have been partial spring failures in the Potato, but only partial, and there is every prospect of an abundant crop. Early sown Turnips were mostly eaten up by the Flea, but those sown at the beginning of July are coming away vigorously and quite untouched.

The whole of the Returns may be summarised as follows:—Hay, average 4, over average 1, under average 14. Potatoes, average 3, over average 11, under average 1. Spring Wheat, average 1, over average 5, under average 1. Winter Wheat, over average 2. Oats, average 2, over average 4. Apples, average 2, over average 1, under average 3. Turnips, average 4, over average 2, under average 1. Cherries, plums, and small fruits are decidedly under an average crop. There is a great increase in the extent of Wheat, Oats, Barley, Rye, and especially Potatoes, grown by our farmers this season. The Pastures are mostly in good condition, and Dairy Pro-

duce is, with one exception, favorably reported.

The extent of our Crop Reports has necessitated the omission of other matter intended for the present number.

"Farm Implements—their Use and Abuse"—is the subject of J. W. L.'s communication this month. We hope every farmer and every mechanic in the Province will read it, and act upon it.

Several competitors have made Entries for the Prize of \$50 offered by the Board of Agriculture for the greatest acreage of Hemp. Mr. Rupert Fulton has a field of Hemp in Middle Stewiacke, five miles from Brookfield Station, and Mr. Charles Mitchell has likewise entered his field at Merigomish, in Pictou County.

SIR,—I wish it were the business of agriculturists to write for your *Journal* more than they generally do; it would be opening up more information upon all kinds of subjects connected with agriculture, besides the enquiries and answers, and likewise arriving at a general idea of our own country; and for this purpose allow me to say a word about the crops and times of Nova Scotia, and where I may differ from others I hope and wish to be met in the same spirit that I give this, so that truth will prevail.

First, I start with, that this is not the time for our farmers to complain, (politicians are and always have been complaining, but it is all to serve a certain purpose,) but now I speak only of farmers. The crops last year were as large as man would wish, being more abundant than they had been for years. More wheat was raised in Colchester and East Hants than had been for many years; and prices for stock, poultry, butter, and all that farmers have to sell, brought much higher prices than have been realized for many years back,—so that the farmer, with a bountiful harvest, was able to realize a much larger sum for the same stock than usual. For example, this spring I have seen what I have not experienced for forty years—being in the habit of always selling hay and potatoes to smaller farmers in the spring, neither myself nor my neighbours could do it this year, for this reason, that they, the farmers, did not want them, having enough of their own; and when the farmers have these two articles, they being the two great requisites that are required, other things that are scarce will look out for themselves.

The farmers as a class are much better off than they have been for years past; and in some parts of our province are laying up money, more than was ever

done in the same places before. Every thing about them looks tidy, snug and comfortable. Even the school-houses have put on a new appearance, which you will meet every five or six miles, with the little fellows of the neighbourhood in them, the poor man's children receiving instruction with the rich,—this of itself is a great boon to the people. Free schools, and a country will prosper, as it is one of the means. But, as I have said, there is quite a change for the better, the railroad has given a great stimulus for going ahead, not so much in going West, as the road is but lately finished, but on the road going East. You have but to arrive at the junction and you see a brick establishment, as at Elmsdale, a large work of brick, and a pottery likewise at Shubenacadie, where there are four different establishments, with their engines playing, making lumber, leather and brick, besides others being talked of going up. So in Truro, where they built upwards of twenty houses and stores last year, and by appearance will do the same this year, and so on until you come to Pictou. If this does not show an improvement in the times, let croakers or sane politicians say to the contrary.

Now, I shall conclude in speaking of 1870. Providence has given us, Nova Scotian farmers, a season almost as good as we would wish,—a fine spring and a fine summer,—a fortnight being rather dry. More land sown than usual, and in Colchester and East Hants three times the wheat has been sown. All grain looks uncommonly fine, as well as roots, which do not show that the drought has done them any harm. Hay is going to be light on old or worn out lands, but fresh or new lands look very well. Norway oats look well, but time will tell.

I remain, yours, &c.,

A COLCHESTER FARMER.

July 7, 1870.

GLEN FARM, LITTLE BRAS D'OR, }
July 14th, 1870. }

I am in receipt of your letter of the 5th inst., inquiring about the present condition and prospects of the farm crops in this district.

The hay crop will be very light, owing to the long continued dry weather in spring, it being too far advanced to be much benefitted by the late rains. Oats and potatoes are very promising, and at present there is every prospect of a good crop. Wheat looks well, but there has been very little sown in this district. Turnips have come up very regular, and as we have had a good deal of rain lately, the prospects are decidedly good.

I may say, that, with the exception of the hay crop, farmers seldom had a more promising crop at this season of the year.

I remain, &c.,

JOHN ROSS.

Mr. Editor,—You ask me to favour your *Journal of Agriculture* with a brief statement of the present condition and prospects of Farm crops in Lunenburg County.

I have lately been visiting some of our best farms and farmers—and from observation and inquiry believe the following is a very fair report of the condition and prospects of our crops, &c.

