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HALIFAX, July 1st, 1872.

The peculiar character of the present season has been too forcibly pressed upon the attention of those engaged in rural operations: a cold, wet, and, in every way, *backward* spring, followed by some very hot days; yesterday our thermometer (10 miles north from Halifax, and 290 feet above the sea level) tood at 85° in the shade for eight hours.

The results of the long continued cold and wet weather are shown in the ample reports from Members of the Board of Agriculture and other Correspondents, which we are enabled to publish in the present number.

HAY CROP.

Throughout the Province we may expect an abundant Hay Crop, although in certain localities there will be a deficiency. In exposed places, where there was much ice formed, patches have been winter killed; in low marsh lands there has been too much wet; in very rich lands, the grass has grown so rank that it is already lodged and will require to be cut early;

but on average uplands and well drained marsh lands there is a healthy and rapid growth, and every promise of an unusually large yield.

POTATOES.

The wet, cold season has apparently affected this crop more injurious than any other, by preventing preparation of the land and planting. Potatoes that were planted very early on cold moist soils have in many cases rotted; but in dry soils they are coming away rapidly, and present a very healthy appearance. H. BLACK, Esq., Amherst, reports: less sown than usual. G. CAMERON, Esq., Guysboro’ Intervale; quantity planted, considerably below average. B. ZWICKER, Esq., Mahone Bay: not as much as usual. GEO. WHITMAN, Esq., Annapolis: much of the seed planted in very wet land has been destroyed. C. J. CAMPBELL, Esq., M.P.P., Baddeck: prospects very bad. DR. HAMILTON, Cornwallis: one third less planted than in former years. JOHN DAKIN, Esq.: fully one fourth less in Digby. DAVID MCNAIR,

Esq., Antigonish: fully one third short of former years. I. LONGWORTH, Esq., Colchester: not as many bushels as formerly. D. ARCHIBALD, Esq., Upper Musquodoboit: far short of the breadth planted generally. H. DAVENPORT, Esq., Sydney: a deficiency of one third. G. C. LAWRENCE, Esq., Port Hood: breadth of land planted largely diminished. J. J. O’BRIEN, Esq., reports that through Maitland, Noel and Walton less than half the seed usually planted has been put in. JOHN ROSS, Esq., M.P.P., gives a similar account of Bouladerie.

There is a remarkable unanimity in these reports that renders it quite certain the breadth of land planted, with Potatoes throughout the whole Province is much less this year than in ordinary seasons, and, however favourable the season may prove to be for growth and ripening, there will of necessity be a deficiency. The probable deficiency, as near as can be estimated, will be one third for the whole Province. It is understood that there is likewise a large

diminution of potato planting in Prince Edward Island this season.

#### OATS.

In many cases early sown Oats have rotted in the soil; where sowing was long delayed, or where a second sowing had to be made, it will depend entirely upon the character of the summer and autumn whether they will ripen grain or have to be cut green for fodder. The diminution of this crop must be considerable in some counties, in others about the average breadth has been sown.

#### OTHER GRAINS.

In some counties there is a considerable increase in the quantity of Buckwheat, which takes the place of Wheat and Barley where the ground was not prepared for them.

#### TURNIPS.

There is no doubt a larger breadth of turnips than in former years,—unplanted potato-land being, in many cases, in preparation for a turnip crop. This will help to make up for the deficiency of potatoes for cattle feeding purposes.

#### FRUIT.

It would be premature to estimate the fruit crops; but so far as appearances indicate there is promise of an abundance.

(From the Gardener's Monthly.)

### GARDEN HINTS FOR THE SEASON.

#### FLOWER GARDEN AND PLEASURE GROUND.

Towards the end of June propagation by budding commences. This is very commonly employed with the rose; but ornamental trees and shrubs may be increased in the same way. Closely allied species must be chosen to work together.

The Mannetti stock suckers so much that it has been found a pest rather than an advantageous stock on which to bud the rose; but yet budding is so useful, giving us a chance to disseminate rare kinds freely and cheaply, that some stock has to be employed. The favorite of the English, the Dog Rose, is wholly unsuited to our climate. The Prairie Roses have been found excellent stocks. Other roses take well on them, and they do not sucker much. It is old, very hardy, and it promises to be a very popular stock for rare roses.

The Rose bugs are apt to be very annoying at some seasons. The best remedy is to shake them off into a pail of water. The Rose slug is often very injurious to the leaves—completely skeletonizing them. All kinds of rapid remedies have been proposed—whale oil, soap, petroleum, &c., but the best thing of all is to set a boy to crush them by finger and thumb. It is astonishing how rapidly they are destroyed by this process. This is true of most of the larger insects.

Hand picking or crushing is by far the best remedy.

Peg down Roses where a heavy mass of flowers is desired. The side shoots push more freely for this treatment.

Cut off the flowers of roses as they fade,—the second crop will be much better for the attention. Seeds of all flowering plants should be also taken off; all this assists the duration of the blooming season.

Propagation by layering may be performed any time when strong vigorous growing shoots can be had. Any plant can be propagated by layers. Many can be readily propagated no other way. Cut a notch on the upper side of the shoot, not below, as all the books recommend, and bend down into, and cover with rich soil. In a few weeks they root, and can be removed from their parents. Stakes for plants should be charred at the ends before using, when they will last for years.

Flower-beds should be hoed and raked, as soon as the ground dries after a rain. Loose surface soil prevents the understratum drying out. Peg down bedding-plants where practicable. Split twigs make the best pegs. In dry weather do not water flower-beds often; but do it thoroughly when it is done. See that the water does not run off, but into and through the soil.

