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NOVA SCOTIA

JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE

Published under direction of the Board of Agriculture of Nova Scotia.

Omnium rerum, ex quibus aliquid acquiritur, nihil est agriculturâ melius, nihil uberius, nihil homine libero dignius.—Cicero : de Officiis, lib. I, cap. 42.

VOL. II.

HALIFAX, N. S., JULY, 1876.

No. 124.

Halifax, 1st July, 1876.

We have not, in any former year, had the satisfaction of presenting to our readers a series of Reports upon the Farm Crops of the Province so promising as those contained in the present number. It is true that in wet fields much grass was winter-killed, that April and May were unpropitious for cultivating the land or putting in crops, except in exceptionally dry localities, or well-drained light soils. But the weather of June has been everything that could be desired for growth, and not unfavourable for planting; we have had the heat of July, in fact, with frequent warm showers, and even late planted crops have made rapid progress; the whole country is now clothed in the freshest verdure. The weather appears also to have been unusually uniform throughout the Province, so that from Yarmouth and Cape Breton, from Lunenburg County on the Atlantic, Digby and Annapolis on the Bay of Fundy, and Cumberland on the Northumberland Strait, we have reports nearly equally satisfactory,—varied merely by the differences caused by the texture of the soil or local peculiarities of exposure or shelter. The least favourable report we have comes from Pugwash, anticipating a late harvest, and a hay crop below the average. John Morrison, Esq., writes from St. Anns: The face of the country presents an appearance at this moment far beyond anything within the recollection of any resident of this district, at this season of the year. From New Annan, John Porteous, Esq., writes:

Since the 12th the weather has been such as to satisfy the most chronic grumbler. In Lower Canard, Dr. Hamilton never saw the grass more forward nor looking better at this season of the year. In East Cornwallis, E. C. reports a wet May, plenty of hay. At Kentville, according to the acknowledgment of H. Lovett, Esq., every prospect pleases, and only man is vile. At Arisaig, D. W. McDonald, Esq., says everything promises an abundant yield. T. D. Dickson, Esq., writes from Parrsborough: The most favourable reports come from all parts of this district. B. Zwicker, Esq., Mahone Bay, reports the weather all that could be desired. At Sydney (H. Davenport, Esq.) crops and things look cheering, a good many are returning to their farms from the Mines. C. E. Brown, Esq., says that at Yarmouth, with a favourable Summer and Autumn a more than average produce may be safely predicted. J. A. Kirk, Esq., M. P., reports that in Guysborough the season so far has been very favourable. In Hants (W. H. Blanchard, Esq.) the dyke lands are making a splendid show. The report of E. Allison, Esq., from Newport is not quite satisfactory, hay good if weather continues favourable. Charles R. Whitman, Esq., reports the crops in the Bridgetown and other districts he has visited, as all in a very satisfactory condition. In the same county, the Rev. W. M. Godfrey says that grass will yield a heavier burden than we have had for a year or two, and that a very large portion of tillage land is being worked by men who have been

driven out of ship yards and lumbering business. George Whitman, Esq., reports from Roundhill that both hay and fruit give promise of an abundant yield. At Paradise, Avar Longly, Esq., M. P., and Colonel Starratt, both predict an unusually large yield of hay, both on uplands and marsh. At Antigonishe, A. A. Macgillivray, Esq., reports all crops in a flourishing and promising condition. Maitland (Stephen Putnam, Esq.) will have an abundant crop of hay. At Shubenacadie (F. R. Parker, Esq.) hay looks pretty well, but will be less than last year. In Lower Stewiacke (W. W. Pickings, Esq.) hay looks well, and on rich ground an abundant crop is now insured. Both at Shubenacadie and Stewiacke, planting was greatly hindered on heavy lands by the wet weather. It appears from the report of Israel Loizworth, Esq., Truro, that the same is true to some extent of Colchester generally. The hay, he expects will not be so abundant, but of a more marketable quality than last year's. The heat has made everything grow with rapidity. Leander Trean, Esq., Malagash, says that the early part of the season there was backward, but everything now looks very well indeed. Many points of interest are suggested in the various communications, but we have not space to dwell upon them in the present number. We beg that our numerous correspondents will accept of our best thanks for their prompt attention to our requests for information, and we commend their valuable reports to the careful attention of our readers.

We regret to learn that the Canadian Centennial Commissioners have seen fit to change the terms offered to Exhibitors of Cattle at Philadelphia. It was at first announced that the Commissioners would bear all expenses of attendance, freight to and from Philadelphia, and feed, as well as loss of, or injury to, animals while under their care. On these terms we understand that a creditable exhibit was entered from this Province. Our Ayrshire Herds were to be represented by Belle of Avondale and Charlie, a good show of Short Horns was also to be made, and Colonel Laurie had entered a Herd of Devons selected from his numerous Cattle. At the last moment, however, and after the animals had been entered, Mr. Perrault, the Secretary of the Canadian Commissioners, notified our Advisory Board that the Commissioners declined to furnish attendance or to bear any risk. The Exhibitors, who were not prepared for such a change of arrangement, have declined to show on these terms. We much regret that the stock of our Province will not be represented, for whilst we frankly acknowledge our inability to cope with Quebec and Ontario in Duchesses, yet a representation might have been made of Ayrshires, and especially of Devons, equal if not superior to that of any other Province of the Dominion.

We observe that numerous sales of Short Horns have taken place in Illinois and Iowa. The prices realized have been very satisfactory. The Fourth Duke of Hillhurst, bred by Mr. Cochrane, was sold by Col. Sims to Mr. Jacobs of West Liberty, Iowa, for twenty thousand dollars. He is by the 14th Duke of Thorndale, out of the old 16th Duchess. In England, we notice that Mr. Brogden has got a calf from Cherry Duchess, purchased four years ago for 800 guineas,—she has now contributed two males and one female to the Lightburne Herd. The demand on the services of Duke of Connaught has made the Manager of the Berkeley Castle Herd determine that after June 1st the fee will be raised to 100 guineas.