Up to the first of June the season was very forward, farming having commenced a fortnight earlier than usual, and the larger portion of the grain and grass fields I noticed were of a good dark green colour, promising an abundance of hay and grain, and root crops gave a like promise of abundance. Soon after this, large fires spread in the woods which continued through the greater part of June, a yellow haze pervaded the air, we had no rain during that time and the landscape gradually presented itself in a yellow hue. The grain generally became stunted, parched and tipped yellow; the grass and roots suff'rd from the same causes, and up to the eighth of this month there had not been rain enough to "lay the dust," and the weather was most of the time uncomfortably warm with drying winds. In consequence of this, the scythe was brought a fortnight earlier into exercise than usual, about the first of this month, and the hay will be about two thirds the usual crop. However, most farmers have some hay left from last year, and the refreshing prolific showers on last Saturday will not only help the under and after grass, but give promise of saving the grain and root crops. Of the orchards, although rather early to give a decided opinion, yet I think they do not look likely to give an average yield. The past winter, although unusually mild, from some inexplicable cause, was a hard one on fruit trees, vines, &c.

I observe our limestone soils have this summer generally exchanged their usual crop of red clover for one of white clover. Last year, and year previous, we had a superabundance of red clover, this year we have the long leaved grasses. Why is it that clover should thus suddenly make its appearance for a few years and then suddenly disappear? No doubt there are some of your readers who can give a reason for it. I should like to see it accounted for in your *Journal*. Possibly a natural rotation of crops may have to do with it and similar phenomena.

Many of our old grass fields are covered with daisy or white weed—the feed poor, scanty and innutritious. The farmers are to a great extent blameable for this. If they will not try to exterminate it, but go on year after year for dozens of years, using the same land and producing the same kind of crops, the soil must become impoverished and exhibit its poverty in this manner.

I should like to report the success of the hemp seed imported by our Board of Agriculture. Some of our farmers have been persuaded to try it, but as I am not yet sufficiently informed as to its present appearance I shall defer any remarks about it, other than that I believe this County has the right soil, and the right manure is on our shores and beaches, to make it a profitable branch of industry, giving as it would profitable employment during the winter months to hands then comparatively idle in our fishing settlements.

H. A. N. K.

Inverburg, 10th July, 1870.

GLENELG, CO. GUYSBORO', }
July 15, 1870. }

In reply to your note of the 5th inst., requesting a statement of the condition and prospects of crops in our district, permit me briefly to state that, as far as my knowledge goes—and I have travelled over the principal portion of the farming districts of this County within four weeks, and can therefore speak pretty correctly in regard to the crops—generally speaking crops look well, and we have no reason at all to be discouraged. Wherever land is in a good state of cultivation they have withstood the drouth of spring and the early part of summer well; and encouraged by the frequent rains of the last few weeks, crops on such land promise an abundant harvest. On dry, light soil, and where land is not so well cultivated, grass is thin and tending to ripen too early, which, with other crops, except perhaps potatoes, which look well on all land—will be light. On the whole, in this county the harvest promises to be about the average, in the vicinity of Glenelg above the average. Absence from home prevented me from replying sooner.

JOHN A. KIRK.

SYDNEY, July 9, 1870.

The season has been very cold and dry, one or two days in June and July only approaching seasonable weather. We have had as many wet days—and flying showers—so that except in favorable situations and where well top-dressed, grass is very light—on many uplands may be cut with a razor—let the future be what it may hay will be a very short crop. Grain of all kinds has, within a few days, improved in appearance, and may be yet a fair average crop. Potatoes look very promising, except Blacks, which are the popular sort,—these have suffered materially from dry weather, and in many instances have been ploughed up. All the new varieties look remarkably well—we have now 10 or 12 of them—by-and-bye they will be better appreciated. Some of the Gooderich Seedlings are a sight worth looking at. Turnips do not look

well and the same may be said of carrots (a very bad crop), beets and parsnips; in fact all vegetables require rain. I hardly know what to say about fruit, the early indications were favourable, but want of moisture, so far as I have seen, has prevented the fruit setting—or it has fallen very much from the trees; insects of every conceivable kind are abundant. I think apples will be plenty; plums short, and most small fruits light. If we have rain soon it may alter the face of things; if we haven't, the crops will be light.

H. DAVENPORT.

PARADISE, July 8th, 1870.

In reply to your letter of the 5th inst., requesting a statement of the condition and prospects of the farm crops in this district, I beg to hand you the following summary:

1. The hay crop will scarcely be an average one in bulk, but the quality will be unusually good.

2. Grain crops generally promise well, although the Indian corn is somewhat backward.

3. The apple crop will probably be much above the average. Pears and plums will probably be only a medium crop.

4. But little flax is sown in this locality, indeed I do not know of any having been sown, and therefore cannot speak of it. No hemp has been sown.

5. The produce of the dairy promises to be large.

6. Small fruits, such as strawberries, blueberries, gooseberries, and currants promise to be pretty abundant. The currants however, have been quite generally injured by the little green worm peculiar to the currant bush.