Mow lawns often, if you would have them green and velvety. Keep the scythe sharp; usually mowers do not use the grindstone often enough. Common farm scythes are not fit for lawn use; rivetted, and short scythes are the kind to get. If a lawn is mowed often, the grass need not be cleaned,—the sappy blades soon wither, and make a manure for the roots. The longest should be raked off, or the lawn will have a littery appearance. Where lawn mowers are used, take care not to cut too close, or weeds will grow and the grass will be killed out.

#### FRUIT GARDEN.

Watch newly planted fruit trees. If they have but a few weak leaves only, it shows the roots have been injured; then prune them severely, which will make them grow freely. It should be a main object to make all transplanted trees not merely have leaves, but have new shoots at the earliest possible moment. If they are growing very well, they may be allowed to perfect a few fruits. Overbearing on a newly planted tree is, however, one of the best ways of making it stunted for years.

Strawberries, when grown in hills,—the most laborious but most productive method of growing them,—should have runners cut off as they grow, and the surface soil kept loose by shallow hoeings occasionally. Short litter, half rotten as a mulch, is also beneficial. Lawn mow-

ings are often applied, but with little benefit. Where they are grown in beds, they should not be too thick, as they starve one another, and the crop next year will be poor.

Currants are so easily grown as to require few hints for their management. If they throw up many suckers, take out a portion now, instead of waiting till winter to cut them away. The Currant borer is a great pest, eating out the pith of the young shoots, and causing them to grow poorly, and bear but small fruit next year. Gummy "flypaper" is, we think, the best thing to catch them.

Gooseberries in hot places should have the soil, and even the plants, if it were practicable, shaded a little.

Thin out fruit buds; overbearing is one of the great causes of fruit failures. Under glass, the gardener knows this. He cuts away half his bunches, and thins out half his berries, but few carry this excellent practice to the trees in the open air.

We again report the advice to trap insects with wide mouthed bottles filled with sweet liquid.

#### VEGETABLE GARDEN.

Peas for a Fall crop may be sown. It is, however, useless to try them unless in a deeply trenched soil, and one that is comparatively cool in the hottest weather overhead, or they will certainly mildew and prove worthless. In England where the atmosphere is so much more humid than ours, they nevertheless have great difficulty in getting fall Peas to go through free from mildew; and to obviate these drying and mildew-producing influences, they often plant them in deep trenches, made as for Celery, and are then much more successful with them.

Cabbage and Broccoli may be set out for Fall crops, also requiring an abundance of manure to insure much success. Lettuce, where salads are much in request, may yet be sown. The Curled Indian is a favorite summer kind; but the varieties of Cos, or plain-leaved kinds, are good. They take more trouble, having to be tied up to blanch well. Many should not be sown at a time, as they soon run to seed in hot weather.

At the end of June, some Celery may be set out for early crops, though for the main crop a month later will be quite time enough. It was once customary to plant in trenches dug six or more inches below the surface, but the poverty of the soil usually at this depth more than decreases the balance of good points in its favor. Some of our best growers now plant entirely on the surface, and depend on drawing up the soil or the employment of boards or other artificial methods of blanching.

Beans produce an enormous crop in deeply trenched soils, and are improved

as much as any crop by surface manuring. We hope this method of fertilizing the soil will be extensively adopted for garden crops this season. Those who have not yet tried it will be surprised at the economy and beneficial results of the practice.

Cucumbers for pickling may be sown this month, and Endive for fall Salad set out. Parsley for winter use may be sown now, in boxes of rich soil, and set in a cool, shady place till it germinates.

A-paragus beds should not be cut off after the stalks seem to come up weak, or there will be but a poor crop the next season, and the beds will "run out" in a few years.

Tomatoes, after trying all kinds of trellises recommended, will be found to do best on stakes tied up singly. It is best to plant a strong pole as for Lima Beans with the plants when first set out, and tie up as they grow. Marketmen generally let them grow as they will, on the ground, which, perhaps, although not yielding as much, costs less labor, and may thus be most profitable.

The Swede Turnip or Ruta Baga should be sown about the end of the month. A well enriched piece of ground is essential, as by growing fast they get ahead of the ravages of the fly. Manures abounding in the phosphates—bone-dust, for instance,—are superior for the turnip.

Parsley for winter use may be sown now in boxes of rich soil, and set in a cool shady place till it germinates.

Herbs for drying for future use, should be cut just about the time they are coming into flower. Dry them in the shade, and after sufficiently dry to put away, tie them in bunches, and hang in a cool shed, or place them loosely between the paper, and stow away in cupboards or drawers,—the last mode is by far the cleanest and most approved plan with the best housekeepers. Some, indeed, powder the leaves at once after drying, and put them away in bags, ready for use.

#### AN ESSAY ON THE HOG.

Presented at the Selma Session of the Agricultural Congress.

##### CHESTER WHITES.

This is a breed of hogs which originated in Chester County, Pennsylvania, and probably have been more disseminated in the United States, than any known breed, and up to the last few years, perhaps, have been one of the most popular. The Chesters have not generally been regarded a distinct, or well established breed, neither do we think that many of the breeders of Pennsylvania so regard them; and in thus expressing our views, we would not be understood as wishing to detract any from the merit

or popularity which they may possess, for undoubtedly there are some specimens of this so-called breed which manifest qualities externally deserving the highest commendations; and we think it a great pity, and a still greater wonder, that some individual, skilled in the art of propagation, has never attempted to give them a more definite character.

This breed has been so widely diffused through many of the States, and its general and varied characteristics are so well known, that we deem it unnecessary to offer any particular description, and we think we are offering no injustice to the breed or its advocates, when we say, that owing to the great irregularity of its breeding, no particular description could be given that would apply to many of the specimens claiming the name.