THE Sun says that the silver-pencilled-Hamburg eggs, sold by Mr. John Jamieson, Tinsmith, Queen street, Truro, are very fine. The S. P. H.'s are very profitable hens to keep. The Sun's Editor follows up this S. P. H. paragraph by a statement that he was shown by Mr. Eben. Archibald, of Clifton, an egg laid by a Black Spanish Hen, which measured eight inches in circumference the long way. It was a monster egg.

We may add a poultry item: At Lucyfield Farm, 13th June, a Buff Cochin Hen laid an egg measuring 8½

inches in circumference the long way, and 6½ inches round the middle. The egg weighed within the eighth of an ounce of a quarter of a pound. There was a slight bulging near the middle, indicating that it was probably double yolked or what is known as a monster egg. On the following day a Black Spanish Hen laid an egg measuring 7½ by 6½ inches. It weighed 3¾ ounces. This egg was of perfect form and single yolked. The Cochin Hen is one of a trio imported last year by Mr. Andrew Mackinlay, jr., from Massachusetts, and the Black Spanish is one of a trio imported from England by Messrs. Miller and Beattie, per the *Nova Scotian*, in the Spring of 1875.

Truro, Friday.

MY DEAR SIR,—Would you kindly state in the JOURNAL that His Honor Governor Archibald has offered the following "special prizes" for Exhibition:

Best collection of Hats and Caps.....\$10
 " " Boots and Shoes... 10
 " " Furniture..... 20
 and oblige, yours very truly,

W. D. DIMOCK.

SOME letters of enquiry recently received in reference to Bulls required by Societies induce us to remind officers of the determination arrived at by a joint Meeting of the Board and the Agricultural Committee of the House of Assembly on the 23rd of March last, viz., that no male animal should be used by any Society unless it had some crosses of pure blood, and had at least one of its parents recorded in the Register as thorough bred.

LAST month we noticed the death of Mr. Anderson's splendid Jersey Cow, Dairy Pride. We are glad to be able to add that, although we may never see her like again, yet she has left behind much of her blood and beauty in her daughter, a Heifer belonging to William Esson, Esq. The Heifer has recently calved and proves an excellent milker. Her progeny is a Bull Calf to Lord Seafield, the Halifax Society's imported Jersey. We would remind members of the Society that this bull is at Mr. Parker's stables, Kempt Road, and, as he is not growing younger, the season should be taken advantage of.

THERE are fine specimens of *Abies Menziesii* in Mr. Gray's grounds at Boston. They were raised originally from Colorado seed.

AN American Forestry Association has been organized at Chicago; J. A. Warde, Ohio, President; H. H. McAfee, of Iowa, Secretary.

C. F. EATON, Esq., Cornwallis, has recently purchased the Short Horn Bull Duke of Elinburgh, imported by the Beard from Canada as a calf. He is said to be now a finely made animal. He is sired by Prince Arthur [2592]. Dam, Lady Renick by London Duke [1719]. Grand Dam Lorena by General B. McLellan [5666]. G. g. d. Cora by Star Davis [2258]. G. g. d. Victor (or Victrix?) by Rover [5015.]

Records of several other additions to Mr. Eaton's Short Horn Herd are necessarily deferred till next month's number.

MR. THORNTON, the London Short Horn Auctioneer, has been attending sales in Toronto, and is at present in the Western States. He will attend to the request of the Executive Committee of the Nova Scotia Board on his return to London. The Autumn Sales in England will commence at the beginning of September.

THE following "seasonable hints" are from the *Gardener's Monthly*:—A lady says, "The first thing I always read is the 'seasonable hints.' Now, please tell us in your next how we babies in floriculture, as it were, can propagate roses. Some easy and cheap rule; for most of us have no hot-beds nor hot-tanks as the florists have." One of the most successful rose raisers that we ever knew, was the late Charles J. Wistar, of Germantown. He took half ripe wood of roses, and rose wood is half ripe just about the time the flowers are fading,—and he would put them in pots of sand,—the sand full to the brim, and even rounded. These pots were set on his garden walk—a gravel walk—in the open boiling sun—and well watered every day,—we are not sure but they had water several times a day—for the good old man spent most of his old days in his garden,—and, if we are not mistaken, they had saucers of water under them besides. At any rate every cutting always grew; and we can imagine nothing more simple, or suited to the wants of "floral babies."

And, speaking of roses, we may add that 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 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 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 upper stratum 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.

THE Botanic Garden at Cambridge, U. S., now under the management of Prof. Sargent, was established three-quarters of a century ago by the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture.

ANNUALLY on the 21st of June, the youthful population of Halifax pour forth "into the sweet meadows and green woods, there to rejoice their spirits with the beauty and savour of sweet flowers, and with the harmony of birds."

THE Massachusetts Society for promoting Agriculture offers premiums of \$1000 and \$600, &c., to extent of \$3,000 for tree planting of not less than 10 acres extent.

Dahlia Mazamiana has been introduced to California from Mexico by Mr. Roedel. It is a tree Dahlia, the roots less tuberous than the old sort, and the flowering shoots come away from the old wood. The flowers are single, of a deep lilac color.

THE best Mignonette now is the Victoria

Crop Reports.