A. LONGLEY.

BRIDGEWATER, LA HAVÉ, }
July 9th. 1870. }

Mr. Editor.—In reply to a letter from the Secretary of the Provincial Board of Agriculture, asking for "a brief statement of the present condition and prospects of farm crops," I beg to state as follows:

The mildness of the past winter, and the comparatively small quantity of frost in the ground on the approach of spring, enabled farmers to prepare the ground for planting at a date somewhat earlier than usual. The season, up to the middle of June, was very favourable, and the grass and other crops gave promise of good returns. In many districts the want of rain has been much felt, especially those away from the sea coast, where fog lessened the dryness which elsewhere prevailed. It was thought that the hay crop would be very light, but when farmers were most despondent on this account, refreshing showers were bestowed, and it

is believed that though the crop will be less than the average, it will much exceed the quantity previously expected.

The grain and root crops look well. A greater breadth of land has been sown this year than in other seasons, and more attention is being given to agricultural pursuits.

Altogether, there seems to be good reason to hope that the labours of the husbandmen will be amply rewarded, and that the contents of their barns and cellars will, in the coming autumn, give them cause for much thankfulness, and furnish suitable provision for them and their families.

The thirsty earth is to-day drinking in copious showers.

M. B. DESBRISAY.

WINDSOR, July 13th, 1870.

I did not receive your letter until my return from Halifax last evening, where I had been for several days.

In reply I may say that the green crops in Hants generally look well, with the exception of the hay crop. Wheat, barley, oats and buckwheat never within my remembrance looked better. Hay will be under an average, although the late rains have improved it a little. Potatoes, turnips and mangolds look well. The present crop bids fair to be an average one.

Very truly yours.

R. A. McHEFFEY.

INVERNESS, July 8th, 1870.

Having had occasion to visit a considerable portion of this County during the week, I am sorry to observe that the crops are in general very backward. Hay will be very light; potatoes have failed in a good many places; some persons are ploughing them up and sowing buckwheat. In consequence of the long continuation of dry weather, the whole of the crops throughout the County, with few exceptions, are very late, and many of the fields even now look very red, and are only beginning to start. Pastures are bare, and the farmers are receiving very little benefit from their dairies. Besides the want of rain, we have had a long continuance of cold winds from the north and east. Within the last fortnight we have had some very refreshing showers of rain which is increasing vegetation, and will increase the bulk of straw, but too late to secure the hay crop. The Norway Oats being sown when the ground was very dry, are only now beginning to gain headway. The new potatoes that came this way are growing very well, so far as I have learned; in those I planted, I find a good many sets did not come up, those that did look very well. It is too early yet to speak with certainty of the

results of our crops in general, but hay must be light unless under some very favourable circumstances. Turnips are not sown to any great extent here, but what I have seen are looking very well for the season. L.

PARRSBORO', July 11th, 1870.

In reply to your letter of the 5th inst., I have to state that the different crops in this district are looking well. Great fears were entertained of the hay crop on account of the two severe drouths we have had; but the later rains have so improved it that there is now a fair prospect of an average crop. Potatoes planted early rotted in a great many instances, especially the earlier kinds; the ground had become too dry and heated for them to vegetate, no rain having fallen for five or six weeks, from the middle of April until the 24th of May, when we had an afternoon of snow and rain. In many places they were replanted, and the fields now generally have a promising appearance. If there should be no blight, no doubt there will be a fair crop of potatoes. Grains of all kind promise well, although oats sown early and up were checked in their growth by the heavy frost of 22nd May.

Apple trees everywhere were white with blossoms in May, promising a large crop; but a heavy frost that occurred here on the night of 22nd May, it is feared destroyed the blossoms on young fruit to a considerable extent. Frost also destroyed, the same night, the strawberry blossoms, which at that time was mostly out and very plentiful in our fields, so that now we are gathering but a light crop of this favourite berry.

T. D. DICKSON.

YARMOUTH, July 7th, 1870.

Circular respecting crops received this morning. In this County the season has been very favourable up to date, for all kinds of crops; warm, mild weather with timely rains to keep vegetation growing; the open winter allowed daily working of the soil and getting in of crops, so that we seem to be a fortnight earlier in potatoes and most vegetables than last year. The hay crop is fully 25 per cent. above the average, and there is promise of its being secured in good condition, the cutting having commenced a fortnight since. Potatoes have made an unusually vigorous growth, are now in bloom, and will be matured before there is any danger of blight: the Early Rose look even finer than last year, and are being exhibited now in small lots large enough for the table.

With good pasturage the product of the dairy should be in excess, except that a much larger number of young stock is being raised from the imported stock.

Grain is also growing well, small fruits in abundance, and exempt from enemies in the shape of slugs, borers, &c. Strawberries from my garden (Wilson's Albany) first gathered for the table, July 2nd, since then daily.

Much complaint of loss of plants while young from the turnip flea, which completely destroyed successive sowings of cabbages, cauliflowers, turnips, &c. A remedy in next April's Journal would be useful.

Fruit trees are also doing well; with absence of gales of wind it will be a most favorable season.

CHARLES E. BROWN,
Sec'y. Yar. Co. Ag. Society

UPPER STEWACKE, }
11th July, 1870. }

Our crops have a very fair appearance, especially the grain and potatoes. The month of May was most remarkably favourable for farming operations. Owing to the dryness of the soil the harrow performed its work admirably, and so completely pulverized the ground as to enable it to stand the severe drought which continued until the 20th June, and which so stunted the grass as to occasion great fears of a failure of the hay crop. The rain however which commenced on the evening of that day and continued until the earth was completely mollified and moist, and the seasonable showers with which we have since been favoured, have greatly dissipated the fears that were entertained in regard to the grass, and there is now a fair prospect of an average crop, although it must fall considerably short of that of last year.

