

A very fine warm day. the snow has gone at a rapid rate and everything begins to wear a new appearance, the grass coming out of its snowy covering looks green and nice. Willie drove down from Minned this morning and left for home at about 10.30. he gave his mare a few oats, but would not stay himself for dinner. Colin has been splitting at the wood and I have been piling corn. I paid Henry Duffield 40 dollars to send to his son George at Manitoba. George has not fallen in for suitable work there, and has got homesick, and sent for the money to take him home. I hitched up King to the buggy and drove Mary home this evening. I took eggs and butter to Marshall's Store and dealt for goods, mostly sugar. I sent the 2 letters, Holyoke & Meaford with Willie to mail, and I also wrote and sent away a letter to Mrs A. S. Pavy - this evening. Dugald Robertson and wife paid us a visit this afternoon. They came up to see Margaret. Margaret is improving although she is not as well as we would like.

Paid
Henry-
Duffield
forty
(\$40.00)
dollars
to send
to George.
this leaves
60 dollars
still to pay

A splendid day for taking away the snow. very warm and the snow has run off in torrents of water. our lane yesterday was hard to go through, on account of the deep snow, and to day (afternoon) it is almost all gone. Colin and I worked at the wood the greater part of the forenoon, only that cleaned out the pig pen so as to put up the hogs. the hogs are rooting badly and we can't keep them in the shed since the great thaw. This afternoon Colin and I had a terrible time in getting them housed, and they ran me over most of the place before we got them fast. hogs are frightful brutes to manage at times and we had our turn to day. John was at the mill with our wagon with a great of chop. The roads are getting greatly clear of snow and give promise of drying up quickly as there does not seem to be much frost in the ground.

Weather continues warm and balmy, the snow has mostly disappeared even where the heaviest drifts existed, the grass is coming ^{out} from under the snow fresh and green. and, indeed the grass fields are showing quite green and fresh already.

Colin and I have worked a good part of the day picking and loading 20 bags of potatoes which we took down at twice the Webb's. 10 bags at a time and bagged up and brought back the same of his riddle (Perles Paroy) for seed. we helped them to ring 6 of their pigs. Scott the cattle buyer came to Webb's while we were there and bought his cattle. \$108.⁰⁰ for the 4 head. he then went up to Johnny and bought his \$125.⁰⁰ for the 4 head. the fifth one has a mottled face and he wouldn't take it. he looked at our cow but he would like to have her father.

Colin went down to Theavers this evening and brought up his things, brush &c.

Beautiful weather, warm and splendid growing weather. The change is so great that we can hardly expect it to continue. The grass is showing uncommonly green for so shortly out of the grip of frost and snow. I helped Johnny to take off large stones from the quarry field this forenoon. we built them as a fence on the west side of the field. got down the dried meat and wrapped it in paper and put it in two barrels. Covering it and packing it in oats. there were pieces. Colin drove down for the mail this evening after tea. Maggie accompanied him.

Margaret is improving. although not very strong yet.

A most beautiful day. hot enough for any day in summer. Colin has been splitting the tamarack stove wood the most of the day (I had not time to help much but did some). I repaired a shoe for George Abbott. and helped to clean and bag 2 bags of northern spurs for Guelph tomorrow. Thunder and rain to night and we are a little afraid the weather may prevent us getting to Guelph tomorrow. I drove down to Everton this evening with Johnny Nettie and had a shoe put on her on front. She pulled it off although lately put on by Robinson and he did not care to have her go without it to Guelph tomorrow. I had a chat with Mr McCullough when down there about Margaret's trouble, he thinks it may have been aggravated by her recent attack of Grippe and thinks she will soon improve, but will have to take good care of herself. avoid worry and any undue exercise, and attend to propriety &c.

An extremely hot day, many expressed their opinion that it was hot enough for July. Maggie and Dizzie and I started for Guelph this morning shortly after 7 o'clock, and arrived there at 9.40. I had 2 bags Apples (McSpys) for which I got \$1.25 per bag. butter 164¹/₂ lbs. eggs 10^{cts} per doz. Willie got 8 lbs butter @ 16^{cts} took raisins & currants for most of it. Dizzie & Maggie did not go up to Willie as they had a good deal of shopping to do. The road was a little rough near Guelph. but they are generally drying wonderfully up. the grass is becoming quite green and the fall wheat on different farms is looking splendidly. Colin brought home the lumber in 2 loads from Everton to day, and helped Johnny to move a fence, they drew it a piece from its bed with a piece and Johnny intends building it there, taking in some coal. I had Johnny Nettie & our Fred to Guelph. while I was at Hewars getting 4 bushels seed corn. the horses got restless at the post opposite the store door, and between them broke the tongue of the democrat. Penfold's fitted up an old tongue to bring me home. and I left the other to get fixed. The heat to day in Guelph was spoken of as being 85 in the shade.

heat 85 in the shade

Guelph market
Maggie & Dizzie.

Mr. McGeehin and Hoskins rode with us.

Sold apples, butter & eggs.

Bought our seed corn

Sunday 19th Continues fine the growth is marvellous. Cooler this afternoon. Colin and Maggie drove Fred to Everton twice this forenoon and again at night. I drove Margaret down to Nettie's this afternoon where she & I had our tea. Colin & Maggie called for her as they returned, but I came home.

A very warm day, and sultry, I thought as it looked thundery that a break out might cool the air but it cleared off again and the temperature remained about the same.

Colin and I started this morning at the stony acre and drew off the stones to the back lane forming a fence, to make the boundary to the back field. Colin remained all afternoon till 5 o'clock at the work, but I went with Johnny after dinner down to Lores to get a load of straw. we got back shortly after 4 o'clock and we set the machine and cutting boy. Colin came up from the field when seeing us with the load, and as soon as we had supper we commenced to cut which was exactly 5.40. we cut ~~the~~ ^{the} load in 35 minutes, and sharpened and cut Lores in 25 minutes, we were done at 7 o'clock, and had to hustle to get our chore completed by dark. Robert Morton came up and helped us.

Warm in the early part of the day, it looked thundery and rain clouds seemed to pass around, towards evening it became much cooler and we have fears for frost. Colin and I have been all day taking off stones from the stony acre, it is a heavy job and some of the stones alone make the horses jump to haul them off. Johnny talks of wanting the stone boat tomorrow, so we cleared the part of plowed land behind stony acre of stones and may sow it tomorrow. Margaret seems much better to day and is able to be around quite lively and doing the work as usual.

Cold to day for a change, one feels it pleasant after so much hot weather. Johnny used the stone boat this forenoon to prepare for gang plowing over at Mrs. Lorge's Corner. And Colin and I took the opportunity to split wood in the yard. it split fairly easy. in fact. Colin thought easier than when at first Iamed. in the afternoon we again tackled the stones at the stony acre. we have to leave the chance of the boat as we can get it. Mr & Mrs John Nebl paid us a visit this evening. And Margaret ventured to the head of the hill in conveying them a piece home. we called at Robt. McWilliam's and I got the loan of ten bags from him I intend taking at grist of Chop - tomorrow.

The weather is again warmer to day, but not so hot as it has been lately. we were early astir this morning, and prepared to get to Everton with the Chopp. we bagged up the 10 bags of black oats. and with the 5 bags of peas I took them to the mill. I got away with the load about 8.30. and as there was no one ahead of me I got my grist Chopped without delay. I had John's Jennie Mare along with Fred. Johnny drove his 4 Cattle to Rockwood this forenoon. sold to Scott of Brampton. \$125.⁰⁰. I got back at 12 o'clock. but Johnny was nearly a couple of hours later. he brought me up from Abbott's teeth for my harrows from Willie Abbott. not paid old Mr Pike of Rockwood dropt dead this A.M. about 8 o'clock. it is a sudden call for the old man, although he has had a chequered life. still his wife and family will deeply feel his loss. we hear of a Mr. Moreby, who has lived near Rockwood. and who was in conversation with Mr. Pike yesterday having died in the same way within a short time of each other, within an hour or so, life is uncertain. Colin stoned this forenoon and cultivated the patch for oats this afternoon.

Cold east wind prevailing to day, and considerable rain has fallen, it did not rain heavily but enough to stop seeding operations in the fore part of the day. Colin and I bagged up 15 bags of white oats and he took them to the mill this forenoon. he also got King's front shoes removed & reset at Miller Abbotts paid for the Chop and the shoeing too.

after he came home we emptied the Chop - and then hitched on to the Seeder and sowed the 2 acre patch to oats. our young Cow Calved this forenoon a nice red calf. our cut stuff is getting small and I begin to have fears it will hardly see us out long enough. we have plenty of lettrips however which will help us out some. Margaret, we think, is keeping better. She is working around again too much and tires herself, we cannot keep her from it however.

I have been building up fallen fences this afternoon and hunting up our harrows which got out of sight, found them over John's pigging, where we stowed them away for safe keeping.