Antigonish, June 21st, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—To write an account of anything when circumstances enable the writer to review the subject on which he treats favorably is gratifying, even when there may be only a few individuals interested in the subject treated upon, but when many are deeply interested it becomes much more gratifying to the party exonerating himself of the obligation. I have assumed the obligation of writing a few words about the prospects of the Crops in the County of Antigonish, and being assured that the different and various kinds of Crops are in a flourishing, prosperous, and promising condition, I feel that I can relieve myself of the responsibility with pleasure. I have only further to add that, never in the history of this County did every kind of Farm Crops look so promising as they do now. The changes to which the season with which we have been acquainted in Nova Scotia is subject may affect the Grain and Potato crops so that they will not yield as they at present promise; but the Hay crop will be, beyond the possibility of a doubt, the most abundant crop that ever the County produced.

ARCHIBALD A. MCGILLIVRAY.

Arisaig, 21st June, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—In reference to your enquiry respecting Farm Crops in this County, I may briefly state that, from present appearance, so far as I have had an opportunity of observing, everything promises an abundant yield. However, much will depend upon the months of July and August. The wet weather in May and the first weeks of this month caused late sowing, and, no doubt, in some parts of the County, prevented from sowing as much as usual. The weather now is very fine, and the rapidity of growth is such as might gladden the heart of an old times farmer.

With regards, &c.,

D. W. McDONALD,
Sec'y Arisaig A. Society.

*Round Hill, Annapolis Co.,
June 19th, 1876.*

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of the 15th was duly received. The Hay and Fruit (which are two very important crops for the farmers in Annapolis) this year give promise of an abundant yield. In districts where the soil is wet and not drained less Potatoes have been planted than usual in consequence of the wet weather through the month of May, and a large portion of the land ploughed late has been sown to Barley, Buckwheat, Turnips and Mangolds. In this part of

the County but little Wheat is sown and but little Corn planted. Oats are looking well, in fact everything sown or planted and vegetation generally has made rapid growth within a few days or since the warm weather of June commenced. Although there seems so much to encourage the farmer to pursue his business, which with due care and attention gives profitable returns, some are found offering their farms for sale; but many engaged in trade are anxious to purchase and say they are unable, owing to the depressed state of business generally to raise the money to close up former transactions and make purchase of a farm—where the farmer can enjoy the first fruit of his labor and know his food is unadulterated.

Very truly yours,
GEO. WHITMAN.

Paradise, June 26th, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your favour of the 15th, asking for information concerning the Crops, I beg to say that, generally, the crops promise well. To particularise, let me say:

(1) That the Hay crop promises to be unusually good, grass, both on uplands and marsh, looking remarkably well.

(2) Potatoes, although in some places late planted, are coming up well; some early planted have been had the second time.

(3) Corn has come up well and looks fairly.

(4) Mangolds, Turnips, Carrots and other vegetable crops look well.

(5) Fruits.—It is too early to predict with much certainty about the Apple crop. The trees were unusually full of blossom, but there is a feeling abroad that the yield of fruit will not be correspondingly abundant. I should say that the chances were in favor of an average crop of this kind of fruit.

(6) So far as I have observed my own trees, the Pear crop may be regarded as less promising than the Apple.

(7) Of Plums I cannot speak definitely—doubt if the crop is large.

(8) Of the smaller Fruits, such as Currants, Gooseberries, Raspberries, Blackberries, &c., &c., much uncertainty exists, for of some it is too early to speak with certainty, and of others the insects prey upon them so, that little is hoped of them.

The month of June has been all that could be desired as regards the weather, and, indeed the season thus far, as a whole, has been a very good one for the agriculturist.

The Dairy product will be large, although Cheese are dull and the price much below former years.

Grain crops of all kinds promise well. I have seldom known a season when

the crops generally promised so well, and I think this will be the general testimony borne to you from nearly all of your correspondents.

Yours faithfully,
A. LONGLEY.

Paradise, June 20th, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—Yours is received requesting information on the condition and prospects of the Farm Crops, &c., in Annapolis County. I reply to the best of my ability.

Although the Spring has been cold and backward for putting seed into the ground as early as usual, yet the weather has suited the grass and an abundant crop of hay is predicted.

Fruit Culture.—Increasing attention is being paid to the culture of Fruit. Many new orchards are being set out, and the old ones are being ingrafted. The Apples grown in the Annapolis Valley, for keeping qualities are unsurpassed. We have had a ready market for them this Spring at good prices: some prime lots bringing as high as \$4.00 per barrel—average prices \$3.50 per barrel. The trees have blossomed full and being the bearing year, we anticipate a large crop. The caterpillars, however, have made their appearance but not in sufficient numbers to injure the prospects of a good crop.

Dairy Husbandry—for several years, has been a profitable branch of business in Annapolis County. We have seven cheese factories which have turned out annually large quantities of cheese, but the small prices obtained in our markets last year, and the difficulty in getting cash returns, have resulted in preventing several from running this season.

Neat Cattle—have not been so extensively raised since the formation of cheese factories. To establish a cheese factory in a locality means "death to the calves,"—this has been our experience in some sections in Annapolis County. In other parts of the County where some attention has been given to the improvement of Stock for the more special purpose of raising oxen—some very fine young Stock may be seen; therefore it will be to the interest of the *Dairymen* to give their attention in the future to rearing of milch cows of improved breeds with special reference to the dairy business.

Root Crops—are being more extensively cultivated as a field crop. Mangel Wurtzel and Turnips are found to be indispensable in the dairy to keep up the flow of milk.

Potatoes—were a large yield last year, and are receiving the attention of the farmers generally. We hear of no complaint of loss of seed in the ground. The

hoeing is now on, and farmers are busily engaged.

Wheat—not generally raised, and the same will apply to Indian Corn this year.

Barley and Oats—extensively cultivated in some parts of the County. We think them excellent to mix with peas for making provender for *cattle* and *hogs*.