The pastures have been excellent, and the yield of the dairy was probably never better in this township. S. C.

MERIGOMISH, July 12, 1870.

I am in receipt of yours of the 5th inst., and have to apologize for not answering it sooner.

I now herewith give you a brief statement of the prospects and condition of the crops in this district.

The long drought throughout the greater part of May and June has had a very injurious effect on the hay crop, although of late there have been some very fine rains, which will be of great benefit, nevertheless I do not think it will be an average crop.

Wheat that was sown in the latter part of April and beginning of May looks remarkably well, and promises to be good; but what was sown in the latter part of May and beginning of June is thin and not very promising, but late rains have improved it very much, as likewise all other crops. It has been a practice among our farmers here for some time back when they cannot sow wheat the

latter part of April, to put it off until the first week of June. This is done to avoid the ravages of the weevil or midge, and has generally been successful.

The Barley and Oats are doing well, and are, from all appearances, likely to be a fair crop.

Potatoes are also looking well, and promise to be good.

It is too early in the season yet to say what the Turnips may be, but the late rains are very favorable for them. Within the last week or two the season has been most favourable, and vegetation looks remarkably vigorous.

R. S. COPELAND.

ANTIGONISH, 11th July, 1870.

Your note of the 5th came to hand. I would have answered it before now but was from home. I have been on a visit to Inverness County, C. B., where the crop is very backward owing to the great drought in the first part of June. The prospect there is, it may be a fair crop if not a good one, owing to the heavy rains of late.

The prospect of the crop in our county is greatly brightened by the late rains. The hay crop is very forward owing to the great heat in June. The Red Clover is so abundant that an early cutting of it will be unavoidable, which will render the crop light in some of our best meadows. The late growth will be (if these rains continue) more abundant. Our wheat crop, the early sowing of which was much, will be light in straw; its productiveness in grain depends on its escaping the weevil. The late sowings suffered from the heat and dry weather when sown, but hid to do well in many localities, though in many other parts the injury is serious. The oat crop promises to be a large crop in straw. The potato crop in many districts failed by the rot, or by the heat destroying the seed in the ground before it came up. In most places it looks well, and bids to be a large crop, as there were more than usual of them planted, owing to the abundant crop last year. The other crops, such as barley and buckwheat, are not in such a forward condition as to judge of them as yet. The same can be said of the other green crops, but owing to the timely and abundant rains of late we may fairly infer that the crop in general will be a fair, if not an abundant one.

JOHN MCKINNON.

Your note of the 5th inst., came to my house in my absence in Halifax, asking for a statement of the crops in this district. I will now endeavour to do so as correctly I think as it can be given. I have seen people from different parts of the county, and all give the same answer when the question is asked.

The hay crop will not be equal to last year, because last year we had an extraordinary yield, never beaten. This year, the first of the season was very promising, but the dry weather stopped the growth. The dry hills failed very much—some places not half a crop.—In moist land it will be a good yield, therefore we may call it a common or fair yield. The barley and potatoes are very promising. The wheat, there is very little sown, but what I have seen is very good. The winter rye stands thin but good. The winter was too open for a good yield. The rain we had last Saturday and to-day will improve the grass very much in some places. I think there will be a fair crop of Apples and Plums.

B. ZWICKER.

MAHONE BAY, *July 13th, 1870.*

ANNAPOLIS, *July 12, 1870.*

The farmers in Western Annapolis have now fairly commenced haying, which promises to be on the whole an average crop and of excellent quality. The dry weather in the month of June has stunted the growth of grass on much of the uplands, but on most of the marshes there is an abundant crop. More grain was sown than formerly with every prospect of a good crop, especially the winter wheat and rye. Turnips were injured very much by insects of different kinds, but since the late rains have grown rapidly, and hopes are entertained of an average.

Potatoes never looked better since the tops were blighted in 1844. Many new varieties have been planted this year, but many of our farmers think some of the old kinds equal, if not superior, to any of the new. Garden vegetables are looking well, except some that were injured by the late frost, and others where the ground was dry. Gooseberries and some of the currants were very much injured, and in some places totally destroyed, by the grub, I presume the same as described in the late Journal of Agriculture. The apple trees, which usually make the greatest show of blossoms about the 11th or 12th of June, were this year two or three days earlier, and one visiting the scenery at that season can realize the truth of the language of one of Nova Scotia's ablest men who, in describing his visit to the County, said the scenery was delightful as he passed through "the beautiful valley of the Annapolis, when the apple trees were in blossom;" but notwithstanding there was a fair show of blossoms, the crop of apples will be below the average, it is thought by many, in consequence of the dry weather at the time and for two or three weeks after they were in blossom.

Squashes, pumpkins, melons and cucumbers have all suffered by what is known here as the squash bug. Will

some of your readers in the columns of the Journal show the best means of destroying them? Much has been done within a few years to improve the farm implements and labour-saving machines, yet much remains to be done, especially in the improvement of stock, rotation of crops, drainage of lands, &c.

If there is any business that requires a knowledge of to carry it on successfully, that business is the farmer's.