Dull and misty this morning and I had some fears the weather would not turn out fine. the sun soon shone out however and we had very fine weather the whole day. Colin took the harrows back to the piece he sowed yesterday afternoon. he got done with that about 9.30 and then hitched on to the 2 furrow plow and plowed all day in last year's turnip & potatoe land. the field at the back of the orchard, it is too wet but as it is getting late we think it best to work it up so that it may dry for sowing. I thought once of cultivating it, but afterwards concluded plowing would make a dry seed bed quicker. I scrubbed up the rusty mould boards and they cleaned fairly well. I started off to Rockwood before 12 o'clock and arrived there at 1 o'clock, just in time to be present at the funeral services at the Pikes. they soon started off for Quelph and I drove down to McKenzie's. they were fairly well. I got 2 bags peas (4 bushels) and got home by dark. a letter from Ewart to night

plowing with the two furrows plowed in the turnip and potatoe land.

attended the funeral of Mr. Pike at Rockwood

drove them down to McKenzie's got 2 bags peas.

Letter from Ewart.

Sunday 26

A beautiful day. Maggie & Colin drove to meet us this A.M. after dinner Margaret & I drove over to see Mrs. McKenzie at Mrs. Sutton. She was away to Chyishy. Mr. Carlin. Staid awhile at Sutton and then drove over to Albert Sutton where we had tea and made a fine pleasant visit. John Russell & wife & children were there, also Mr. Thomson. they have another son there

A fine working day. a little dull and threatening looking and a sprinkling of rain fell after dinner but not enough to stop us working. Colin has gang plowed again in the field behind the orchard. He got me to gang plow awhile while he hitched up Fred to the stone boat and took off the sods he plowed up in the garden and he spread them on the land. The land is wet yet on the field we are working at but this season is advancing and the growth is rapid now and we don't like to lose it.

TUESDAY 28

(121-244)

Fine day. The land is drying up considerably. Colin has been gang plowing all day and there is yet but this is about half a day's work yet to do. Johnny paid me to day one hundred dollars in 2.50 dollar bills. I drove down to Everton this evening and got my Clover & grass seeds. I got it half red Clover and half Alsike, and about the same proportion of timothy. 48 lbs for the sowing of eight acres. Costing about \$8.75

bought
grass
seed at
Everton

April

WEDNESDAY 29

(122-243)

1894

Rather dull weather this morning. it soon cleared up however to be a good drying day. the wind has blowing very strong and the ground has dried up a good deal. Johnny brought his team to day and sowed our wheat and barley in the field behind the orchard. Colin harrowed ahead of him, also gang-plowed what he expected would take him this forenoon to do. he harrowed quite a bit after the sower. Johnny was done sowing shortly after 3 o'clock but thought it was hardly worth while to rig up the harrows for the little time. so Colin will have to do it in the morning before he goes over to Johnny's.

THURSDAY 30

(123-242)

Very dull all day, and looked much like rain. Colin finished the harrowing of the wheat field this morning it took 2 hours to do it. he then went with the team to Johnny's and worked our gang plow a good while. I gang plowed for Johnny too, with his team, while he cleaned up some grain. I sowed grass seed on the burnt part in the Swamp this afternoon. Colin brought home a wagon box full of cut straw, which is all used up now. Margaret took a ride with me to Everton this afternoon. She got some flowers and garden plants from Janet Abbott. also some seeds &c on coming home at Webbs. She stayed there, while I drove over to Standishes for the turkey. it was lucky I went to night, as this was the first day for them to lay. I brought home with them the 2 eggs they laid.

Sent to
Erin, three
dollars for
Singer -
Assessment
& dues for
self & John
McKenzie.
A. O. H. Co.

Very threatening looking this morning for rain. a little fell but, although it kept dull for a long time the rain didn't come and we were glad of it. Colin hauled off the stones from the fields that are to sow this forenoon. There are quite a few wet spots in them. It is rather surprising to find so much wet land on our place when so many acres of being done seeding. we hear Duffields & Jessen finished their seeding yesterday. John Webb is working up his last field. Colin gang plowed some of the outside of our south front field, and after filling in the furrows he cultivated the balance. It is too wet and cloggy but we feel like pushing on notwithstanding as we are losing the fine growing weather now obtaining. I fixed up a lot of dilapidated fences this forenoon and the part of the afternoon. also fixed up a place in Cow Stable for each of the Cows we are expecting to pig soon. I turned out the 8 young cattle this forenoon to pick their living. the grass is now a good length.

SATURDAY 2

(125-240)

Very fine in the early part of the day. but it became very dull and lowering afternoon. Colin ^{sowed with Colin} cultivated the south front field this forenoon and had not quite done. finished in a little while after dinner. he took "King" and harrowed it alone with the vrow harrow. I hitched Fred with the grey horse and rolled the wheat field which is seeded down. I started at 2.20 and at 4.30 had to quit on account of rain falling too heavily and making it cloggy. There is only about 2 acres left. so that there is rolled somewhere ~~about~~ 7 acres. not bad for 2 hours work. Colin finished harrowing and then plowed in the furrows in the north front field. ready for gang.

Sunday 3

A very fine day. fine gleams of warm sun. Shinn is drying the land up nicely. the grass and everything is growing on apace. Maggie and Colin drove to Everton Meeting this forenoon. I have done up all chores at noon and night. Mr. & Mrs. Webb here to night.

A very breezy drying day. Some thunder clouds were passing around this afternoon and there is lightning to night. we are hoping it will keep dry for a few days now and let us get through with our seeding. I drove to Everton this morning the first thing after doing the chores and getting breakfast. I mailed seven dollars to Auntie Kate Moore, Thomas Voltons interest on note, #6.66. the change I will see about again. Colin finished the plowing in wheat & barley field. and then hitched to the Cultivator and cultivated the north front field. when I returned from Everton about 9.40. Colin put in Fred as a third horse, they then went faster. he had it nearly done at dinner time. we cleaned up 5 bags of John's Houdan oats, they weighed 397 lbs. bags included, we got 4 1/2 bushels by measure on the previous occasion. Colin sowed with the seeder as nearly as we could judge 2 bushels to the acre. he worked Fred along with the Grey (Brit) and I harrowed after him with "King". The land has been rather bad & wet, but it dried quickly after being stirred. we did not quite finish the field. I have been building up fallen fences besides. have hung gates &c.

TUESDAY #5

(128-237)

Weather continues all that could be desired. dry & cool for the field work. the team seems to stand the work very well, the old horse heaves away a little but it does not seem to disable him for doing his work. I finished harrowing the north front field this morning. Colin drew a load of manure out to the old garden patch and spread it on the side next the garden. he then plowed it, as well as all the old Orign part of garden with the long plow. he was about a couple of hours at it with Brit & Fred. I took "King" and with the double plow levelled the furrows in the oat patch in the back field (north) Colin got down in time to do come before dinner and start to cultivate. he was done a little early in the evening and started to plow with double plow in the second field from barn to the south. I thought once of cultivating it but found it very thickly and as it is for peas we concluded to plow it.

fine
drying
day.
Everton
Mailed 7
dollars to
Kate Moore
Georgetown
Maggie sent
letter to Emma
Holyoke.
Sowing oat
on front
field north
Maggie &
her mother
at the garden
oats from
Johnny from
seed.

Another beautiful day. The air has been cool, and though an occasional blink of the sun caused an extra warmth. Still one could not wish for better Spring weather. Some clouds having the appearance of thunder passed along but did not amount to anything. Colin has sown the double plow all day in the back field but one on the south side of lane where we intend sowing peas. The other piece we cultivated is drying nicely. I am suffering from a lame back to day wrenched it rambling after fowls and fling my afters. Margaret and I drove down to Standish and got a fine lot of strawberries. we got over 200. 3 kinds Crescent, Michel Early, and Wilson. The Crescent are placed in a row between the others in order to make them bear. I drove to the blacksmith shop (Willie Abbott) and got Fred shod all round with his old shoes. Hoes & fork fixed, and gate hinge in all 55^{cts} paid. I bought a box of Chases Kidney Liver pills from C. Casino. Willie Abbott tells me they seemed to do him good when suffering from pains in his back and limbs. So I will try them, as I have been suffering a good deal from Rheumatism this while back.

THURSDAY 27

(130-235)

A very fine day. beautiful sunshine and rather warm. The air has been cool in the shade but in the sun it has been quite hot at times. The land is drying up very fast. in the dry places we will soon be wishing for rain. Colin's gang plowed up till dinner time at the pea land. we then cleaned up the New Zealand oats. 5 bags weighing 404 lbs. Big white bags included at John's. Colin sowed them in 6 rows - the back field, north side. it has dried up well since being cultivated last Tuesday. he scattered nearly all the oats on the patch. I harrowed after him till a little past six, when I then came home to do the chores. Colin finished sowing however. Willie drove out from Guelph this evening Mrs. Cathra was with him. he took her up to Mimosa after supper. Maggie went with them for a ride. The big white cow pigged this morning. She has just six pigs. they came smart. we hope they will all live. Johnny has the help of Robt. Jettins Man & team today. he is finishing off but a piece of road he is turning into another field.