Hogs.—I may say that our farmers are not giving that attention to the raising of pork that the market demands. Lumbering, shipbuilding and other firms doing large businesses are obliged to import their pork, instead of having it supplied by our farmers.

Yours, very truly,
W. E. STARRATT.

Bridgetown, June 20th, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 15th inst. was duly received, and in reply I am happy to state that the Crops in the districts which have come under my notice are all in a very satisfactory condition. It is, as yet, too early to form any opinion regarding the Cereals. A larger extent of ground than usual has been sown with Wheat, a crop which has been steadily improving for some years past. Oats and all other kinds of grain are looking very well, but no estimate can at present be made as to the returns. The crop of Potatoes *promises* exceedingly well. Turnips are only now planting, and of course nothing can be said as to the probable yield. The Hay crop gives promise of being better than usual. Owing to the wetness and backwardness of the Spring, the Indian Corn is somewhat late, but is at present looking very well. Until a short time since the Apple harvest bid fair to be excellent, but within the last few days the worms have been committing great devastation in the orchards, especially in the Eastern part of the County. Plum trees are likely to bear well. Cultivated Strawberries promise to be unusually abundant. The Currant worm and Squash bug are likely to give trouble this year.

Yours truly,
CHAS. B. WHITMAN.

Clements, June 23rd, 1876.

MR. EDITOR,—I have been trying from various sources to obtain something like a fair report of the state of Farming in this township; but the more enquiry the less satisfaction, and I can only give account of hopes and expectations which, as usual, are very large, and if realized we ought to be the happiest of all agriculturists.

The rainy weather during May discouraged everybody and, consequently, but little farming work could be accomplished except in very favoured localities.

We had sixteen rainy days and nights, with a prevailing North-easterly wind. But wherever a farmer had courage enough to attempt something more than grumbling the probability is he will be well repaid for his extra exertion. Potatoes planted about the 7th or 10th of that month are now in blossom; those later are stocky and vigorous. Oats are likely to do well; of Wheat we cannot as yet say much except that some small fields of Winter Wheat look very promising. The Rye was much injured by sudden thaws in February and March, but begins now to look up, and the short is already out well. Of Corn, we raise none for exportation, and only enough for *green ears* has been planted by our best men, who fear a very short season and the early September frosts. Of Cherries, our boasted Bear River "Summer fruit," we shall have but a scanty supply, the hungry East wind and the Cherry bird having stripped many trees of blossoms. Grass has come forward most surprisingly during the last three weeks, looks well and will afford generally a heavier burden than we have had here for a year or two. Of later sowing, such as Buckwheat and Turnips there will be a much larger breadth than usual, in order to supply the smaller produce of Potatoes. Singular to say, the farmers could not plant as many of these as usual, yet there is a very large portion of the tillage land occupied by those who are not farmers, but who, having been driven out of the shipyards and lumbering business by the hard times, have been forced to turn their attention to raising *food*, without which no man can live. I hope such happy exertions may be rewarded and that more of our people may learn where their truest interest lies.

Yours truly,
W. M. GODFREY,
On behalf of the Clements' Ag'l Society.

Windsor, N. S., June 22nd, 1876.

The extreme heat of the past few days, following the showery weather of May and the early part of June, has made itself apparent in the rapid growth of the Farmer's Crops. In the Western part of Hants County possibly fewer Oats have been sown this Spring than usual, owing to the difficulty of preparing the ground when it was naturally wet, but otherwise the farmers were fairly successful in getting their seeds into the ground, and, on the whole, the breadth of ground in Roots and Cereals will be above the average. Wheat is not much sown, but so far the crop is looking well. Mangolds are coming into favor as a profitable crop to raise and feed to Stock, but little can be said of them and of Turnips at present as regards the prospects of this year's crop.

Early planted Potatoes have come up healthy and are looking well, but many of our farmers have not finished planting yet. Hay is our staple, and, except on undrained low lands, or wet springy upland, the crop this season bids fair to be very heavy. The good dyke lands are making a splendid show and from all the information I can gather, I am led to believe, that this year, the crop will be considerably over the average. The advantages of tile draining are plainly evident this season.

Yours, &c.,
W. H. BLANCHARD.

Maitland, June 22nd, 1876.

SIR,—In answer to your letter asking an account of the state of the Crops here, I would say: Owing to the wet weather in May and early part of June, a smaller breadth was sown than would have been if there had been more dry weather. Those who were fortunate enough to have dry land, and were able to get their crop in early, report both Potatoes and Grain looking exceedingly well. Of what has been planted and sown later we cannot speak positively. Hay has the appearance of being an abundant crop, and as all fear of a drought is now past we can speak confidently of the success of that portion of the crop.

Yours truly,
STEPHEN PUTNAM.

Newport, June 20th, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 15th received and contents noted. The grass looks well and the hay crop will be good if weather continues favorable. The month of May was wet and cold and retarded the seeding. Grain makes a good appearance. Potatoes coming well. Apples plenty but overcome with caterpillars in some localities. Plums and cherries poor. Planting not finished in some parts of County on account of rain.

Yours, &c.,
EDWARD ALLISON.

Shubenacadie, June 24th, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of this month, owing to such a wet season the Farmers are only just finishing putting in their Potatoes, Turnips, Barley and Buckwheat. There has scarcely been so much put under crop this year as last. The growth is greater than we are in the habit of seeing generally. Very little wheat is sown at all, and other crops are too small for good farming, the Farmers having turned their attention more to Hay raising. Grass looks pretty well, but is not going to be so great a crop as was expected; the belief is that it will be much less than last year.

Our Farmers are turning their attention more to Pure Breeds than formerly, therefore in a few years we may expect many full-bred animals.

Yours truly,
F. R. PARKER.