From an article written by Paschall Morris, of Pennsylvania, a well known breeder and advocate of the Chesters, and published in the work of "Harris on the Pig," we extract the following:—"They are generally recognized now as the best breed in this country, coming fully up to the requirements of a farmer's hog, and are rapidly superseding Suffolks, Berkshires; and other smaller breeds. The best specimens may be described as long and deep in the carcass; broad and straight on the back; short in the leg; full in the ham; full shoulder; well packed forward; admitting of no neck; very small proportioned head; short nose; dish face; broad between the eyes; moderate ear; thin skin; straight hair; a capacity for great size, and to gain a pound per day until they are two years old." Again: "We have recently heard of a case where a farmer out West had purchased some pigs from Chester County, and wrote back that part of them were full-blood; part half-blood, and part no Chester at all." We know of another case where a purchaser insisted that a pig from Chester County was half Suffolk.

There is considerable misapprehension about the Chester County breed, so-called. It is constantly forgotten that it is not an original, but a made up breed. They differ from each other quite as much as any one known breed differs from another. We have often seen them—and the offspring, too, of good animals—with long noses which would root up an acre of ground in a very short time; slab-sided, long-legged, uneasy, restless feeders, resembling somewhat the so-called race-horse breed at the South, that keep up with a horse all day in ordinary travel, and that will go over a fence instead of taking much trouble to go through it. They show more development of head than ham, and as many bristles as hair, and are as undesirable a hog as can well be picked up. Any traveller through Chester County can see such specimens continually. Again: When persons

speak, therefore, of a pure Chester hog, or a half-blood, or a quarter blood, we consider it only absurd. There is no such thing. By an original breed is meant one that has been long established, and of which there are peculiar marks and qualities by which it has long been known, and which can be carried down by propagation.

While the sweeping assertion of Mr. Morris, that the "Chesters are rapidly superseding Berkshires, Suffolks and other small breeds," may have been true when made, yet, from the powerful diffusion (in the last few years) of the more refined breeds, connected with other indications from many quarters, we must naturally conclude that the Chesters are on the decline. It is but just, here to remark, that all white breeds, without exceptions, are continually subject to a pustular cutaneous affection called mange, which arises from the burrowing of a minute insect called *acarus*, and is analogous to such in the human body, and is highly contagious and very destructive to young pigs, unless attention and care is continually exercised.

##### ESSEX.

The pure Essex in England was generally classed among the small breeds, and they are so classed in the United States. There is probably no breed whose history is better authenticated than this. They were first established in England by Lord Western, afterwards improved by Fisher Hobbs, Lord Western's tenant, to whose herd all the pure Essex trace back. Their blood seems mainly to consist of the pure Napoleon and the old Essex hog. The improved Essex was generally regarded the best pig of the small breeds in England, and as producing pork and hams of the finest quality for fashionable markets. Owing to its being classed among the small breeds, it has not found so much favor among pork raisers of the United States, as the larger breeds. The Essex possess many peculiar and valuable qualities. The flavor of the flesh is excellent, and their disposition to fatten on a small allowance of food is unsurpassed. The color is entirely black; deep sides; barrel rounded; ears generally upright; medium size head; which is generally carried lower to ground than is usual with other breeds. The sows generally have large litters, but are not the best nurses. They incline to be a little tender, and suffer in winter, unless reasonably well cared for. For crossing with sows of the larger breeds, the Essex is most valuable, as they transmit their qualities deeper and more thoroughly than most breeds. The Essex seem to have grown rapidly in favor in the last few years, and those who are cultivating them hold them in higher esteem than any of the more popular breeds.

## MAGIE HOG.

This is a breed which originated in Butler County, Ohio. It is, by some, called the Gregory Creek hog; by others the Moore hog, but it is more generally known as the Rutler County, Ohio, hog. It is represented as a large breed, which, in the last few years, obtained some celebrity in the Western States. Its precise history seems to be unknown. Some of its advocates claim that it is composed of four distinct breeds, viz: "Poland, Big Spotted China, Big Irish Grazier and Byfield." "This breed," says the same writer, "is of fine bone, but large size, combining more eminently than any other, the excellences of both large and small breeds; being docile, very good feeders, breeders and sucklers: fattening readily at any age, and yet attaining great weight at maturity. They sometimes dress 350 pounds at from ten to twelve months old; 500 to 550 pounds from 18 to 20 months old; at full growth I have had them to dress 800 to 936 pounds." The same writer says: "The Magie hogs are mostly spotted, though we frequently have a number of light colored pigs." From an article by a correspondent of the *New York Tribune*, describing the different breeds of hogs at the New York State fair, October 6th, 1871, we take the following in relation to this breed:—"The Poland monsters, of questionable color, with noses of indefinite length." Again: "The Poland and Magie, and the copper-colored hogs for which some counties of Jersey have been famous, are better suited to the black lands of the West, where \$2.50 worth of labor in corn will make 80 bushels of ears." We confess our acquaintance with the Magie hogs is limited, and would not be understood as wishing either to detract or add to their reputation which may have been so justly earned; and they may be—as one of their advocates affirms—"second to none, but superior to all." Yet from our own observation of some specimens, and from the best information we have been able to obtain of the breed, we are unable to discover any evidences of a distinct race; special merit, or decided characteristics.