An extremely hot day. There has been a stiff breeze which has cooled the air some but it is very drying. Colin and I were in the field this morning with the three horses. I finished the harrowing of the new Zealand oats on the east side of the back field on north side, and had about started to harrow the peas in the last field, but one, on the south side, when the bell called me home. I found a drover from Kingston along with Keough & Keough. I sold him the cow for \$37.⁰⁰. And John sold his heifer with the lump on her jaw for \$26.⁰⁰, and we both delivered this afternoon. We started about noon and it took us till about 4 o'clock to get there, the cattle got very hot, especially 3 of Adam Weatherstones which we fell in with and accompanied. I called to see the Stewarts, they are all some better but none of them strong. Lizzie drove down the buggy with us and we three rode home, getting back before dark. Colin harrowed the pea field before sowing, and sowed about two thirds of the field. We got our money from the buyer all right without any grumbling. I paid Dr Dryden his Bill in full of ap to date \$21.⁰⁰ was the amt, but I took back some of the medicine, and he took a dollar off.

Sold our fat Corn to day for \$37.⁰⁰ and delivered her along with John. That he sold for \$26.⁰⁰

Paid Dr Dryden's Bill.

SATURDAY 9 (132-233)

Another very drying day, and very hot, a breeze however, as yesterday, makes it cooler than it otherwise would be. I drove to Guelph with Fred and buggy, accompanied by Maggie & her Mother. We had 50 dozen of eggs, which brought 8^{cts} per dozen, and 2 7 lbs. butter @ 12 1/2. 4 lbs of it brought 14^{cts}. I bought 10 bushels Corn for feed at 42^{cts} per bushel, and 6 bags @ 90^{cts} \$5.10, at Thorpe. I had my tooth plate fixed at Parkers today. I sent \$15.⁰⁰ by Express order to Mr A.S. Peavoy. John McDermott brought the Corn for me. I changed it home as we were too crowded in the buggy. Colin finished sowing & harrowing the peas, and he rolled the field in front, with black oats. He had to see to all the chores as we were all away, he broke off the teeth of the 6 young pigs.

Guelph at the market with butter and eggs. Sent \$15.⁰⁰ to Mr Peavoy. Took the Corn out of the Express.

Sunday 10

Another very hot day. We would be much the better of a good shower of rain. John McKenzie & Bella & Children came along this forenoon. Maggie & Colin drove to Euston meeting this forenoon. Mary came up with them and returned home with them at night. John drove our King over to Gilbert McEasters to see his mother who has been very poorly. She is not at all well yet.

Weather continues very fine but very dry and we are much in need of rain. The early sown grain seems to be growing very well, but we can hardly expect late sown to make much of a start as the land is now so very dry. Colin and I have been taking off the stones from the stony acre and building a fence near the back line with them. we cleared away some of the old timber and other rubbish from the fence bottom. Mr. McLean, agent for the "London Mutual Insurance Co." came along about supper time and he renewed the risk again. He did not charge fees, as John paid, but thought too high last time, 17 dollars for 1400 dollars, he says he never renew of them charging more than 90¢ on the hundred dollars and he was rather surprised to find that the larger assessment had been collected. John has been cultivating his sod and harrowing it in. I drove to Eveston this evening and got the mail, Margaret rode down with me as far as Wells. and I called for her as I returned home.

Insurance
renewed
on the
overly
buildings

Cool at night but through the day dry and hot in the sun. The growth goes on but things would be immensely benefited by a nice rain. Colin started to plow the stony acre this morning. I went down awhile this forenoon and helped throw up the stones after the plow. I am in a poor way for such stooping work my back and limbs being very sore. There is a terrible amount of stones being plowed up after all that has been taken off. This afternoon I have been choring around doing up some necessary things round the buildings and stock.

Continues very fine weather only that we are wishing very much for rain, there is nothing particularly suffering perhaps, but rain would now advance the growth exceedingly as the ground is getting very dry in some places. There is a very cool air especially at night but the sun comes out hot, and the winds are very drying.

little corn
piggied -
about now
Colin broke
the teeth out
of both litters
when a few
days old.

Colin has again been plowing at the stony acre, and I helped to throw up the stones this forenoon, he worked alone in the afternoon as I helped Maggie at the papering of our front room, I quit that at 4 o'clock and took 3 bags of chaff to the Everton mills. 1 bag of corn and 2 bags oats. Johnny is finishing up the plowing and cowing of the piece of sod he is taking in below and behind the barn. George Duffold was to have helped him clean up his fence bottom &c, but failed to appear, he also dissatisfied John Webb the same way.

Weather much the same as has prevailed for this some back, very dry and hot through the day, Coolish at nights but no sign of reaching the freezing point. Colin and I have spent a faithful day working hard at the plowing and throwing up the stones on the stony acre. We got what we have laid out for plowing done about sharp six o'clock. Johnny and I after supper hitched up Fred to the buggy and drove over to the Centre to the reform political meeting for organization. Thos. Waters resigned the position of President of the reform Association of the Township on account of ill health, and Hugh Black was appointed in his place. I drove to Everton in the morning for the mail, while Johnny rode over with Charles Vockett. There was a general arranging of and appointing Committees &c, and Mr. Charles made a short address on the importance of being up and doing before the general elections (that takes place on the 23rd of June). We had a nice rain this evening, and we had a very dark drive home through it.

A little cooler to day after the rain of last night. This has been a splendid growing day. Colin and I have been hauling off stones all day. If I made no mistake, we took off and built on the fence 20 large loads of stones, 10 in the forenoon and the same in the afternoon, we had also to help do up some extra chores at noon, mowing stones, cleaning carpets &c. Maggie has had a hard job cleaning and fixing up the front room, it looks well now since being newly papered and otherwise cleaned up. As our turnips have taken badly to rot I have made up my mind to turn out the cows tomorrow to the grass. it will also lessen the amount of our chores, which will be acceptable in these busy times.

Weather continues much the same, cool at nights and the sun comes out hot through the day. The wind has been very high which has the effect of drying up everything very much and very quickly. Colin and I have had another busy day trying to finish up the stone hauling, it seems however to be a never ending job it will take us all day on Monday to get them off and the peas sowed and harrowed we took about the same as yesterday. 20 loads off the land and good loads at that.

Sunday 17th

A very fine day, but very windy. There is a - a little rain - scarcity of rain and the high winds cause a - this morning greater need for rain, as the land dries up much more ~~than~~ on that account. Colin drove Maggie and her mother to Everton meeting this forenoon. I staid at home and did the chores and rested. Henry Dunbar came along in the evening and we both walked down the Wobbs, where Mother had gone before.

a little rain
this morning

A very fine day and very drying. it has been cooler especially at night. no doubt there has been thunder and perhaps rain somewhere not far away which has cooled the air. Colin and I worked hard to try and clear off all the stones before dinner we were beaten however and had 2 loads after dinner we put off a few loads of small stones on the road into the watering place. I hand sowed a little over $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels peas on the piece and Colin gave it 2 times of the harrow. we unhitched then and put on Fred with King and Colin took 4 bags of oats and 2 of corn to the mill and also brought home 8 stone boat planks and the produce of the short but log of pine. he got King's shoe removed and the harness repaired, paid 20^{cts} and I owe him 15^{cts} yet. the grist was paid for. there are a great many nests of caterpillars on the fruit trees and they are getting too old to remain in their nests and ~~they are~~ in consequence difficult to clear off. that stony acre has solely engaged our time & attention this last week.

Weather dry and warm through the day - cool at nights. Colin has drawn out dung for the manure. I helped spread it and he got some plowed before gristing time. I spent some time this morning taking off caterpillars off the apple trees. they are very numerous this season, much more than usual. Margaret set her two turkeys on eggs to day. I rigged up and sharpened a scythe to day and cut the grass on the lawn. the grass had grown very long and tatterly that the lawn mower was no use in it. Richard McWilliams is very poorly at the present time. Margaret and I visited them this evening.

set Turkeys.

No Change in this very dry weather, we are getting anxious for rain, the winds have been hot and drying and what little rains there was lately soon dried out again. Colin plowed the Mangold ground this forenoon and harrowed and rolled it, after dinner he drilled it up, and I prepared the horse and corn and he sowed them. I rolled the most of the pea field while he was doing it. I fixed up the fence at the watering place and around there. Charlie Duffield helped me, he also helped me in the orchard to kill the Caterpillars, he wants his boots repaired and he was waiting for it. I also made a new handle for the lawn mower and put it on this forenoon.