Parrsboro', 17th June, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your circular of the 15th inst, I have to say that the prospect of good crops in this section of the country this year is very favorable. A good deal of the planting and sowing was delayed by a succession of rains in May and in this month; but much of the Spring work was done before and during the rains on gravelly land, and the grain and potatoes put in at the usual early part of the season now make a good appearance. On clay land and on low lying land the putting in of the crops was delayed two weeks, in some places three weeks and is still unfinished. The moist weather was, however, favorable to the growth of the grass and it now looks more promising than it probably ever did before in this place at this season. When sowing and planting are done late the ground becomes dry and warm and the crop comes up more quickly. Oats sown here on the 9th inst. were well up in five days. Potatoes, too, planted at this time come up in less than half the time they do when planted on the 1st May. There is no report of failure in the potatoes coming up this Spring. Since the era of *the blight* in 1845, potatoes have never failed to come up well as they did for several years previously with *dry rot*. It is a good time yet for putting in potatoes. Fields in former years planted on the 1st July in this place produced excellent crops. The planting of potatoes, turnips and buckwheat will be nearly all over next week. Apple trees are now in blossom and from their present appearance promise a heavy crop this year. All the small fruits, too, have blossomed most abundantly. The most favorable reports come from all the sections of this District. We are all interested in the success of the crops and from present appearances we may promise ourselves that the year will be one of plenty.

Yours truly,
T. D. DICKSON.

Puqwash, June 22nd, 1876.

MR. EDITOR,—At this season of the year it is not easy to say what the Crops will be. The Hay is the only crop that we can say much for and it promises to be below an average. The Grain crops are not far enough advanced to say much about them, but so far they look well. Potatoes have not made their appearance through the ground yet; we say nothing for them, only hope. The weather all through the month of May was very wet, as a consequence the crops were late in. So we may expect a late harvest. The maturing of the crops in good condition depends on the weather that is yet to come; but, as a whole, the prospects are encouraging enough so far.

THOS. A. FRAZER,

Malayash, June 24th, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your enquiry concerning the state of the Crops in this part of the County, I would just say that everything looks well. Although the season was quite backward and farmers were late in getting in the seed the growth is rapid and there has been quite as much sown as usual. The Grass looks very well indeed and wherever there are fruit trees there appears to be every prospect of an abundant harvest. Hoping that the husbandman's labours will be blessed this season,

I remain, Sir, &c.,
LEANDER TREK.

Digby, June 23rd, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—From observation and enquiries made I send you a short report of the state of the Crops in this locality. The Hay yield at present promises to be a heavy one. Potatoes are looking finely. Barley and Oats very promising. It is too early in the season to say much about Buckwheat and Turnips. Wheat not much sown. The Fruit crop is not quite so promising as last year. The caterpillars have made their appearance in vast numbers. The Currant worm not quite so destructive as usual. A few more showers will secure the growth of the Hay crop. Upon the whole we have, I think, every reason to be grateful to a kind Providence for the prospect of an abundant harvest.

Respectfully yours,
JOHN DAKIN.

Kentville, June 21st, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—Your esteemed favor at hand. In reply I beg to say I have visited several parts of this County in my township, and am happy to report that the prospects of our agriculturists in this County were never more promising. The hay crops are splendid—the best I ever remember. So I may say of the grain, potatoes and all root crops also. There is a splendid show for fruit. Every kind of fruit is forward and well filled. Wild or uncultivated fruit promises likewise an abundant crop. (We may truly say *every prospect pleases and only man is vile*.)

Yours truly,
HENRY LOVETT.

East Cornwallis, June 16th, 1876.

THE weather has been very variable. Opening Spring came pleasant with indications of an early season, but cloudy days and cold storms often set in tending to make the season backward. The fine weather was very precious indeed and the long days appeared to be made up of very short hours. The crops were generally later in than usual. April—the month for grain sowing—passed with very little grain sown. Potatoes—the principal crop—have the month of May in general as their allotted time for planting; but this year the April work had to be done in May and May work

run far into June. Some potatoes even at present date are not planted. In June the gardens are made, other vegetables are put in and any late grain that is to be sown. It is an old saying, "A wet May plenty of hay." Winter grain, either wheat or rye, though but little sown, is proved to be a sure crop when got in early the previous Autumn. The fruit trees are fairly covered with a most beautiful display of blossoms. Boecher, in his "Life Thoughts," says the superfluous blossoms on a fruit tree are meant to symbolize the large way in which God loves to do pleasant things.

E. C.

Lower Canard, June 24th, 1876.

MY DEAR SIR,—In reply to your note of the 15th inst., I beg to say that as far as I have been able to judge, the Crop prospects on the whole are very promising.

The continued showers in May prevented the Farmers in many sections of the County from putting in their crops as early as was desirable, but the weather has been very favorable for their growth and they now look well.

I do not think the usual quantity of land has been planted with Potatoes, but the acreage of Wheat and other grains is much greater.

I never saw the grass more forward nor looking better at this season of the year. On early uplands the Clover is in blossom, and within a fortnight will require harvesting. There is every prospect of an abundant crop of Hay.

It is quite too early to speak definitely in reference to the Apple crop. The orchards blossomed very full, and as far as I can see Apples are setting well; but there are so many things to affect the crop before it matures that our fair prospects may be blighted.

Cherries, Plums, and Pears, as a general thing, will be a very light crop.

Your obedient servant,

C. C. HAMILTON.

Truro, June 26th, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—It is supposed by several farmers that the Potato crop of Colchester this year will be under the average, owing to showery weather the early part of the season, which prevented large and timely planting in several localities. Nor do all expect that upland Hay will be as good as it was last year—the Clovers having been reduced from winter-kill—but the Hay will be of a more marketable quality. Notwithstanding the drawback from rainy weather, the enterprise of our farmers has enabled them to sow good patches of Barley and Oats, and several tried Wheat imported from Ontario by Mr. McKay, M. P., but its success is in the future. Smaller seeds have also received due attention, and Root growers of other Counties may expect keen competition in this line, at the Provincial Exhibition here in October.