ROUND HILL, } G. W.
July 12th, 1870. }

WINDSOR, *July 9th, 1870.*

I received yours of the 9th inst., and beg to reply as follows:—I believe the upland grass to be almost a failure in this district. The grass on dyke covered with salt water last fall, is also reported light,—other dyke crops very good. Grain crops promise well as yet; potatoes and turnips also promise well. I have one bushel of Halleck's pedigree oats, sown on nearly an acre of land, which I should be glad to compare with the Norway oats, if a fair comparison can be made under the circumstances.

ALFRED C. THOMAS.

ONSLow, *July 15th, 1870.*

In answer to yours of 5th inst., I beg to state that the hay is much below last year in quantity. All kinds of grain look very promising. Potatoes are doing well, unless on wet, undrained lands, which suffered by the dry weather in the first of the season, as wet land will not stand the drought as well as dry. The roots were injured in some localities by the fly and grub, but taking the crops generally, they look promising.

I am, &c.,

WILLIAM BLAIR.

CORNWALLIS, *July 19th, 1870.*

In reply to your request, I beg to make the following statements in reference to the crops in this section of our county.

In consequence of the increasing interest manifested by the farmers in Stock raising and feeding, the Hay Crop is a matter of much consequence, and is almost the first thing which interests the farmer. Anything calculated to lessen this staple production is looked upon with much interest. As a considerable portion of the hay in this county is cut from the dyked marshes, anything affecting their productiveness not only lessens the price of hay, but of Stock also. The very general breaking of the dykes by the unprecedented high tide of October last has materially lessened their productiveness for the present.

Canard Dyke is about the only one in the county not injured. On this the

crop of hay will be quite an average, and is of superior quality.

The "Grand Pre," of Horton, the largest body of dyked marsh in the county, will not cut half a crop. The dykes on the Cornwallis, Habitant, and Pero Rivers, will yield about the same. The Wickwire dyke in Horton (about 600 acres) and Stan's Point Dyke (about 200) are complete failures.

You will see from these statements that the quantity of grass to be cut for hay will be largely decreased. The uplands, especially old sward, will yield but a small crop; and the intervals have been seriously damaged by their overflowing with the recent heavy rains. Fortunately there is a large quantity of old hay on hand.

I think here is more Spring Wheat sown this year than usual, and, as far as I can learn, promises well. The small quantity of Winter Wheat looks finely, and was not the least injured by the winter.

There is a very large breadth of oats sown, and I never saw them look more promising. I find the Surprise Oats imported by the Board are several days earlier than the "Norway" or our common black oats. Rye is not much sown in this section of the country, but I believe is promising well where cultivated.

Corn is getting to be a more favorite crop with our farmers, and I must say looks as well as I ever saw it, both in growth and forwardness.

Potatoes, heretofore the staple product of the farmers, still hold a prominent place in almost all sections of the country. Stock breeders and feeders find them very profitable when fed to growing and fattening Stock and milch cows; and it is a question whether more permanent benefit will not result to the general farming interest by feeding them to the Stock instead of shipping them to a foreign market.

Some gentlemen who have fed their potatoes to their Stock have decided that they yielded them at least thirty cents per bushel.

There are some of the Early Rose planted; and while the top and formation of balls do not indicate as early maturity as the old Early Rose or Russian Blues, yet the tubers are much larger, which will make them valuable for early marketing. The best eating potatoes are the white Peach Blows, but they require a long season and good land to make them profitable for cultivation. Peas, beans, onions, carrots, mangolds, and turnips are much more largely cultivated than in former years; and there is also a greater interest shown in the cultivation of garden vegetable, as the people find that a mixed diet of vegetable and animal food is more wholesome and less expensive when used in the family.

It is difficult at this time to say what the fruit crop will be. All kinds seldom made a more general and better appearance of blossoms; but the cherries, plums, and pears were materially injured by the severe frost in May, and in many places were totally destroyed. From what I can hear the apple crop will not be an average one. The seasonable rains may, however, produce a larger growth of fruit. The interest manifested by almost all persons in extending the cultivation of the apple is surprising. The demand for apple trees cannot be supplied either by our own nurseries or even those of Ontario or the U. States, as far as I can learn. As a proof of this I am told that the price of fruit trees in the United States and Ontario has greatly increased within two years, and are difficult to be had. The apple crop must now be looked upon as one of the staple productions of the country, and every encouragement given to it which its importance demands. I hope we will be able to make a good show of fruit at our exhibition which is to be held in Wolfville in October next. The premium list is the most extensive yet put forth, and will have a new feature attached to it—viz., the voluntary offering of premiums on collections of apples, &c., by several gentlemen of the city of Halifax and of some from the country.

CHAS. C. HAMILTON.

CONDITION OF THE CROPS IN THE UNITED STATES.

The season, thus far, has been very favorable to vegetable growth, except in the single element of moisture. The average heat in April and May has been greater in nearly all the States than in 1869, (in the West by a difference of 6° to 7°.) There has been a due proportion of sunlight, with few occurrences of destructive storms, but the rain-fall has been deficient in New England, in New York, between the Ohio River and the northern lakes as far west as Lake Michigan, on the west side of the Mississippi south of Iowa, and in the cotton States from South Carolina to Louisiana. A moderate amount, three to four inches in May, is noted in Texas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Kansas, Iowa, and Wisconsin; and four to six inches in May, a very good supply, in the seaboard States from New Jersey to North Carolina, and in Minnesota and Nebraska. The rain in May was mostly in the latter portion of the month.