~~JOHN'S BIRTHDAY (DOMINION)~~

THURSDAY 21 (144-221)

~~Very much~~ like a change in the weather but it comes very tardily. it has been very much overcast today and we would have been much pleased to see rain but it cleared up again, it has been very cool and there may have been rain not far away. I finished up all the rolling on the grain (12 or 13 acres) by about 3 or 4 o'clock, and Colin took out dung after that, he was splitting the tamarac stove wood while I was rolling. I repaired the old boots of George Duffields, Charlie Duffield wanted them for his use and helped him some yesterday in order that I might do them. I also fixed up a pair of boots for George Abbott. The soles were ripping off and I riveted them on. Maggie and her Mother went away with Fred and Maggie among the Everton friends this afternoon they also paid a visit to Uncle Duncan's folks. They got the mail, also a Telegram to meet my Brother Alex. from Meaford at 10 o'clock A.M. to morrow at Erim.

A very fine day, dry and cool, it was cold enough last night to suspect frost but I could not see any although up early. I got the horse and buggy ready in good time this morning and drove over to Erin Village and met Brother Alex. at the C. P. R. Station at 10.20. when I arrived at the village I had half an hour to spare, so set about doing a little business. I paid two dollars to Mr. Wood single Assn'ts A.O.U.W. for Mrs. McKenzie & self. I also paid Charles Oberland fifteen dollars as part payment of account for Coffin & hearse at Mamma's funeral. he says \$13.⁰⁰ more will do, but I was trying for \$10.⁰⁰ to pay the balance as I was almost led to expect that to be the charge from the first. Alex & I had a very pleasant drive over home. and we walked down to Nebs in the evening. Colin has been hauling out the manure on the turnip land.

A.O.U.W. Assn't paid - one dollar each for Mrs. McKenzie & self.

Continues dry and warm through the day although cool at night. John Smallhorn has been helping John this 2 days back and finished up with him this morning between 9 and ten o'clock. he then helped us all day to fill the manure as Colin drew it out. I also helped to fill this forenoon. After dinner I hitched to the horse and buggy and drove over Alex. to Coltons. we had tea with them and a very pleasant visit. After returning home we drove down to Everton, calling awfully at Marys, George and Jim Dunbar were there also. while there, we learned of the death to day at noon of George Williams, at Toronto Junction. his death was not unexpected but still it seemed sudden at last. we received a letter from Alex. Holyoke, the baby is ill and not expected to recover. Alex went fishing and got 19 fish mostly Chubs however.

Sunday 24

Continues the same kind of weather. only that it has been closer & warmer to day. Colin & Maggie drove twice to the Everton Meeting and brought up Annie Senter with them. She returned with them to the evening meeting. Alex and I have been walking around a good deal.

Hot and sultry to day. and everything dry and dusty. towards night it gathered for a thunder storm and before dark the rain came on, the thunder and lightning was terrible, especially the lightning which lighted up the whole heaven like a flame. it will be a wonder if there is not much damage done. Brother Alex. and myself drove to Guelph this morning with Fred and Maggie and I let him off at Uncle Peter's house and then drove up to Millie's where I had dinner. The Street Cars are now running up to their doors and as there was a base ball match both forenoon and afternoon there was quite a thorough fare all the time. I went down to Odessa after dinner to join my Brother but he had just gone up there and we missed each other on the way. Willie and I had quite a survey of the base ball grounds after getting dinner. we did not stay late in Guelph as it began to threaten thunder and rain and we made home before the storm. Maggie and Colin were down at Bellas to day. they had John's buggy and "King" hitched to it. they did not get home till after midnight. leaving there at 11 o'clock P.M.

TUESDAY 26 (149-216)

A fine day after the storm of last night. the rain is most welcome as it was very much needed but we hear of considerable damage being done by the lightning, with loss of life. we understand that either one or two men were killed up by Elora, and a barn burned also a number of buildings between Guelph and Berlin. there is also an account of a great fire at the same time below Toronto. caused by a spark from a Boat on the Lake. Margaret and I, with Mary, who has been staying with her Mother yesterday, drove down to the graveyard this morning and fixed up our plot. cutting the grass and otherwise dressing it up. we returned home before dinner and made ready for the funeral of George Williams which we attended, with the Democrat. Colin drove the rig, and Brother Alex. accompanied us. Maggie and her Mother going with us. there was quite a large funeral. a few of the members of the "Home Circle" taking a part in the burial. George was a member of the "Knights of Pythias" and A. S. W. W. I understand there is \$5000.00 on his life. it is a good thing for his wife & family. Brother Alex. and I drove over to Thomas this evening, but they were all from home. Thomas proposed to take Alex. to the Station tomorrow morning and he was going to accept it. but they being all away he returned with me.

Forester
Cow taken
to Mr Williams
to day.

damage
by fire
Geo. Williams
burial to
day. large
funeral.

drove over
to Thomas
Tollon but
all from home

15 chickens
dead this
morning
no doubt
from the
lightning
which fell
near the
house

A fine Shower early this morning and this has been over at a very fine day. The air has become cool after Erin Village this morning. Such an outburst of electricity, but the sun has shone out warm and fine, the growth is now with Brother Alex. great, and vegetation cannot fail of being immensely benefited. I drove Brother Alex. to Erin this morning. The train leaves Erin at 9.27. and we left here about 7.45 so that we had plenty of time. David Robertson sent over Kate Williams Policy to Chas Overland (Home Circle) for \$1000. Also his own dollar for A. D. W. W. we were over there more than half an hour, and I drove over the grounds of the "Stanley Park" after the train left. I arrived home again at Sharp 12 o'clock and had dinner with the rest of the folks.

Colin has plowed in the orchard all day. I plowed instead of him while he cleared away some obstructing branches from the trees. I made a couple of straps for John to tie down his breechy cows this afternoon. Wrote a letter to Alex. and sent it by mail this morning at Erin. Margaret and I drove down to Webb's this evening. Mr. Webb is very poorly these times from pain in his legs. he cannot get his sleep at nights with the pain.

Quite a heavy rain last night and the ground this morning looks as if well coated. if it keeps warm there must be a great push in growth. it has taken Colin up to about 4 o'clock to finish plowing the orchard. he did up round the trees with "King" alone, and finished head lands &c with that team. I loaded up 3 or 4 loads manure and Colin made out another row in the field. I thought it better to do that than go plowing when it was so late. I took down the Colt to Webb's to pasture, it bothers round after the horses when here. Maggie and her mother drove down to the grave yard this afternoon and fixed up the plot, they planted some flowers that Hugh Black's folks gave them for the purpose. I sold our lot of 8 pigs to Joe Atwell this evening. to be delivered next Monday morning at Bellwood. price \$3.85 per 100. under certain conditions an extra 5^c is to be paid. A man, Jim McLeod by name, living at Elora was killed by lightning in the late storm. Joe knew him well. he says.

plowing the orchard

drawing out manure

took Colt to Webb's to pasture

Sold 8 pigs to Joe Atwell

John McLeod of Elora killed by lightning

Considerably Colder to day, we hope it will not increase so as to bring frost. There are sad accounts from all over, of the harm done to life and property from the late storm. The daily of to day contains the particulars of the terrible havoc wrought by it at St. Louis. U.S. where it is estimated a thousand lives have been lost. Colin and I have been at the turnip land to day, he spread the manure while I plowed, I quit at sharp 4 o'clock and took 3 bags Chop to Everton, with the buggy 1 bag Corn and 2 of oats. I got at the mill some Chicken feed making in all 40^{cts} which I paid. The Cattle market has been, and is yet, very bad. I think it was a good thing Johny and I sold out when we did, we could not have done as well now. There are a great many who have the most of their Cattle on hand yet, and only offered prices that they could have had before feeding them. David Robertson was offered $\frac{1}{2}$ a Cent a pound more for his between 2 and 3 weeks ago.

Very cool to day, in fact rather uncomfortably cold, only for those working at manual labour. we were early astir this morning and Maggie and her Mother started for Guelph exactly at 6.30. They said they were at Guelph about 8.30. They had 36 day Eggs which brought 11^{cts} and 24^{lbs} ^{rather} which brought 12^{cts} 4^{lbs} 12^{cts}. They took my shoes back and got others for themselves instead. I plowed some this forenoon and some also in the afternoon while Colin finished spreading the manure. we brought up Robert McWilliams Wagon and stock rack to be ready for taking the pigs Monday morning. They felt the cold badly to day in the driving to Guelph and return. a few drizzling showers passed over but nothing of consequence. a letter from Brother Abx. announces his safe arrival home again.

Sunday 31

A fine day. Cool at night. Some talk of frost, but I did not see any. Maggie & Colin drove to the morning & evening meeting at Everton. I thought of walking over to Dunbars and Toltons but did not feel well enough. Margaret and I walked up to see Duffields folks and had tea there. we afterwards paid a visit to Arthur McWilliams folks.