This month has been unusually warm, and it would seem that a wise Providence has given July weather, to mature crops that in ordinary seasons could not ripen. The heat has made everything grow with rapidity, and haying will be early. Yesterday's rain was much needed and will do great good. Permit me to add that the Exhibition Building Committee are progressing with their work. What was very recently a spruce grove is now a clear field half enclosed by Exhibition fence, sheds, pens and stalls. The spot begins to look one that may prove memorable in the future history of Nova Scotian agriculture, and, if I am not mistaken will rob the Common of a name handed down from the settlement of the Town: "Truro's lively Green."

Yours &c.,

I. L.

Lower Steviacke, June 26th, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of the 15th inst., I may say that, owing to the lateness of the season, the cultivated land in this section of Colchester being mostly heavy and wet, the crops generally, excepting Grass, look backward. Our seed time this season has been much like those of '72 and '74—rather discouraging for those having wet land. In the early part of May the weather was wet and cold; toward the last of the month there were some hot and dry days; but there were several sharp frosts that kept down the grass and retarded vegetation, so that there was not good pasturage until about the 10th of June, since that time the grass has been abundant. Throughout June the weather has been especially favorable for growth, but rains and frequent showers have made it very difficult to get the seed in the ground. Much of the Potatoes, most of the Barley, and some Oats have been put in within the last ten days, but the farmers generally now are about done; there are some that have Turnips and Buckwheat yet to sow. Extremely wet ground has not been dry enough to work this Spring. On warm, dry ground early Potatoes and early sown Grain look very promising. Hay, which is by far the most important crop with us, looks well, and on rich ground an abundant crop is now insured. Fruit trees have been covered with blossoms, but what the fruit will be cannot yet be told.

Yours truly,

W. W. PICKINGS.

New Annan, June 22nd, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to yours of the 15th (which I do at my earliest convenience) the season has been so late that we can scarce hazard an opinion about our Crop prospects. The greater part of May was cold and wet, with frequent falls of snow towards the latter end. We had a few good days, when those who had dry land got something done in the way of sowing and planting. That was succeeded by a week of wet weather—from the 5th to the 12th of June. Since the 12th the weather was such as to satisfy the most chronic grumbler. Our Haycrop looked very poor during the early part of Spring, but a vast improvement has taken place, and with suitable wea-

ther after this we are likely to have good crops. The Grain brains are looking uncommonly well for the time that has elapsed since sown; but down on the Shore last week, and in a great many cases even yet, they have not finished sowing, so that a great deal depends upon the latter end of the season if the crop matures. Later in the season, if you think it necessary, I may write to you, when a more certain account could be given.

Yours truly,

JOHN PORTKOUS.

P. S.—I entirely forgot to say that our orchards give great promise of fruit. I have seldom or never seen such a fine blow, and as there was no frost to hurt the blossom they are appearing to set well.

J. P.

Muhone Bay, June 21st, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—I suppose you are looking to me for a Report of the State of the Crops in this County. I am pleased to inform you that the weather was all that could be desired. I never saw finer growing weather, and the crops of every kind look very promising. There is also every prospect of a good Apple crop, the weather was so very favorable while the trees were in bloom. They were two days' later than last year. Last year the weather was dry and smoky the first part of June. Since the weather has changed we have had seasonable rains, and for some days very warm and foggy mornings. The fog then moves some distance outside the harbor, and there it remains stationary all day, for the last ten days. The season is favored. Many people have done setting out Cabbage and Turnip plants, which is earlier than usual, and some are hoeing Potatoes—some have been hoed for some time.

Truly yours,

B. ZWICKER.

Glendy, June 21st, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—I duly received your favor of the 15th inst., requesting a statement of the condition and prospects of Farm Crops in this locality.

As in other parts of the Province the Spring was unusually late, and exceedingly cold and wet, so much so that farming operations were prosecuted slowly and with difficulty; seed was consequently late being put in and it is too soon to predict what may be the result of the harvest. The last fortnight the weather has been beautiful and warm with sunshine and occasional showers, which is bringing crops of all kinds on rapidly. Potatoes, considering the wet cold weather in which they were planted, are looking well, so are Wheat and Oats—of which there has been quite a large breadth sown.

Last Winter was very severe on Grass, especially on wet uplands, intervals and low marsh lands; much of it having been "winter killed." The season so far has been very favorable to this crop which has a luxuriant growth, and notwithstanding the damage in winter promises an abundant yield.

Yours truly,
J. A. KIRK.

South Gut, June 20th, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of the 15th inst. came to hand this morning, and in reply I am glad to be able to state that the prospects for Farm Crops are all that could be desired. The weather is unusually favorable to vegetation, and the result is that the gloomy forebodings which generally accompany a late Spring are now changed into cheerful anticipations of an abundant harvest. The face of the country presents an appearance at this moment far in advance of anything within the recollection of any resident of this district. The different kinds of grasses in particular are considered beyond danger from drought, and, if housed in good condition, the Hay crop will certainly be an unusually heavy one.

I am, dear Sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN MORRISON.

Ashby, 19th June, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—I have much pleasure in reporting the state of the Crops. Out door work was delayed by cold and wet until May was far advanced; but the last three weeks have altered the face of things. A considerable breadth of land has been ploughed under. Crops and things look cheering. A good many are returning to their farms from the mines. Grass promises to be heavy. Grains and Potatoes are showing finely and Turnips are going in. Fruit trees, though late, are in very full bloom. I anticipate a very good season.