## BERKSHIRE HOG.

The old Berkshire hog of England was in high repute for more than a century, and was finally selected as a basis upon which was constructed the most remarkable improvements ever made upon the hog. These improvements, however, were not completed or established until about the commencement of the present century. From these, and upon this basis, was established what is now known as the improved Berkshire, embracing in its formation, the blood of the old original Berkshire, the Neapolitan and white Chinese. Since the establishment of the breed at that time, no innovations have been made

and it has been propagated pure to the present time. Written testimony upon this point, we think superfluous, when this breed, for more than a half century, has so unerringly transmitted its peculiar color and general characteristics to all its offspring, a standard by which all breeds should be measured.

From an article written by Mr. Sydney, an English historian, we clip the following:—"Among the black breeds," he says, "by universal consent, the improved Berkshire hog stands at the head of the list, either to breed pure or to cross with inferior breeds." Again: "The late Lord Barrington, who died in 1829, did a great deal towards improving the Berkshire breed, and the improved Berkshires are all traced back to his herd. They are now considered by farmers to be divided into a medium, (not large breed), and a small breed. If first class, they should be well covered with long, black, silky hair, so soft that the problem of "making a silk purse out of a sow's ear" might be solved with a prize Berkshire. The white should be confined to four white feet, a white spot between the eyes and a few white hairs behind each shoulder."

## Reports on Crops.

BOULARDERIE, June 24, 1872.

Nothing favorable can be said about the appearance of the crops in this district this season,—everything is fully four weeks behind ordinary years, and the extent of every kind of seed sown is below the average. What was put in the ground could not possibly be put into it in good condition on account of the continual wet and cold weather up to the 15th inst. Grass has been extensively winter killed, and there is no encouraging prospects of a heavy crop. Yours, &c.,

JOHN ROSS.

NOEL, June 18, 1872.

Dear Sir,—By last mail I received your note of the 12th inst., asking for a few remarks on the subject of crops and spring work in this district. In reply I beg to observe that from Maitland through Noel to Walton, a distance of 25 miles, and Upper Kennetcook, at this time less than half the crop and seed usually sown and planted has been put in, owing to the frequent rains keeping the ground totally unfit for farming operations. Our land generally on the south side of the Basin of Mines and Cobequid Bay is wet and heavy, but if the frosts keep off well in the Autumn, and the weather keep fine for a week or two, I hope a considerable portion of the present deficiency may be made up in late crops, by sowing Barley, Buckwheat and Turnips in place of Wheat, Oats and Potatoes. The season for tree

blossoms, &c., I think, is very near a month later than last year, but the grass is quite as forward as usual, and the appearance is good. Yours, &c.,

J. J. O'BRIEN.

UPPER MUSQUODOBOIT, June 17th,

Dear Sir,—Your favour of the 12th June received, and in answer would beg to submit the following:—

The Spring season with us here, as in other parts of Nova Scotia this year, has been most unprecedentedly cold, wet and late. The labours of the field for some time past have almost been suspended. Persons owning dry, sandy or gravelly soils were enabled, in the month of May, to make use of the few fine days that there were during that month, but others less favoured have been thrown into the back-ground. Appearances for some time past, in an agricultural point of view, have indeed looked gloomy; but, as I write, the scene brightens, the clouds have passed away, the sun shines out in all its beauty, with every indication of fair weather. Wheat, for years past, has been but little sown in this community, and in the present year less than ever. Barley, one-half of the quantity generally sown has not this year yet been put into the ground. Oats—the most important grain with us, is perhaps one-third less in the quantity sown this year, on an average with former years. Potatoes, the planting of which is now being vigorously prosecuted, is far short of the breadth planted generally. But should the fine weather continue as (there is every indication of) this important crop will fully equal former years. The seed-time for Buckwheat is just commencing. Farmers calculate upon sowing a much larger breadth of this grain the present year than formerly, as a substitute for more important grains. Never in the experience of the oldest farmers has the soil been worked in such a state as it has been the present year. Not one acre out of five hundred has been in a fit state for either plough or harrow. The alarming continuation of wet weather induced the farmer to prosecute his work while the soil was in a most unfit state to receive it, yet the grain sown early looks vigorous and healthy. The continued moisture prevented the soil from being incrustated, and the grain sown under such adverse circumstances may yet bear an abundant harvest.

Grass and hay-lands look most encouraging and with the exception of very low lands, that have been damaged by continued overflowing and cold clay upland soils—with these exceptions, the hay-lands give promise of an abundant yield. The continuation of showers has done much for dry, light and poor soils, taxing them to their utmost capacity to yield a crop; while *well-cultivated* lands

that never fail have received a quickening impulse. And although the farmer has seen much to discourage, yet an abundant harvest may reward him for his labours, and onward is the watchword that leads to agricultural weal.

In the June number of your valuable *Journal*, amongst other important matters, are some valuable remarks on waste manures from the pen of J. H. Hodson. These hints strike at the root of the matter, and we hope to hear again and again from your correspondent. How important to the farmer the saving of waste manures. What a fearful tax upon his income, the allowing of his manure heaps to be drenched by almost incessant rains. One load of manure from a cellar and beneath the cattle-stand which has been properly cared for, is worth three loads from exposed situations. It is easy for the farmer, though his means may not be large, to raise his barn a few feet from the ground (particularly at this season of the year when barns are light), forming a cellar beneath the cattle-stands. And in the month of July, when loam is dry and light, put plenty of it in the bottom of the cellar, and immediately beneath the cattle placing plenty of the same, for the purpose of composting during the winter season, banking well around the barn to prevent frost from interfering with the winter labour; and in this way a farmer who is not able to arrange his buildings upon the improved principle with tanks and pumps, &c., may cheaply save much of his waste manure with profit to himself and all concerned.

Yours, &c., DAVID ARCHIBALD.

BADDECK, June 17th, 1872.