Cool again last night. I looked for frost this morning but could not say to have seen any. we were up at sharp five this morning and had our 8 hogs loaded quickly and safely. The wagon, with Robt. McWilliam back was backed up to the pig house window, and we laid a trap from the floor inside to the wagon, with ^{2 boards} wagon bottom, and fenced with 3 lengths of rails from end door to front door. so that the pigs walked right in without a stop. I started off with them about 6.40, and was about 2 1/2 hours in going up. and left there for home about ten. getting home at 12.30. the pigs weighed 1160... @ 3.85. made \$ 44.66. Colin has been harrowing the turnip land that is plowed with the old grey horse and drawing off the stones from the potatoe land. in the afternoon he hitched King again with the grey and plowed at the unplowed portion of the turnip land.

A fine working day. Cool but very dry. The coolness has somewhat checked the growth that was so rapid at first. the meadows I am afraid are going to be short although they gave promise of being extra good.

Johnny is out on the roads to day. They have been drawing gravel from Rich McWilliams' pit. and laying it low the hill they turned yesterday. there was a good lot of teams at work. (8 or 9) and they drew 60 odd loads. I was working Johnny's team at harrowing his turnip and potatoe land and after that was done I harrowed his Corn patch (the young orchard in front of Barn) and then picked the stones of the potatoe and turnip land.

Cousin Wm Smart. Came along this afternoon with a horse and rig. he is selling wire matting and has come along with him. also gutting frames I worked for Johnny to day and he lets this time go to pay up our road work. he puts in 5 days while we put in 3. there is 8 days in all for both places

Cool at nights but the Sun has been hotter to day. There are some indications of rain and we hope it may come. The late rains moistened the ground very nicely at the time but it soon dries up again.

Colin has finished plowing the turnip land and started the potatoe land between 3 and 4 o'clock. I did up the choes and started to cut our seed potatoes but got stopped by Mr & Mrs David Stewart coming on us on a visit. They had dinner and tea with us and then drove on up to Josiah's where they intend remaining all night. I remained in his company the most of the time and he passed a very cheerful and pleasant time. He is very anxious that I go down to Rockwood on Friday night and attend a political meeting (Conservative) to be held there. William Ewart started off with his horse and rig this afternoon for off whiles Canvas to day at his business.

"Jersey
Cov to
McWilliams
to day."

The temperature is now getting warmer and there prognostications in the papers of a higher temperature the growth, lately, has been very slow on account I think, of the coolness which has prevailed for quite a time. I have been busy sprouting the potatoes and cutting them for seed, finding the root house damp and otherwise unpleasant. I have carried the potatoes to the little kitchen at the house and Margaret has helped to cut, we have somewhere about a dozen bags cut now. Colin has been plowing the potatoe land and got over a large quantity to day, he hopes to be done with it sometime tomorrow forenoon.

Quite warm to day and sultry. The sky has looked dull and hazy with mottled clouds, at night it became very dark and quite a thunder storm broke out, the lightning was very bright and dazzling I suppose that, however, was intensified by the darkness of the night. I drove to Rockwood after 5 o'clock and saw Mrs. Ples horse, it suited me all right. She wants 50 dollars for it, and I don't feel like paying so much money. I paid Stout, and got a plow share from Lundy, which is to be paid, he was not at home and they did not know the price. I attended a political meeting in the interest of the Conservatives. They had a Mr. Elliott from Milton, a good speaker, and another speaker from Guelph. Mr. Jeffery spoke in favour of Mr. Chene and did well. It was about 12 o'clock when the meeting was dismissed and about 2 o'clock before I got home to bed. David Stewart hung on his lantern on the hind axle of my buggy, but it took fire and went to smash. Colin finished plowing the potatoe land this forenoon and harrowed all ^{that was} the piece and what was left of the turnip land, unharrowed.

Another hot day. Things are considerably freshened up by the little rain that fell last night. A good heavy rain is much needed. The meadows are going to be very light if moisture delays its coming. Colin and I hauled off the pruned branches from the orchard and I rolled the turnip and hungarian grass land, also two thirds of the orchard before dinner. While I rolled with the team (Fred & King) Colin harrowed the orchard and drew off the stones with Brit. I helped Johnny to build his kitchen chimney - that was thrown down when the old wood shed was blown down - we sowed and harrowed in the hungarian grass seed before supper, and after supper we washed the sheep.

Sunday 27

A very hot day and thundery looking. There came on some shower between 4 & 5 o'clock P.M. quite a thunder storm, and a heavy rain accompanied it. Margaret accompanied Colin and Maggie to Everton meeting, while there they learned that Uncle Duncan Robertson was very sick. Margaret and I drove down after dinner to see him, he seems very low and they have fears for the result.

A splendid growing day. There has been a grand rain and every thing will now grow on apace. Colin and I put in a space of corn in the orchard this morning before going at the potatoe planting. we then spent all the rest of the day at the potatoe planting about 9 bags of cuts. I plant with both hands carrying the bag over my shoulder so as to be getting ready for feeding the rows are about 35 rods long and it takes 2 pretty full pailfuls to plant a row. I planted the cuts about 2 feet apart as near as may be. Margaret and I drove down to see Uncle Duncan this evening. he is coming better and they are having better hopes of his recovery. he was very despondent himself last night this evening he was quite chatty & cheerful. Duncan's Aunt is up from Oakville, they seemed to have taken quite a fright about him and no wonder, he is quite an old man and Pneumonia is a serious trouble for the like of him.

potatoe planting
a little
Corn also
planted
so as to
be getting
ready for
feeding
Uncle -
Duncan
Robertson
very ill.

Rather a showery day. it was quite close and warm in the early part of the day. but in the afternoon and especially towards night it became much cooler. Colin and I have been again at the potatoe planting, and got in another 9 bags, we were done with the seed about half past 5. so had to quit and come home. we planted some corn in the orchard till the bell rung. it will take about 2 1/2 or 3 bags more to finish the patch. there is about 8 paces wide to do, about an 8th of the whole. Johnny & John Small have been planting this afternoon. this is their first I think. we have just heard to day that Colin Campbell is very sick and has come to Willie's house in Guelph. they seem to think his trouble is very serious, reported to be Consumption of the lungs and bowels.

potatoe planting
Johnny
also
started
to day
Colin -
Campbell
back to
Willie's
quite ill.

Continues dry and very fine. Cool at night. Colin and I worked hard in the orchard to get as much corn sown as possible before I had to start off for Guelph. There are now two bags in and it has sown $3\frac{1}{2}$ spaces of the orchard. There are yet $2\frac{1}{2}$ spaces to do and I calculate about a bag to do it. I got it at Guelph this afternoon, also 3 bags for feed. paid about \$3.50 for the whole. 15[¢] for an empty bag. 42[¢] for feed. 52[¢] for seed. Johnny & I left Guelph with the engine. Starting about 2 P.M. got our new pole at Penfold's and took this back. I went up to see Colin Campbell who is quite sick, they think him a little better. we then attended the great Laurier Meeting at the Rink. There was a full house and the leader and his followers received a splendid reception. The 2 Chairmen, Dunbar and McMillan opened the proceedings, and then E. F. B. Johnston & H. Bertram. Toronto. afterwards Laurier and Ballantyne. The latter not getting a very good hearing speaking after Laurier as he did. The audience went wild upon Laurier rising to speak and the ladies from the gallery showered down bouquets on the platform. The meeting broke up about 10 o'clock and we had rather a cold drink home getting to bed about 2 A.M.

Sowing corn in the orchard. Colin ploughed it in while I drop it in to every third furrow. I drove to Guelph this afternoon bought corn for feed and seed. attended the big Laurier Meeting this evening.

The weather continues much of the same character all the while. Cool nights and there may have been frosts when not observed by any of us. This, we think, has likely been the case and may account for the poor appearance the hay is making. There have been some local showers and it is a good thing we have fallen in for a share as they passed round. Colin and I finished up the putting in of the corn in the orchard ~~this forenoon~~ and spent the rest of the time putting in the potatoes. The late shower went deeply into the ground as it was quite moist while sowing it up for the potatoes.

Weather keeps very fine. we hear of the terribly wet spell that has visited the Manitobans, if we had a share of their overplus of rain it should have been a benefit to both countries. Colin and I finished up the planting of the potatoes this forenoon. I put in about 2 rows of the early kind I got from Mr Webb. 1 whole row where a pin is planted and another short piece on the next row to the south on this east end, and - another row further to the north ^(also with a pin) excepting that a short piece at this east end is taken up - with some old fashioned cups and marked by a pin. upon finishing the potatoes Colin commenced to plow for the turnips. I got the sheep in and shored them this afternoon.