Very truly yours,
H. DAVENPORT.

Yarmouth, 20th June, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—Your Circular of 15th inst. duly received. Our farming season opened with a wet, cold April, the unfavorable weather continuing even well into May, greatly retarding the getting in of crops. The frequent rains, of which there has scarcely been a cessation up to this date, gave the compensation of early and abundant pasture, increasing the produce of the dairy, and giving the promise of a more than average Hay crop.

With the warm weather of June, seeds of root crops have germinated freely and come forward rapidly, a larger breadth planted to root crops than ever before in this County, the stocks of leading varieties of seeds in the hands of dealers being exhausted long before the demand ceased.

Yesterday, June 19th, at 9 a. m., the thermometer stood at 80° in the shade, a very unusual temperature for us. For some days we have had extremely warm weather and the growth of vegetation is rapid.

With a favorable Summer and Autumn, a more than average crop of Hay, Grain, Roots, &c., &c., may be safely predicted.

Fruit trees were late but very full of bloom. I hope to be able to send a small collection to the Exhibition at Truro.

The absence of snow throughout the entire winter, was fatal in most cases to Strawberry plantations, covered or bare, and there are few plots of any promise for a crop this season. From 1-16 of an acre, carefully measured, on Carlton, last season, \$195 worth were sold in Yarmouth, the crop having been engaged at 19 cents per quart box, cash. Variety—Wilson's Albany. This plot, on a dry, warm, drained soil withstood the winter without loss, and will yield abundantly again this season.

Insect enemies prevail in unusual numbers, possibly favored by the mild winter; last season the currant worm was seen in a few gardens for the first time,—this year, wherever there is a gooseberry bush the shelter foliage betrays its presence now. White Hellebore is an effective remedy, but it is of little avail that one or two fight the enemy while the many give him shelter and sustenance.

CHARLES E. BROWN.

Middleboro', Cumberland Co.,
June 20th, 1876.

DEAR SIR,—I am happy to inform you that we have succeeded in forming an Agricultural Society in this place. Owing to hard times and scarcity of money it took some time to get started. We have now a list of forty-two paid up members, and eleven more names sent in not yet paid, and I think by next meeting we will have more. Our Society promises to be large. We have purchased two Bulls—one a year and two months old—girths 5 feet 8 inches, and is handsome in every particular. His sire is pure bred Short-horn Durham, the dam Alderney and Ayrshire crossed. The other is two years old; his sire was from Prince Edward Island. I do not know his exact pedigree. He is a fine animal. We had to pay \$110 for the two animals. Our Society will be known as the Middleboro' Agricultural Society. We have resolved to hold monthly meetings, for this year at least. We think it more beneficial for the promotion of the Society to have the meetings often. Our Officers for the present year are:

Robert Pudsey, President; Hugh D. Chisholm, Vice-President; Cyprian Ballard, Secretary, and Cyprian Skerry, Treasurer. Directors are: Andrew Colter, Ephraim Howard, Albert Bigney, Robert Angevine and Edward Angevine. I enclose a list of paid up members, but not the proper attested receipt; I suppose it will be time enough at end of year. Our subscription list is open for persons to join at any time.

Will you please acknowledge the receipt of this and let us know if there is anything else wanting; also, if there is any new amendment made in the act. And oblige,

Yours respectfully,
CYPRIAN BALLARD,
Secretary.

In Tennessee the Peach crop is a failure this year; apples, pears and small fruits look promising. In Michigan, fruit prospects are good without exception. In reference to American apples sent to England by Ellwanger & Barry, Mr. Robinson says, with regard to Talmán's Sweet, "a great many sweet things are sickly too, and I should much prefer a French crab to any of those 'sweet' apples. It was among the so-called sour apples that we found the high, pineapple-like and delicious flavour that makes a good American apple one of the finest fruits ever ripened by the sun. I fancy America is destined to supply the world with good apples. If you now send them in quantity to us, who are supposed to grow good apples, and from whom you originally obtained your parent kinds, you ought in the future to send them in greater numbers to countries where the apple does not grow well, or is badly cultivated. Only tell them not to put all the little and bad Newtowns in the middle of the barrel. There was good deal of grumbling about this during the late apple season in Covent Garden. The practice most hurts the packer and his fellows in the end." The above is from the *Gardener's Monthly*. We hope no barrel of Nova Scotian apples will ever be found packed in the "American" way.

WHITE Clover does not succeed well in New Zealand. There are no humble bees to fertilize the flowers, and thus seed is not produced. Two nests of humble bees were sent from Plymouth to Canterbury, with every precaution for their safe passage through the tropics. It is hoped that by their introduction the growth of white clover will be promoted. It looks as if the New Zealand farmers had some faith in book farming. They may all have bees in their bonnets before long.

AMERICAN Horticulturists are now writing up the cultivation of Huckleberries.

The Nurserymen of the North Western States met at Chicago a few weeks ago to organize a Nurserymen's Association. Dr. Ennis, Clinton, Iowa, presiding; Wm. Scott, Galena, Secretary.

The latest thing in Edgings is *Festuca viridis*, a compact growing grass of a vivid green colour. As the Fescues bear draught well, it will no doubt prove an acquisition here, when we get it.

The original Golden Yew is in the Botanic Garden of Glasnevin, near Dublin, where it is known to have existed from the beginning of the present century.

The lilac flowered Fuchsia syringiflora, a variety of *F. arborescens*, and forms splendid bushes 3 or 4 feet high, bearing an abundance of flowers all summer in the open air, and for some time on in the winter if taken into the house.

The Wild Goose Plum seems to be a very valuable market sort in the United States, but spurious kinds are often sent out for it. The true sort is a handsome, rather large oblong, crims variety, with a fine bloom.