DEAR SIR,—I am in receipt this morning of your favour of the 12th inst, regarding the prospects of the crops in this section of the Province. Owing to the continuous wet weather, very little farming has been done in this county thus far. This spring, particularly where there were clayey soils, up to the middle of last week, the season was rainy, so that the ground could not be harrowed, and, on the whole, the prospects are very bad, as the season is now far advanced; and I believe the potato seed has rotted where it was planted early. The grass looks well, however, and promises a heavy crop. I measured a blade of grass last week twenty-five inches.

Yours truly, C. J. CAMPBELL.

DIGBY, June 18th, 1872.

Dear Sir,—I send you a few remarks on the state of the crops as planted and sown in this place. From the best information I can obtain and observations made in this district, I learn that fully one-fourth less potatoes are planted—as compared with last year—and about the

same of grain. Probably there will be more turnips sown this year on potato land not planted, and the hay crop promises to be a heavy one.

If blossoms are any indication, we may expect an abundant crop of fruit this season.

Yours, &c.

JOHN DAKIN.

CORNWALLIS, June 17, 1872.

Dear Sir.—Agreeably to your request I beg to furnish a short statement of "the probable extent of the crops planted and sown this spring as compared with former years," together with a remark or two upon, I may say, the past extraordinary winter and spring.

I may say that for a period of nearly forty years I never recollect of experiencing such a long, tedious and severe winter, with such a backward, cold and late spring.

The amount of cold weather was not greater than during some previous shorter winters; the snow-fall, however, was more than any previous season since the "deep snow," some seventy five or more years ago.

The severity of the winter has not had any apparently bad effects on the fruit trees, as far as I can observe—as the apple trees as well as the plums, cherries and pears are all blossoming fully, and are just now presenting a beautiful appearance, the buds maturing gradually. In consequence of the cold, damp weather, the blossoms are later appearing than usual, and will therefore, in all probability, escape the frosts of June. The grass is thickly set, looks well, and promises to be abundant. It now wants both the light and heat of the sun to mature it for harvesting.

As regards the "extent of planted and sown crops," I cannot form other than an approximate estimate. On the sandy loams of Canard and vicinity, Billtown, portions of Aylesford, Wolfville and the upper part of Horton, the amount planted and sown, up to this date, as compared with former years, might be estimated at about two-thirds. Even if the weather be favourable from this date, the usual quantity of land will not be cultivated to crops. On loams and stiff clay soils, and all low lands, which comprise Lower Horton, Reid, Medford, the mountain ranges—north and south—and the lands immediately under the mountain, not more than one-eighth of the crop is yet planted, and in many of these portions of the county last named, nothing short of four or five days of fine drying weather will enable the farmers to proceed with their work. The probability is, that on the whole there will be one-third less of planted and sown crops as compared with former years. The early planted and sown crops are looking very well. One consequence

will follow from this uncommon wet spring—intelligent and observing farmers will see the necessity of under-draining their back lands, and already I hear them talking about putting down tile drains. Had this been done in years past, many of the fields which are showing a luxuriant crop of weeds, would have now been planted and exhibiting a vigorous and healthy crop of grain or potatoes. I have a small lot of winter wheat which is looking remarkably well, and will show heads in a few days.

Yours, &c., C. C. H.

CAPE GEORGE, June 20th, 1872.

Dear Sir,—I received yours of the 12th on the 17th June, and you wished an answer before the 20th, but that is the day on which the mail leaves here for Antigonish.

You wished to know the amount of crops sown and planted this year as compared with last year. I think the wheat will be about one-third short of former years, oats an average, barley about the same, buckwheat rather in advance of last year, and potatoes about the same.

Our farmers are in the height of their sowing now, on account of the past wet weather. You must excuse this, as I am very busy at present owing to a cargo of materials for our breakwater having just arrived.

Your, &c.

DAVID MCNAIR.

COLCHESTER, June 21st, 1872.

Dear Sir,—So far as can be judged from reports from various parts of this County, I am inclined to think that no more than from half to three quarters of the crop of last year is now in the ground. In Truro, Lower Village, Old Baras, and some parts of Onslow, farm work is pretty much done up; but in certain parts of these places, where the land is low and not well drained, and at Tatamagouch, Brookfield, the Stewiack and the banks of the Shubenacadie, many farmers are now busily engaged planting potatoes, taking advantage of this beautiful day, and two or three other fine drying days that preceded it, to finish up the work of the season, the greater portion of which was completed in May last year. Those who were fortunate enough to get their manure ploughed in last fall, found their land in a better state to cultivate than their less enterprising neighbours found theirs, and when fine weather did come, were ready to take advantage of it: and on this account, got through with their work about the same time they did last year. It is quite evident that, wherever done, fall ploughing has proved a great protection against this wet spring.

The early part of the season here was cold and backward, and the continuous

showry weather very much hindered all kinds of farm work, to what many of the old farmers consider an alarming extent, and say they never witnessed the like before. The wet weather, as might naturally be expected, has occasioned much grumbling; but I am hopeful that this year, as in former years, we shall have "seed time and harvest." We may not have as many bushels of fine and mealy potatoes as grew some former year, but I think enough of a good quality may be counted on to supply every table in the Province; and what do not get time to mature for table use will not be lost, as they will no doubt do to feed to stock. After all, our farmers should not complain very much about the prospect of the potato crop not being so good as they would like it to be, on account of the very late planting, as they are all expecting an unusual hay crop, and anticipate a great growth of straw in their crops of grain. Grass is looking very well in our marshes, interval lands and upland fields, and I think an exhaustive crop—such as is rarely or ever harvested—may be looked for. I don't see very well how it can be otherwise, for after all the moisture and heat we have had, and are likely to have, this crop will get the benefit of every fertilizer in the ground, many of which have lain dormant in drier and colder summers. It would be well for farmers to understand this matter, and make timely provision to obtain, as far as possible, and return to their grass lands this fall by top-dressing, those elements of fertility which this season bids fair to take from them, and which, if not attended to, will ensure to them next year, unless an unusual one like the present, a much lighter hay crop than generally falls to their lot.