The heat of April in the West was remarkable. Minnesota exhibited an excess of 10° over the mean temperature of April, 1869. The average increase of 7° is shown for the entire district west of Ohio, north of the Ohio River, and east of the Missouri. Ohio and Kentucky

were only 2° warmer, while Tennessee and the Gulf Coast States were cooler than last year by about 2°. In the rainy district south of New York and north of South Carolina, the mean temperature was about the same as last year; while in New England and New York it was higher—in New York by 4°. In May nearly the same excess above the mean temperature of the preceding May is observed throughout the West, the greatest difference being observed in Michigan. In the New England States, with the exception of Massachusetts, the temperature is somewhat higher, and in New York 4° higher. In the other Atlantic States, and in the cotton States, the temperature of May has also been higher by about 4°.

Future returns will reveal the truth or falsity of predictions of the weatherwise that the present will be a season of unusual heat and drought.

WHEAT.

The estimates of acreage, compared with the area of 1869, is as follows:—Reduction in winter wheat, in New Hampshire, 1 per cent.; Vermont 3, Massachusetts 4, New York 4, Maryland 10, South Carolina 1, Georgia 1, Alabama 6, Mississippi 20, Texas 6, Arkansas 2, Missouri 7, Illinois 15, Indiana 6, Ohio 4, Michigan 5, Wisconsin 5, Iowa 10. In spring wheat, Vermont 2, Massachusetts 5, New York 3, Pennsylvania 1, Missouri 3, Illinois 18, Indiana 20, Ohio 7, Michigan 1, Wisconsin 8, Iowa 8, Nebraska 3, Oregon 7. Increase in winter wheat:—New Jersey 3, North Carolina 5, West Virginia 8, Kentucky 2, Minnesota 2, Kansas 17, Nebraska 25, California 5. The following States report no change in acreage of winter wheat; Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, Tennessee, Oregon. Increase in spring wheat: Maine 2, New Hampshire 4, Minnesota 2, Kansas 14, California 5. The average decrease throughout the country is placed at 930,000 acres, or nearly 5 per cent.

The following States report conditions of winter grain above an average: New Hampshire, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, West Virginia, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Oregon. The percentage of reduction in leading States reporting unfavorably is as follows: Illinois 15, Indiana 13, Ohio 13, Michigan 24, Iowa 11, Missouri 16, Kansas 6, California 8, New York 10, Pennsylvania 6, Texas 3. In spring wheat, the States above an average are Maine, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Minnesota; of those below, the principal are, Illinois 9 per cent., Missouri 15, Indiana 14, Ohio 10, Michigan 12, Wisconsin 7, Iowa 2, Nebraska 4, California 20.

The superiority of early-sown winter wheat, manifested at the opening of spring, is fully maintained to the present time. In deep and mellow soils, notwithstanding a lack of rain and a mean temperature unusually high, it has a vigorous appearance, and if the straw is shorter than usual, the head is plump and well filled. In some poor soils, where the surface is as hard as a roadway, plants stand thin, with short straw, and heads irregularly formed. Such is the case in many places in the Ohio Valley, and to some extent in the Gulf States. Throughout the dry sections the straw is shorter than usual. Fields seeded with the drill uniformly appear better than those sown broadcast. Where the plant has succumbed to freezing in winter or drought in spring, it has generally been, except in very wet or very poor locations, upon land roughly or carelessly prepared.

Among the diseases and casualties reported, rust has had a very limited range; hail storms have caused damage in the Ohio Valley; driving rains have beaten down some fields in Virginia and North Carolina; Utah has been ravaged by grasshoppers; and in Contra Costa County, California, squirrels have taken wheat "by the acre daily," until public meetings have been called to repel the invaders.

COTTON.

The cotton-growers seem determined this year to reduce the price to fifteen cents, with every prospect of doing it. The acreage is materially increased in every State, while that of wheat (and probably of corn, though the county estimates of the entire country do not come in till July 1.) has decreased. If neglect of all other interests can only be cured by cheap cotton, the sooner the reduction comes the better. The condition of the growing crop in North Carolina is good; in South Carolina it is looking well, except that some complaint of bad stands is made; in Georgia it is late, and smaller than usual from effects of a drought of five weeks which terminated May 25, but is growing vigorously now; the dry term was shorter in Florida and Alabama, and cotton is generally in good condition; reports from Mississippi are still more favorable; in Texas Parish, Louisiana, where the greatest cotton yield of 1869 was made, the condition of the crop is twenty per cent better than last year, and the acreage is increased one-fifth; from Texas come reports of a backward spring, with cotton late but thrifty and promising; and no State makes more favorable returns than Arkansas. The average condition of cotton is better than last year at this time—a fact desirable and gratifying in itself, but of no controlling force in determining the ultimate result. Last season was unpropitious to August, and afterward favorable to an

almost unexampled degree, a tenth of the crop being due to the extreme length and propitious character of the autumnal season. The acreage of sea-island cotton in Texas has been increased.

CORN.