Shepherdia rotundifolia is the Silver Bush of South Utah. It is described as truly magnificent,—the leaves as bright and shining as silver, and the buds like silver balls; this appearance arises from the whole plant being covered with scales having metallic lustre, as in our native Canadian species, *S. Canadensis*. It is described as "evergreen," which it no doubt would be were it not silvered over with the pale cast of argent. *S. rotundifolia* will make a splendid dinner table plant, and presents an opportunity for some enterprising nurseryman. It is not known in cultivation.

Town squares and streets in France are furnished with trees, creepers and greenery of various kinds, in a most wonderful manner. The latest French idea that has been realized is a travelling Ivy that can be packed up and carried about, and it will certainly be a convenience to families who change their lodgings frequently. It is in the form of a movable tent or sunshade,—in fact an umbrella. Stem six feet high. The branches spread out from top in an arching manner 16 feet from the stem all round. It grows in a tub, can be moved from place to place as a summer house, giving opportunity for frequent change of scene. The branches are trained on wires that fold in like the ribs of an umbrella. It can be illuminated by hanging Chinese lanterns from the points of the wires. There is no end to the uses to which it may be applied by the lounge or the artist.



THOROUGHBRED HORSE SULTAN, FOR SALE.

The Thoroughbred Horse SULTAN, imported by the Central Board of Agriculture last Autumn.

Apply to
COL. LAURIE,
Oakfield.

July 1

CLEMENTS AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THIS active little Society holds its Quarterly Meetings regularly, and thus far has flourished and is likely to succeed in its undertakings. Just now it is in want of a THOROUGHBRED BULL, Ayrshire or Durham, a yearling or not over two years of age. Any person having such an animal to sell and able to guarantee, will find a cash purchaser, by application to the President Mr. C. Purdy, or to the Secretary.

The above Society notifies the fraternal Societies of the County of Annapolis that it will hold an Agricultural Exhibition at Clements during the ensuing Autumn and solicits assistance and aid in carrying out this Resolution, which is made known in due season, "That no Society may interfere with another."

By order. W. M. GODFREY,
Secretary C. A. Society.

July 1

VISCOUNT OXFORD.

THIS Short Horn Durham Bull is in service for the Season at Lucyfield Farm, Old Windsor Road, within two miles of Beaver Bank Station on the W. & A. Railway. Fee for Service \$5.00. Cows from a distance will be allowed to remain in pasture for a few weeks if desired, free of expense. Heifers, if left, will be charged \$1.00 per week for feed.

VISCOUNT OXFORD is believed to be the purest Bates Bull ever brought into the Province. His sire is the pure Oxford Bull, *Sixth Baron Oxford*, sold when a calf for twelve hundred guineas, and whose progeny is now famous all over England and America; one of his sons *Baron Siddington*, was sold at Toronto on 21st June, 1876, for \$—
Viscount Oxford's dam is *Graceful Duchess*, sold last season at the Whitehall sale, for five hundred guineas. His grand dam, *Duchess*, was by the Fifteenth Grand Duke (the Grand Duke family was originated by the union of the two pure branches of the Bates family, viz: the *Duchesses* and the *Oxfords*). His great grand dam was by *Knightsley Grand Duke*, and his great great grand dam by the pure *Dutchess* bull, Fourth Duke of Thorndale. The line of sires runs back through *M. Cæleus*, *Cardinal*, *White Friar*, *Little John*, *Caliph*, *Sir Walter*, *Hotspur*, *Cockscomb*, *Midas*, the original *Comet 155*, and *R. Colling's* son of *Favourite*, repeated, to the original *Hutchback*.

Cards of full Pedigree may be had on application to Professor Lawson, Halifax, and the Bull may be seen at the Farm, at any time. He has improved in appearance very much since last Fall.

WILLIAM OLIVER, Jr.,
Herdsman.

Lucyfield Farm,
Near Beaver Bank Station,
22nd June, 1876.

July 1

A. MACKINLAY,

Breeder of Light Brahmas, Partridge Cochins,
AND PEKIN DUCKS.

LIGHT BRAHMAS, PLAINEST, WILLIAMS, AND
DUKE OF YORK STRAINS, EGGS \$3.00 PER 13.

PARTRIDGE COCHINS, COOPER AND WILLIAMS
STRAINS, EGGS \$3.00 PER 13.

PEKIN DUCKS FROM PALMER'S FIRST AND SECOND
IMPORTATIONS, EGGS \$6.00 PER DOZEN.

YARDS: SUNNYSIDE, DUTCH VILLAGE,
July 1 HALIFAX, N. S.

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FOR SALE!

ONE or two Yearling and two year old BULLS, pure DEVONS, with certified pedigrees, and recorded in the Nova Scotia Register, may be purchased at Oakfield Farm. The Oakfield Herd is the finest Devon Herd in the Dominion, and has been enriched, from time to time, by Cows and Bulls carefully selected from the best breeders in Ontario and from the Queen's Devon Herd at Windsor.

The Devons are well known as Dairy Cattle. They are thrifty and hardy and admirably adapted to our climate.

For prices and pedigrees and other information apply to
COLONEL LAURIE,
Oakfield.

Early application is necessary.
Oakfield, June 30, 1876.

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During the past season THE PROPRIETOR OF THE WELLINGTON TANNERY has totally altered his machinery for preparing this valuable manure, and is now prepared to supply Agricultural Societies and the public generally with

FINE GROUND BONES

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PRICE—Delivered at Wellington Station—

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The machinery being now in thorough working order, orders will receive prompt attention and despatch.

As the supply of BONES, in this Province obtainable for grinding is yet very limited, customers are requested to send forward their orders as early as possible, in order to ensure obtaining a supply for this year's crop.

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Oakfield, Halifax County.

may 1

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