Yours, &c., J. L.

SYDNEY, June 18th, 1872.

Dear Sir,—Yours of the 12th received last night. The estimate I had formed was a deficiency of one-third or perhaps two-fifths. The 16th and 17th have been bright days, but up to that time upon very many farms not an attempt to put in any crop had been made, and the season is too far advanced to give any hope in some places. A week at least will be required before land can be properly worked, and I don't know of any season when oats ripened here, sown after the 20th June. A good breadth may be sown for green to replace a probable deficiency in hay, because I think a great deal of hay land is scalded by the excess of moisture—snow and rain lying on it for nearly seven months.

So far the season is very unfavourable. Potatoes not half in yet, and many of these rotten and are being ploughed up. Oats too, where early sown, have burst.

I have a record of seasons since 1834, of the times of planting on a very favorable farm here, and I find that potatoes have done well on it planted so late as the 9th July, so that if the weather should become favourable, and the fall such as we have seen October and November—almost the finest months of the year—things may do better, but at present prospects are gloomy.

Yours, &c.,

H. DAVENPORT.

GUYSBORO' INTERVAL,  
June 20th, 1872.

Dear Sir,—Your communication of the 12th of June did not come to hand until this morning, and hoping that the remarks I have to make on the state of the crops in this district might reach you before the publication of the forthcoming number of the *Journal of Agriculture*, I have not delayed with my reply.

As regards the state of the crops I am of opinion that, with the exception of the hay crop, they are generally in a backward condition owing to the weather being exceedingly cold and wet.

Wheat.—Our farmers, having obtained the greater part of their seed wheat through the Milford Haven Agricultural Society, the result is that this crop is sown to a larger extent than usual. On account of so much rain much of the wheat has been sown late, but some of that which was sown early and in dry land is growing pretty well.

Potatoes.—The quantity planted of this crop is considerably below the average of that of previous years. Many of the people in this locality were intending to plant a portion of their potatoes in woodlands, but this was impossible, for the brush could not be burned off because of the rain, and consequently the land could not be planted. The growth of potatoes so far is poor, not having in the most of places made their appearance above ground, and it is feared by many persons that the seed planted in wet land will be likely to rot.

The quantity of oats sown is perhaps nearly equal to that of former years. It may probably yield a fair crop.

The hay crop, notwithstanding the cold weather, appears very promising, and we anticipate a good crop, perhaps equal to that of last year. The fruit trees are flourishing nicely, having put forth a fair quantity of blossoms.

Yours, &c.,

GEORGE CAMERON.

MAHONE BAY, June 19, 1872.

Dear Sir,—In answer to your request respecting the state of the crops and their prospects the time was rather short to give you a full account, but I have collected all the information possible.

The season here is very late and unusually wet; I think as much so as ever I remember—so that many people are not done planting and sowing. New Germany is the best agricultural district in this County, and many of the farmers only put in their first seed on Monday last, the soil being too wet, and the newly cut-down land could not be burned—in consequence there will not be as much seed put out as usual. The hay crop will, I think, be very good. Dry, rich land is good, and all the crops sown in such land looks well, but what has been sown in wet land will, I fear, be much damaged. Winter Rye looks well, but it has not been much sown; the grass in dry, rich soil is now lodged, and the weather lately has been very warm with a great deal of thunder, so that vegetation is coming on very rapidly. New Ross is also a very good agricultural district, but the soil is also wet and the farmers are very late in getting their seed out.

I shall be most happy to give any information I can on the state of the crops, &c., at any future time.

Yours, &c.

B. ZWICKER.

SPRINGFIELD BANK,  
Port Hood, June 22, 1872.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of the 12th instant reached me too late to reply in time for the first number of your Journal.

We have had an extremely wet spring. Since the later part of April up to the 15th instant it has rained more or less nearly every other day, in consequence of which a great many farmers are not yet finished putting in their crops.

The long winter has caused a scarcity of hay, and consequently grain; which, added to the wet weather, has largely diminished the breadth of land sown or planted in this County.

Fine weather since the 15th; to-day a great deal of thunder and lightning, with rain.

Yours, etc.

GEO. C. LAWRENCE.

ANNAPOLIS, JUNE 17TH, 1872.

The continued wet weather during May, and up to the present time in June, has prevented most of our farmers in Western Annapolis planting and sowing (in very many instances not half) as much land as usual. Much of the seed planted in very wet land has been destroyed, where, if the land had been properly drained, good crops might have been obtained; and I may here state that thorough drainage is one of the first steps to successful husbandry. But little grain has been sown—that sown in burnt land and light soils promises well.

There has been a great show of blossoms on the apple trees, and present

appearances promise an abundant yield of fruit. Currants, Gooseberries, &c., are looking better than at this time last year; but Melons, Cucumbers, Pumpkins, Squash, &c. are very much injured in many fields,—destroyed by the squash bug.

Farmers are putting turnips and man-gold seeds in land intended for potatoes but not planted in consequence of the wet.—The Grass on the upland looks well. Some of the marshes and low lands have suffered from the wet and unusual depth of snow in March; but, taken as a whole, there is every prospect of a good crop of hay, which is one of the most important to the farmers in this part of the country.

GEORGE WHITMAN.

AMHERST, June 22, 1872.