A cool air, especially at night when it almost borders on a frost. the sun, however, through the day bears down in great heat. as we found ourselves out of meal for the pigs also out of chopped oats for the old horse, we cleaned up 4 bags oats to mix with 2 bags Corn for the pigs, and 4 bags oats for the horse. I also gave Johny one bag of corn (105 lbs) and had it chopped for him. Johny owes me 79¢ for that. when Colin was on his way home with the goat, the tire came off the wagon (right front wheel) and he had to get it on by Willie Abbott. he got home about 2 o'clock, he plowed on turnip ground the remainder of the day. I cut the bars all round the fields. also a good many thistles and dug up a lot of burdock with spade. there is yet a lot of that work to do. Margaret and I drove down to Webb's in the evening they were not at home and we went on to Morton where we spent a pleasant while. the 2 Webb girls were there. Margaret on returning home had an unpleasant attack in her head, ending in a violent headache. Willie Swart came along this afternoon, but went again over to Lollton.

Johny owes
79¢ for corn

Sunday 14

Cool air, but sun hot, & dry withering wind prevailing. Margaret had rather a poor night in the past. her head ached the most of the night, and I didn't sleep till about 4 o'clock for the most part. we called up the doctor to see her as he was returning from Jesters. he gave her some powders and says it will likely pass off again without serious consequence. John McKenzie & family paid us a visit to day. they did not go to meeting to day.

Continues very cool at nights and the air in day time is cool when the Sun is shaded. There has been appearances of rain going around this afternoon. Some thunder clouds looming up. a very little rain fell here. This is the day the great Tupper visits Guelph. There is quite a commotion among the Tories out this way. it is reported they made up quite a procession and had a band of music leading the way. The College Boys are reported to have carped on rather obstreperously and interrupted the speakers in the rink.

Colin has plowed all day at the turnip land - and it is mostly done up to where we will have to put on some manure. I have been doing up some very necessary fixings. nailing up the dilapidations in the board fence. cutting out all the burdock out of the yard. and shovelling up the manure in the shed &c. took both Sows from their litters to day. Colin rearing them. Mother is not so well to night again. her head is troubling her. it took me about 2 hours this afternoon to sift and clean the hungarian grass seed. first took out the sand with the flour sieve, and then the chams with a larger screen. I took it down to Geo. Marshall who is going to try to sell it for me. I got 5 lbs turnip seed from him. 2 lbs Elephant. 2 lbs Skirring and 1 lb Halls Westbury for shipping. wrote a card to Alex. Holyoke.

The Tupper demonstration held to day in Guelph.

have cleaned the hungarian grass seed and took it down to Geo. Marshall Everett.

Colin plowing turnip land.

Very warm to day. although it still keeps cool at night. There are yet appearances of rain but none has come. we would like some as moisture is what is needed now.

Colin and I cleaned up the Cattle Shed this forenoon of the manure. I filled the waggon while Colin drew it out and spread it from the waggon as he went. we took out 6 loads this forenoon, which finished it. Colin nearly finished up the plowing this afternoon.

I drove over to Thomas Toltons this afternoon to see if I could get the Colt pastured with him. but, as they have nine horses of their own and all their Cattle out they don't feel like as they could afford to take in any. Besides they don't think it would be very safe for a strange Colt to be put among them. Colin and I attended Innis political meeting at Everton this evening. The Speakers were Jeffrey Grit Donovan (Con) Ryan (Grit) Hugh Guthrie (Grit) the Speaker acquitted themselves well. but some Tory rowdies interrupted some of them badly. notably Hugh Guthrie. A wrangle between Horstop, Jonathan Doyle & John Mutrie finished up the proceedings. Mary entertained their friends to tea at 1 a.m. among them. Guthrie. Mutrie. Ryan. Jeffrey. Mr Barker. The Dr. McCallough. and a number more.

took out 6 loads of Manure cleaned up the Cattle Shed.

drove over to Toltons to see about getting pastured for the Colt.

attended a political meeting at Everton.

a rowdy display

A very hot day. The sun has shone out hot and burning, the night has however been, as usual, somewhat cool! Thunder clouds have been passing around and we hear there was a fine rain at Guelph and we could see another shower over in Erie. The morning we were visited by a little shower but of little consequence. Colin and I have been working on the turnip land, it is all plowed and harrowed and rolled, and Colin has done a little of the drilling up. I picked off the stones with Fred and Stoker that this forenoon, and did some of the rolling this afternoon. I also straightened the gate post leading out of the yard to Johnny and built the wood cross ways up to it. Johnny is also plowing up his turnip land. Margaret is going around again but she is not very well yet. The doctor called up to see her to day. Mr. Baker was with him. There is great excitement over the elections, people work themselves up to a wonderful pitch of enthusiasm and after all their minds are pretty much made up from the first how they are going to vote.

working
on the
turnip
land

got it
all ready
for drilling
up.

doctor
called
up to
see Margaret

Weather continues much the same, this has been a very hot day. Colin has drilled up for the turnips and finished up in good time. I followed on with the coming with Fred. got quite a nice start before dinner and then gave up Fred to Colin as the grey horse seemed to get very tired and slow. his mind is very bad these times. The heat and dust are very hard on him. I put him on to the turnip drill and he got along finely on that. There are over 60 drills of the Elephants on the lower side of the field. and on this side, next to the Hungarian grass there are over 30 drills of "Halls Westbury" for Chippers. Between these two kinds the Stirrings are sowed. There were 2 lbs Elephants. 2 lbs Stirrings, and one lb Halls. There is perhaps nearly 12 lb Elephants left over.

The 2 Mrs Abbotts paid us a visit to day. Maggie drove down to Everton in the morning and they took the chance of getting a ride up. I took the horse and Maggie down in the evening and gave them a ride home, we called to see Uncle Duncan on our way, he is not at all well.

drilled
up the
land and
sowed
the turnips

the 2
Mrs Abbotts
on a
visit

took them
home in
the evening
and called
to see
Uncle
Duncan

An extremely hot day, there have been indications of rain. we need rain very much and we are anxiously hoping they may be realized. I comed quite a large piece of Johny's turnips this forenoon. Colin rolled over with the heavy roller this forenoon, and afterwards drew rails from the corner at the watering place to the line fence between Jectin and us, he and I fixed up the fence - after dinner getting done about 5 o'clock, we let the horses out to the field this afternoon for the first time. The harness has hardly ever been off them on any morning day since Spring opened up till now. we have had quite a fight to make up to the work. The breaking up and stoning of the stony acre took up so much of our time so to throw us considerably behind. Mrs John Webb paid us a visit this afternoon John and his Brother William have been at Eriv Village to day. The fence between Jectin and us has been, for many years, in a very poor condition, that is, the old part that has never been properly in line, or range with the rest, and to day we took off all the riders and straightened it up and built it two rails higher and put on the riders again and locked it all through.

Helped Johny to set his turnips to day.

rolled over with heavy roller.

drew rails and fixed up the old line fence between Jectin & us

rain much needed. the spring wheat disappointing in appearance

out looking fairly well

SATURDAY 20

(174-191)

Very hot to day, both sun & air is oppressively so. thunder clouds have been passing around, but no rain has fallen on us. we hear that a great thunder plump has deluged Guelph to day. I wish it had been more evenly distributed and that we should have had a share. the spring wheat is going back in appearance. Colin and I have been cutting whistles in the south-front field among the black oats. we also cut down those among the raspberry bushes. I borrowed a scythe from Henry Duffield, and sharpened it up for our use. Johny got his turnips comed yesterday and he has been away from home the greater part of the day. to night he is away up to Quatin on Committee business. This election business is monopolizing the time and attention of most of the people at the present time. I notice the corn is growing very rapidly. ours is nicely up and making a fine appearance for the short time it has been in. The potatoes are not making any show yet and, as I hear of rotting in the ground am anxious

Hot. Hot.

Thunder Cloud pouring

out volume of water at Guelph.

no rain here.

cutting whistles

"old whistle" sow left to Webb's today

Sunday 21

Not so hot as yesterday. dull and indications of rain, and a little fell, but not much of consequence. Maggie and Colin have been twice at meeting. Margaret & myself have remained at home all day. we were visited by Robert Morton, who had tea with us. then David Robertson & wife & child. Mrs Duffield and then Henry too. John Webb and his Brother William

Continues hot & dry. Margaret and I made ready this morning to drive to Rockwood and take the road to Harris' Woolen Mills. we had been for some time back laying out to do that but she did not feel well enough to go until this morning. The 5 places weighed at the mill 23 1/2 lbs and they did not dock it any. Margaret took it out in goods and was allowed 20 cts per lb for it. after doing our business at the mill we drove back to David Stewart and had our dinner. And Mr Stewart agreed with Margaret to go down on the 6 o'clock P.M. train to Georgetown to visit a few days there which they did. I drove them to the station. I sent \$103.00 to W. L. upon to return my note on demand at 7%. I also went to see Mrs. P. about her horse, and offered her 40 dollars for him. I think she would have accepted 45. She would take 5 or 6 cords of our tamarac wood as part pay on him. She is to write me what decision she comes to. Colin has been cutting thistles to day.