The returns relative to corn, though desultory and partial, indicate an average condition. Systematic and complete data for all the States up to July 1, will be given in the next report.

BARLEY.

Winter barley has nearly the same breadth as last year; the spring sowing has been increased. Its condition is fine in the States west of the Mississippi, except Missouri and California, but is subject to the same reduction as wheat in the Ohio Valley.

OATS.

There has been everywhere an increase of acreage. The condition of this crop is superior on the Atlantic coast from Maine to North Carolina, with the exception of Massachusetts and New York; in the dry sections of the West and South it is unpromising.

GRASSES.

The grasses are generally flourishing on the Atlantic coast, the Alleghanian range into Tennessee, and in Minnesota, Iowa, and Nebraska; elsewhere below an average. Clover, in a less marked degree, is thriving in the same sections. It is more sown than usual, and is reported favorably in Mississippi and Alabama, and some other southern States.

FRUITS.

The promise is very general for an abundant supply of apples, pears, peaches, and other fruits, especially in the New England and in the middle States.

Frost, in some portions of the West, and in some of the southern States, has injured the peach crop, but Kentucky, Illinois, and Michigan report more than an average prospect. A full crop of peaches, with the aid of young orchards coming into bearing, which will give fruit of superior quality, may be expected in Maryland and Delaware. Some complaint exists of the blossoms blighting in Virginia. Frost injured peaches somewhat in North Carolina; and in the Gulf coast States frosts in February and March were very destructive. In Missouri and Illinois great losses were incurred by frosts in April, amounting to nearly total destruction at several points. In parts of Illinois, however, a fair crop will be gathered; and a fine crop may be expected in Michigan. The peach regions mostly depended on for market supplies will harvest fully an average crop.

It is a great apple year in New England; even in Aroostook, Maine, where the trees in blossom were covered with ice, moderate weather, without sunshine,

saved the fruit. The amount of bloom was also extraordinary in New York, and the promise of a fine crop is excellent, as in all the middle States, with some drawbacks from heavy rains and falling of blossoms in Pennsylvania and Maryland. In Virginia the same difficulty exists in an intensified form, and in many places the twigs on the extreme ends of the branches are dying from some unknown cause. The reports from West Virginia and Kentucky are variable, from the best crop ever known to failure from frost.—In Michigan favorable reports greatly predominate. In the Ohio Valley, Missouri, and Kansas, the frost which killed peaches also injured the apples greatly.

The pear crop, comparatively limited in area and quantity as it always is, promises to average quite favorably with former years. Some correspondents claim that the September gale on the New England coast facilitated fruiting; and one instance is given of a pear tree in Bristol, Massachusetts, which was nearly torn up by the roots, and bloomed in the spring profusely, and is maturing a fine crop of fruit. In parts of Pennsylvania pear blossoms were less abundant than the bloom of other fruits. In Luzerne County pear orchards are rapidly increasing, and this fruit is becoming a staple. Pears are a failure in St. Clare County, Michigan, while apples will be abundant.

The small fruits have been comparatively abundant. Immense quantities were sent to Chicago and other cities from Southern Illinois, and very low prices were reached. The San Francisco market was very abundantly supplied; twenty tons per day were sent from one county, Contra Costa, and sold at eight to twelve cents per quart at retail. In Washington and Baltimore similar rates prevailed in the height of the season.—*Commissioner's Report, U. S. A.*

Communications.

FARM IMPLEMENTS—THEIR USE AND ABUSE.

SIR,—In these days of dear labour, when farmers, even in more thickly settled countries are driven to their wits ends to multiply labour-saving appliances, it seems but right that we in Nova Scotia should give more than a passing thought to farm implements.

Some three years since, I was shewing a newly hired man his work, and the lay of my farm buildings, so that he might know where to find what he wanted. He expressed his approval of my arrangements as a whole, but remarked that at home, meaning on his father's farm, they had a much larger cart shed; as I had seen the homestead he referred to, I expressed my surprise at not having

noticed the building. He then told me it had no roof. He meant everything was left out in the open. This is far too common a fault in this country. Ploughs and harrows are left in the field where last used, until again wanted. A coat of paint is not an expensive thing on a cart or waggon, it is worth more than its cost in the saving of the wood—it is worth something for its appearance, yet it is very rarely applied. Again, a little grease can well be spared from the soap tub, yet metal is left to rust all the winter on the understanding that it will soon clean itself again when taken into use in the spring.

So much for the care of what we have, but how are our wants satisfied. Ploughs are, it is true, made by many of the country mechanics, and some good patterns have been introduced and copied, but the patterns are those of 20 years since; there is also, I understand, a plough factory at Bridgewater, and this I believe ends the list of Agricultural Implement manufactories in the Province. (If I have omitted the names of any manufactories, it is because they and their products are not advertised to the public.) This is not as it should be; even New Brunswick is ahead of us, and very fair mowing machines come from there. Already there must be a tolerably large demand for threshing machines, chaff cutters, seed drills, horse-rakes, potato ploughs, &c. Will no spirited firm take up the business? If our manufacturers will not touch it, perhaps some enterprising importer would venture to bring in a few such implements as samples, and it is a matter for consideration whether the Central Board of Agriculture should not encourage the formation of such an establishment.