Dear Sir,—From observation and the best information I can gather the English hay crop on dry uplands and high marsh looks unusually promising, on wet soils, low English marsh and imperfectly drained land, there is a prospect of much less than an average yield; of the later grasses, of which a large extent is grown, it is too early to form an estimate. Not more than half the usual area of Oats has been sown—the sown, generally on land quite unfit to receive seed, and a large proportion at a time, in ordinary years, when their would be little hope of their coming to maturity. Fully an ordinary breath of Barley has been sown, and considerably more than the usual extent of Buckwheat, though quite a fortnight later than it is generally thought prudent to sow. Potatoes—less than their would have been had the spring been fair; those early planted have rotted to some extent, but most of them got in very late, with land in bad condition. Turnips—more than usual, with ordinary prospects.

Without a few timely showers in July the English hay promises less than an average yield. Oats less than half. Barley rather more than usual. Buckwheat considerably more. Potatoes quite a falling off. Turnips more than an average.

Unless crops advance with unusual rapidity of growth, and the fall frosts keep off late, there will be a very short yield this season. The outlook is not at all encouraging for the coming winter.

Yours, &c.,

HIRAM BLACK.

CLEMENT'S GROVE,  
Annapolis Co., June 26, 1872.

Dear Sir,—I have been requested to furnish you with some information respecting the state of the crops in this district. I may say that the hay crop promises to be abundant. The upland grass is looking well. Oats are looking

well, and promise to be a fair average crop, although sown late. Barley promises well for the quantity sown. Indian Corn, I should say, will be a fair average crop from what I see and hear. Buckwheat has made its appearance above ground in few places, and looks well, but not sown extensively. Potatoes are looking well on the high, dry soils, but on the low, heavy soils they were unable to plant early on account of so much wet weather, consequently they are not up. Turnips have made their appearance in many places, and look well; I cannot say how the crop may turn out, for many persons have only sown the seed within a few days. Apples and other fruit trees are looking well, and promise a fair average crop, from all the information I can gather.

Yours, &c.,

JAMES HORSFALL.

### Reports of Agri. Societies.

#### PUGWASH AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

PUGWASH, Feb. 27, 1872.

A meeting of the members of the Pugwash Agricultural Society took place in School-house, Section No. 21, according to advertisement, Thos. A. Fraser in the chair. Elisha D. Demings, Secretary, *pro tem.*, reported that 76 members had subscribed to Schedule A in the Act of the Encouragement of Agriculture. The meeting then proceeded to the election of officers, and the following persons were elected:—

*Pres.*, Charles T. Oulton; *Vice-Pres.*, Simon Fraser; *Treas.*, Cyrus Bent; *Sec'y.*, Thos. A. Fraser; *Directors*, Jesse Black, Elisha D. Demings, Donald McKay, James Chisholm and Alexander McKenzie.

A committee of seven was appointed to draw up a code of bye-laws for the government of the Society.

The meeting then adjourned to meet with the committee to make the bye-laws, in the Town Hall, Pugwash, on the 11th of March, which meeting took place, according to appointment, the President in the Chair. The Secretary read the bye-laws, all of which passed with very slight amendments.

As it was thought impossible for the Report to be in time to meet the Central Board, the meeting instructed the Secretary to send a telegram to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, stating that over forty members had paid.

The meeting then recommended that the Directors use the funds in purchasing an improved breed of Sheep this year.

The bye-laws of the Society are as follows:—

1. That this Society be called the Union Agricultural Society of Pugwash.

2. That the payment of one dollar at the Annual Meeting, or within 10 days thereafter, shall constitute membership in this Society.

3. There shall be not less than two meetings each year—one on the first Tuesday in December, and one on the first Tuesday in May; others, called special, may be called by the President and Secretary, or upon the written request of fifteen members.

4. The President shall act as Chairman at all meetings, when present, call special meetings, and perform the usual duties pertaining to that office.

5. The Vice-President shall assist the President, and in his absence, act in his place.

6. The Secretary shall keep a record of the business of the Society, minutes of meetings, an account of receipts and expenditure, call meetings by advertisement, when properly directed to do so, (eight days previous to such meeting, in three different localities within the bounds of the Society, and at any such meeting, nine members shall form a quorum), conduct the correspondence, and perform such duties as may be required for the advancement of the interests of the Society.

7. The Treasurer shall give a bond to the President in double the sum subscribed, shall keep the funds of the Society and disburse them on the order of the President and Secretary, and report the state of the funds at the annual meetings.

8. The Officers and Directors shall take charge and keep for the benefit of the Society, all animals, plants, seeds, roots, models, implements, &c., with all and every article and thing that may become the property of the Society by purchase or otherwise, and make such use of the Society's property as in their judgment shall be most beneficial to the agriculture of the district; shall report at the annual meeting in December upon the proceedings, offer remarks upon the state of agriculture, and recommend measures to advance the interests of the Society.

9. Any member elected into office and refusing to act, without a reasonable excuse, shall pay a fine of one dollar, or forfeit his membership.

10. These bye-laws may be amended by a vote of two-thirds of the members present in favour of such amending, at any regularly-called meeting.

THOS. A. FRASER, Sec'y.

#### CLARE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, COUNTY DIGBY.

The Annual meeting of the Clare Agricultural Society was held on Tuesday the 5th Dec., in accordance with the Act for the Encouragement of Agriculture.



All the officers were continued in office for the ensuing year.

Since the last report this Society have expended \$175 in the purchase of seed and farming implements of different kinds, and have a balance on hand from the sale of such, and other sources, amounting to \$82.55.

Last year this Society imported a young sow and a boar, which have given good satisfaction, they being of the White Chester breed.