Rockwood
Woolen
Mills
Cold was
retired note
Margaret
& Mr Stewart
to Georgetown
Saw Mr
P. about
her horse
Offered
her 40
dollars
for him
She did
not accept
but will
decide soon

A beautiful day, excepting that it continues dry when we are very anxious that it would rain. the grass is getting burned and red looking. grasshoppers are plentiful and altogether we are in great need of moisture. this is the great day to decide the fate of its country for the next 5 years. Election talk has been running very high for quite a time back but to day it finishes up in action. Colin and I drove up after dinner to Oustie and voted. Willie drove out from Guelph and after getting dinner with us, went away up to Minnowa to vote. Colin and Maggie and I drove down to Everton after tea, and looked up the house. we were met by the intelligence of Irwin's defeat. at the corner. the returns were not all in, but it looked sure enough. we waited a long time so as to get the latest reports. and Mr Baker, John Everts and myself through the telephone got the intelligence from the Reform Committee rooms that there were 20 gains, and 5 losses for Ontario. Quebec nearly solid liberal. other places favourable so that it looks sure for the late Government's defeat. Johny has gone to Guelph.

Election
day for
Dominion
Government
James
Irwin
defeated
Liberals
have
gained
the day.

No Change in the weather, we are panting in the heat and wishing for rain to revive the drooping crops. The Spring wheat is visibly going back, instead of forward. Mrs. Jindal and I found a tree that will likely make a sill for the barn. Colin cut the grass on the straw berry patch and he and I spent the time afterwards cutting thistles through the grain.

THURSDAY 25 (179-186)

Very cool last night, but the day opened out this morning clear and warm and as the day wore on it got extremely hot. I started off this morning with the team, Fred & King, and Wagon to try and get some potatoes for the pigs. Colin also started off the 8 young cattle and drove them up to Jim Passers to pasture. Fred & I called and got him to go through the bush to meet Colin on the other line. I then drove over the side road to the 6th line of Erin and got 12 bags of potatoes at Joseph Collins, paying 12 1/2 a bag for them. getting my dinner with them and starting back the same road. The road was heavy as they were working in the Statute labour. I drove past the 7th line to Rodwells, as I heard he had potatoes, but he hadn't and I came back to Collins. When I returned I found Margaret at home. Stewarts had driven her up home. She had returned, along with Mrs. Stewart, to Rockwood last night.

Colin has scuffed the mangolds and cutting thistles &c. The ground is getting very dry and if rain does not come soon there will be harm done the crops. I got 4 planks at McKinnons mill. 12 inches wide. 9 feet long. to make a pig trough. and just then found I had forgot to take my money for potatoes or anything else. Mr. McKinnon at once loaned me \$5.00 which I returned to him on coming back. Minus \$2.50 which I spent on the potatoes & lumber and which I must get to him as soon as possible.

~~Sun. P. 1896 and Sun. P. 1897~~ Weather continues dry and hot. the signs of rain have gone off without any. we are longing for rain. the pastures are not only getting bare but drying up to nothing. our turnips are not coming and, I fear, will not seethe until rain comes.

Colin cut John's Clowes hay with his own team to day. getting done about 4 o'clock. John has William Jindal helping him to build a fence behind the barn in the back field. I drove to Rockwood this forenoon to see Mrs Pike, who sent me word she wished to see me about the horse. I made a bargain with her and am to have the horse delivered next Wednesday. gave my note for forty dollars (\$40.⁰⁰) payable 1st January next. I also get her single driving harness and the horse collar for 4 cords of tamarac wood. She agrees to give the halter with the horse. after returning home I started the back oat field to the right cutting the thistles Colin also came on when done at John's and we finished it by supper time. Margaret & I went to Webb's after tea and spent a pleasant evening with Mrs Webb. John was very poorly to day. he seems to think he was hurt with the sun while trimming his hedge.

brought
the horse
"Doc"
from Mrs
Pike Rockwood.
also got
harness
and the
collar
for the
horse

SATURDAY 27 (181-184)

Weather much the same as has prevailed so long. there have been indications of change, but, as these have often failed, no dependence can be placed in them. Colin hitched up the horses this morning and we drew in the bit of hay the strawberry patch grass made, we also drew the dry thistles into the shed, and did up some other chores in lumber &c. he and I then went to the woods and we cut down an elm tree before dinner to make a sill for the barn. Mr Jindal came after dinner and John & Colin and him had hard work to get it flattened. they say it was a heavy job. I put up the mast of John's hay in the afternoon. it was very windy which made it difficult to do. as it was getting dark there were four of the hands near by gave us a lift and we soon had it all up. John came along after sundown the tree kept them very late at work.

Sunday 28

Indications of rain and a little fell but not sufficient to do much good. the air became cool afterwards. Geo. Loeve paid us a visit to day. I wrote a letter to Bro. Alex. Meador and gave it to Geo. to mail. Maggie & Colin are away to meeting to night. Margaret is some better since coming home.

June

MONDAY 29

(183-182)

1896

Cool to day. The air looks as if cleared up by some electric storm not far away. No rain here however. Johnny took his six pigs to Belwood to day. They weighed 965. at 3.30 he returned home about 3 o'clock P.M. 2 hours later than when I drove up there with hogs.

Colin and I and Mrs Lindal finished clearing and rearing the Sill this morning. we had it finished about 1/2 past nine. we then drew it out of the woods to the edge of the clearing and loaded it on the wagon. it is a heavy elm Sill. 36 feet long and 4 foot square. Mrs Lindal framed it this afternoon commencing before dinner. Colin harrowed the potatoes this afternoon, or rather after supper. we were preparing the barn for getting the Sill placed in position.

Colin drove down to Sheavers for the boring machine and other tools of Lindals. and took 4 bags of oats to Duffields to pay back those I borrowed in the fall.

I drove over the buggy to Oquirrh and hired Hiram Swackhamber's 2 Screw jacks to lift the barn up to receive the Sill. I gave him 50 Cents for the job.

paid back
oats to
Henry Duffield

TUESDAY 30

(184-181)

White frost this morning

Again Cool to day. but very fine. only so very dry, when we are longing for the rain to revive the drooping crops. we have had a very busy time to day. the first thing Colin and I did was to bag up 22 bags of oats before breakfast and I harnessed the horses too. Colin drew them over to Johnny's granary, and we bagged the balance 17 or 18 bags and got them over too before going at Johnny's hay to draw it in. Colin then helped Johnny till about 4 o'clock to take in his hay - 7 loads.

I carried out all the Chopped stuff out of the granary and tore a good part of it down before Lindal was ready to help me. the 2 Duffield boys came early to help. and after tea a good gathering of the neighbors set about jacking up the building and clearing away the old Sill and getting the new one in place. we had considerable difficulty in getting every thing right. and darkness came on before it was quite completed. we had it done however as far as a gathering of men was required. and will wait till morning to finish up

drew over
22 bags
oats to
Johnny's
and dumped
them in a
Bin -
also drew
over other
17 bags and
left them on
the bags.
put in the
new Sill in
the Barn -
tearing down
the granary
and clearing
out Chopped
stuff &c.

Warmer to day. very hot indeed in the middle of the day. Mrs Lindal came along this morning and we finished up the setting the Barn on the sill. by wedging up and taking off the jacks &c. we were done somewhere between 9 & 10. Margaret took down Lindal's tools to Theater's, in the buggy. and intended going on for Mary, but met her down there, so we where. We then afterward drove down through Swerton to Rockwood and got our new horse at Mrs Pikes. also got the harness. we hitched "Doc" as he is called to the buggy and tried to make Fred follow. This he did not do well and, with lines and tie I drove him along side the other. and we got home a little later than the ordinary dinner time.

Colin hitched the new horse and King together and plowed up the old Strawberry patch and what we intend for the new patch. the horses work well together they seem to be very much of one temper easy going. Colin helped John this forenoon to finish up his first hay. by taking off a load and taking in the racks.

putting in a new Sill in Barn
brought home our new horse "Doc" from Rockwood.

An extremely hot day. the heat & draught are getting so great as to cause great anxiety about the crops. the roots will also suffer, our turnips are not appearing yet. Colin has been hoeing the mangolds to day and, toward supper time he and I cut down two little hemlocks for flatted beams to place over the granary in the barn. after tea, I drew them out to the clearing and under the hind wheels of the old Waggon drew them up home. Maggie drove Mary home this evening with Fred & buggy. and returned to Mrs Theater's to help Mrs Theater at their raising. Colin went there also, after supper. he is putting up a small drive house. I had quite a run round in search of Cedar sticks for sleepers of which I need four they are hard to get now.