Improvements are constantly being made in all such implements, yet we never hear of any dating from here; must a Nova Scotian of necessity go abroad before he can unite the thinking head with the skilful hand. We have practice enough with the implements we possess, but we are too apt to take it for granted that they will do the work as well as is required, and we are satisfied with the performance. I hold that we should never be "satisfied" with the produce of our farms. I mean that we should never think that we get enough from them; our constant cry should be "more, more," and to this end we must study to improve the tools with which we work; and here again I think the Central Board might benefit the farming interest by giving premiums for useful inventions and improvements in implements, provided that inventors thus rewarded would undertake to supply the articles at prices suitable to the farmer's means. It was discreditable, both to

farmers and mechanics, that for the 42 prizes offered for Agricultural Implements at the Provincial Exhibition of 1868, but 15 articles were entered for competition, of which 14 obtained prizes. It was probably acting upon this hint that at the "Agricultural" Exhibition to be held this autumn in one of our leading counties, but \$8 in all is offered in prizes for farming implements, whilst as much as \$32 is offered in premiums for boots and shoes.

Farmers must learn to set a higher value on improved implements, and encouragement in the shape of premiums at exhibitions, and a ready sale for their wares will then meet the men who undertake to supply them.

Obediently Yours,

J. W. L.

OAKFIELD, July 9, 1870.

KIRKNESS, June, 1870.

Go where you will, the all absorbing topic is the weather; from the merchant, lawyer, doctor, farmer, mechanic, and all others, it is the first salutation you receive. They will tell you it's a fine day, or otherwise, when you are perfectly well aware of it, but it is the custom, and it is no use to say anything against it; but there are times when such a topic gives way to reflections, when you are told by the farmer that his crops are suffering from the effects of drought, as was the case over a large extent of the country here, the month of May being unusually dry, barometers were anxiously tapped and watched, telegraphic reports eagerly scanned, the weather-wises consulted, and with a shake of the head replied, "Oh! the oak is in leaf before the ash, look out for a dry summer;" but poor human nature at the best is a false prophet, the rain came at last, and things began to revive, although we have not had enough for poor hungry soils; the gauge in some districts, only showing a fall of one inch and two tenths for the month. Turnips have suffered considerably from the fly; wheat, in general, is looking very patchy; potatoes are superb; oats and barley promise well, but in some places the straw looks rather sickly. But it is an ill wind that blows nobody good. The Horticultural exhibitor has been in high glee, as the dry weather has been favourable to him for shifting plants from place to place. The coffers of the societies have been considerably augmented, for the attendance has been large of beauty and fashion. Nothing very new or striking, excepting an improvement on the old Ageratum, called Imperial Dwarf, which promises to turn out a good thing. Notwithstanding the dry weather the gardener has gone on with his bedding out, and long before this reaches you, it will be finished all over the

kingdom. The plant that holds predominance in the present tyle of bedding, is the geranium. It is used almost to excess, but there is no doubt but that it answers the purpose well. The best geraniums that I have seen for bedding purposes answer to the names of 'Trent-ham, Rose and Glow. There is also another fine wet and dry weather plant called Tropaeolum Cooperi. At all times it is a profusion of bloom. I saw at Dalkeith Park Gardens the other day, the finest thing in the way of richness and variety of colouring that it has ever been my lot to witness. It was a house filled with about five hundred Calceolarians. They were arranged in undulating lines, and the effect was grand. It has been the work of years to bring them to such perfection. The Horticultural press here has taken up the subject of village shows, and it is likely to add to the number of those very useful institutions. In travelling here it is easy to tell the villages where shows are in operation, and it has been my privilege to witness several shows, and once seen, no one would have any doubt of their usefulness. On a show day the inhabitants hold high holiday, a band of music is engaged, and the squire or some other person of influence, distributes the prizes, and has a kindly word for one and all, and all return to their homes with a determination to put forth still greater endeavours next season. The small garden is trenched and re-trenched, plants are watered and re-watered, and everything is watched with a careful eye. "You need not fear for a man belonging to our society going astray, he has always something to do, so that he may be enabled to make a good display at the show." Such was the reply I received from a worthy clergyman when enquiring of the effects of such shows on the morals of the people. Now I would press upon the leading men, the men of influence, the inhabitants of the towns and villages in Nova Scotia, the importance of inaugurating such shows in their midst. For if the saying be true, (and I have never heard it questioned), that he who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before is a benefactor to his race, what shall be said of the man, who by his encouragements and exertions, supplies the table with abundance of vegetables, and decorates the dwelling with fine flowers, where all before was want and a desert waste, truly such a man deserves well of his race. Such shows cost little, the prizes being nominal, and when we consider the gratification afforded, the good accomplished, it is a wonder that they do not become general. Let one and all, therefore, cast aside all local and petty jealousies, and endeavour by their aid and countenance, to have at least one show in their town or village

during the season of seventy-one. And let it be no spasmodic attempt, but a determined effort to make and sustain their society as second to none in the fair province of Acadia.

Yours, &c., &c.

A HALIGONIAN.

Letter from Hon. John Fergusson, Sydney, indicating very favorable change on crops, received as Journal was going to press. Will print in next number, with much other matter omitted.

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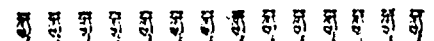
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