Respecting the crops, the result was better than was anticipated. Hay was a fair average, there being considerably more cut than last year, but the weather was very unfavorable in getting it housed. There were three mowing machines imported during the summer which would have been a great help in cutting the hay if the weather had been favorable to dry it. Oats were very good. Barley about middling, and not so largely sown as oats. Potatoes were good in some parts and in other places they were considerably rotted, and in some localities a complete failure.

I was elected by the meeting to meet members of other societies in the County of Digby to choose a representative for the Central Board of Agriculture for this County.

ANSELM M. COMEAU, *Sec'y.*  
Clare, Dec. 15th, 1871.

#### ONSLow AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The officers, in reporting, are happy to be able to congratulate the members on the very healthy condition of the Society. The addition of two sections of the county, viz., Middle Stewiacke and Clifton, has swelled the roll of membership to 169, and the advantages being derived, year by year, by the introduction of superior stock are not only a source of profit that cannot be estimated, but also a source of pleasure to all who take delight in the prosperity of this, their native county.

The Directors have this year purchased a thorough-bred Ayrshire bull, making in all seven of different breeds now owned by the society, five of which are thorough-bred, and they had made arrangements to have the other two replaced by purchasing at a sale that they expected would take place this fall, of stock imported by the Central Board; but, owing to the position in which the Board found themselves by an Act of the last session of the Legislature, they were unable to make any importation until they were reorganized under the said Act. And you will be called upon to-day to select from your number a person whose duty it will be to assist in organizing the new Board.

The Directors have therefore endeavored to make the best arrangements in their power for the next year with the

stock they now have, and they trust that each section will be satisfied.

The stock are all here, ready to be taken to their several stations.

The Directors trust that steps will be taken to-day with a view to holding a county exhibition in 1872.

They would earnestly recommend a larger circulation of agricultural literature, as tending in a great measure to assist the farmer in his improvement. They are pleased to note that some of our farmers are making large outlays in underdraining, and trust that they will be amply repaid for their labor.

The returns have been duly certified and sent to the Secretary of the Central Board.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

The disbursements of the Society for the year are \$315, and the receipts \$265, leaving a balance against the Society of \$50, which will be covered by the Provincial grant now due of about \$90, and the annual subscription of members which is also due \$169, making \$259, which will leave to the credit of the Society \$209.

The following persons were elected as officers and directors for the coming year: Wm. Blair, *President*; Robert Putnam, *Vice-President*; Isaac Barnhill, Esq., *Secretary*; W. H. Dickson, *Treasurer*; *Directors*, Thomas Dunlap, Alexander Barnhill, James Train, junr., John C. Archibald, Wm. P. Archibald, Wm. F. Putnam and Hugh McKenzie. Israel Longworth, Esq., was elected as representative of the Society to meet with the other representatives of the County for the purpose of electing one of their number to represent at the Central Board.

On motion of Israel Longworth, Esq., the Directors were instructed to take into consideration the propriety of holding a County Exhibition in the fall of 1872. A vote of thanks was tendered the retiring President, J. B. Dickie, Esq., for his valuable services as President, he having occupied that important position ever since the Society was organized.

WM. BLAIR, *Sec'y.*

#### KING'S COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Society's Annual Report for 1871 shows that it has 50 names on its roll, including Honorary Members. The sum spent in purchase and keep of animals during the year amounted to about \$100. The Society owns a Bull, two Boars, two Rams, and several farm implements. During the season, the services of a Bull and two Boars were also secured, and the Members have had the use of the very superior Short-Horn Bull, "Rolaud," owned by Mr. Joseph B. Bowser, and formerly spoken of in our column, (Nova Scotia Herd-Book, No. 32).

The improvements made in the different departments of agriculture since the formation of Agricultural Societies are very visible in this District. Buildings are better arranged, both for comfort and convenience, lands better tilled, and better fenced, stock much improved with a general enquiry for pure breeds.

With respect to the crops of the past season—Hay, on good uplands, was good crop, and housed in good condition; but the Dikes which were flooded in 1869 produced about half a crop or less than in 1870; and the grain sown thereon was a small crop, and middling large breadth of land was sown with different kinds of wheat about the first week of June, and the crop generally good. That sown earlier was nearly destroyed by the weevil. Oats sown on uplands yielded well. A large breadth was planted with potatoes, and the yield pretty good, but the blight arrested their growth early in the season, and the tubers are not so good in quality as in former years. Indian Corn, not extensively cultivated, was a good crop. Other grains generally good. Garden vegetables generally good. The fruit crop was generally light, especially plums.

The Society did not hold any exhibition, considering that the funds could be more profitably expended in purchasing stock of improved breeds.

Officers elected:—Thos. Tuzo, *Pres.*; Robert L. Stewart, *Vice-Pres.*; John Simson, *2nd Vice-Pres.*; Geo. Hamilton, *Sec'y and Treas.*; William Falkner, *Assistant. Committee*, Nathan L. Fuller, Wm. Falkner, Chas. Reid, Daniel Allen, and Samuel Palmeter.

Thomas Tuzo was chosen a Delegate to meet with the Delegates from other Societies in King's County to nominate a Member for the Central Board.

GEO. HAMILTON, *Sec'y.*

A thunderstorm, similar to the one that wrecked the spire of Chalmers' Church and the Post Office Observatory, passed eastward over the Sackville Valley on Monday afternoon. The forked lightning as it reached the ground assumed the form of balls of fire. A house half a mile from the Beaver Bank Station had its chimney destroyed, the inmates considerably shocked, and a hole was fused in the bottom of a cast iron kettle standing on the stove.

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