The hottest day, I think, of this hot spell. it begins to look like rain but comes very tardily. A thunder cloud passed around us and left a good deal rain to the east & South east of us, even the horses got quite a nice shower, the dust was hardly laid with us. I drove over to McKinnon's saw mill this forenoon, and paid him the two dollars I borrowed of him the other day. I also bought 150 feet. inch lumber, and a dozen 8 feet scantling. Cost \$2.60 I got too. 200 feet lumber for Johny for a rack, the product of logs taken to saw, paid for same 60^{cts} in all \$3.20 I Colin drew up one Cedar Sloop and took out other 2 this forenoon, after returning home I helped draw them up also procured a fourth one.

Johny paid me 15 dollars to day. paid Janet \$15.00 from Abbott \$4.50. Margaret & I drove to Everton after supper this evening, we were getting some red Currants from Mary. I bought 10 lbs wire nails from George Marshall 40^{cts} 3 lbs 4 inch. 7 lb 3 inch.

Hot again to day until the bursting of a thunder cloud, when it became cooler. about 11 o'clock A.M. we had a fine heavy shower - which, I think wet the ground fully 2 inches, and further on in the afternoon we had another splendid shower, the combined showers wet the ground splendidly and we look for the best results from it, as the ground and every growing thing was terribly parched. I drove down for Mary to come up and stay with her mother while Maggie was away down to Georgetown. Colin McMillan drove down Heffernan's house & buggy and took Nelly Heffernan & Maggie along. I was taking up a part of the barn floor and otherwise preparing for fixing up the barn so as to get our hay in. I have pulled down nearly all the granary. and raised a part of the floor &c. we will have to hurry up and get the barn ready as the hay is drying up & never remember of seeing the timothy so early dead.

Sunday 5

Dull weather, which will give the moisture a chance to work good in the ground. things look much revived after the fine rain of yesterday. Mary drove Fred to meet us this forenoon and George rode back with her. Johny & Bella drove up, with the children from Eden, they think we had more rain than them.

Johny McKinnon
paid me for
dollar & 50^{cts}
\$4.50

Cooler weather, and duller, the work of the rain does not get dried up as on the dry, hot winds prevailing. Colin and Maggie and Nelly Heffernan returned before noon from Nodda. I then drove down with the buggy to Mr Theakers for Mr Lindal's tools, and he came and worked at the barn this afternoon. we flatted the 2 Sticks for the top of the granary, also the 2 sleepers. we had quite a job raising the floor and getting the sleepers placed. the mud sill was rotted and sunk in the centre and we had to place Cedar pieces in to take its place. I sent away with Mary, who went home with Nelly Heffernan, a letter containing two dollars to pay last month's A.O.U. or Assint's for Johnny McKenzie and myself. I overlooked the sending of it last month, don't know of ever having neglected or forgotten doing it before. Johnny thought of cutting his hay to day but as the weather looked threatening he went at other work. Some of the neighbours have their hay lying cut through all the late rain, it will be badly spoiled.

Cooler
after the
rain.

Colin &
Maggie have
from Geo
getown &
Norval

paid last
month's Ass.
A.O.U. W.

Fine day. keeps moderately cool. we have been working all day at the barn. Mr Lindal stayed with us all day. the floor had to be fixed up so as to be level and in shape to build the granary upon, it took us till noon to do that. and in the afternoon we got up the flatted beams and put in a number of the studs for the granary. the tearing down &c taking nearly as much time as fitting up. Johnny was going to Everton this evening and he took Mr Lindal's tools down to Mr Theakers for us.

Warmer to day especially the afternoon. the Mottled Clouds have been showing up. and in the early part of the night I was predicting rain on that account. The sun, however, on going down, shone up the sky so red and beautifully that it seemed to presage fine weather ahead. Colin has been cutting with the mower to day. he had had luck with it. there seems to be too many small stones on top of the ground which dull the knife. one of the guards had the top part broken off and it would not cut right. and I borrowed one of Dugald Robertsons. his mower being of much the same pattern. the meadow is very light but it is fully as good as I have been expecting. the late rains have improved the appearance of things very much. the turnips, that we had almost given up as a gone case, are coming up quite thickly. they will likely be small. it is now so late.

Willie drove out from Guelph this evening accompanied by his two Cousins Annie and Edna Senter. he reports Colin Campbell as being little or no better. it is very sad to see a worthy young man like him drooping and getting into bad health.

Cool to day. there has been some rain after all this morning and it kept dull all forenoon. it brightened up some this afternoon. Willie stayed this forenoon and hitched up Tomp's Colt to our old buggy and drove him round quite a bit. he seemed to come in very quickly and showed no signs of bad temper. Colin finished up the cutting of the meadow with the mower and after supper he gathered some of it together with the horse rake. Johnny helped us to come it up. I was working some in the barn putting forward some of the work which comes through making the changes in the granary &c. we have had quite a lot of visitors. in addition to Willie and the Cousins Mrs David Tolton and the family drove along just as we were at supper. and she remained till about sun down when she drove off again for Edward Tolton's. Maggie drove down to Euston this evening taking Annie and Edna along. they brought Annie's wheel up. it is a fine looking article. Annie has to be up with the times. I have received a letter from Alex. McGregor stating that he & the family are not coming here this summer. they have been invited repeatedly to visit at Creemore at Paterson's. and they were some time before deciding what to do but finally made up their minds to go to Creemore.

Weather somewhat unsettled for haying, the grass that is cut will not make into hay but as there is little sunshine it is not getting injured much. I got some made up into haycocks, but the greater part of what was cut yesterday is too green, so we let it alone. John and Colin drew in 2 loads this afternoon of John's from the field next to Mrs. Lewis, Colin drew earth to the gangway of the barn and stone wood to the wood house, the rain and unsettled weather is not convenient for haying, nevertheless it would do much good if we got a fair fall of rain at the present time. The turnips are coming now but it requires more moisture to make them grow as they should do, and as they require to do, to make up for lost time. The other things, excepting the potatoes, seem to be doing fairly well. The barley is colouring and the oats and peas are both stretching out since the rain. Margaret drove down alone to Everton this evening and Mary accompanied her back. She is fixing a dress for her mother. A letter from Rev. Holyoke, received to night tells of them all being fairly well excepting the baby, who keeps not so well and is a matter of concern to them. I half soled a pair of shoes for Maggie today.

SATURDAY 11

(195-170)

A very fine day, the sun has shone out well and the wind has been very drying. With John's help, we got things going in getting in the hay. We had to clear away the rubbish in the way of getting into the barn, and put up the hay fork. I gathered together all of the hay that was not put up and we hauled in five loads. After which I raked what was in John's orchard and they took it in in a load, it was an awkward job to work the horse & rake under the branches of the trees. I did it with our new horse (Doc) he seems a very patient, good working horse. Colin had to drive to Willie Abbotts at noon to get the hay fork fixed before we could work it. We forgot it was broken. Edna & Annie have quite a time learning to ride the bicycle, they go back by themselves to the back lane and there have it by themselves.

the horse fork
and taken in
five loads
of hay.
Mary fork fixed
horse raking
here and at
John's.

Edna and
Annie learning
to ride the
bicycle

Sunday 12

Very fine day. The Cousins Annie and Edna rode down to Everton with Maggie this morning and they did not return. Maggie also remained till night. Colin brought back the horse and drove him back again in the evening to bring Maggie home. Margaret and I visited at Willie's this evening.

Quite a heavy shower this morning which laid the dust well. I had to meet Kate Moore this morning at Rockwood at 9.30. and as I made a start the heavy shower came up. another came when I did start. I got 2 front chocs reset on King at Hoskins. and was just in time to meet the train. Kate & Mabel and Joe were there. Dugald Robertson was also there and met Toronto friends (Memzies). after dinner we made ready and all drove down to Robertson's to the reunion of his many friends to celebrate the birthday of Uncle Duncan, he was 85 years old yesterday. there was a very pleasant and enjoyable afternoon spent in social converse among the friends & acquaintances who had not seen each other for a long time. Joe Hindley organ was brought there. Johnny McKenjie had his fiddle and another instrument, the music was good, and Joe also sang quite a number of songs. The supper was grand and about 80 sat down to it. other games were engaged in, and for the young people swings were prepared in the barn. The weather was so fine, that the grass outside of the house offered inviting footing for all, and all thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

A very fine day. nice and drying for the balance of the hay. Colin helped Johnny to finish up his hay by drawing in his rakes. They then drew in the balance of ours. (8 loads) making the total of the field 8 loads. it is good quality. that makes one load more than last year. and better quality. I raked it with the new horse and drew it up into the mow with King, while Johnny's team drew it in from the field. and were done before dinner. The pump at the barn has been a long time out of order and we hauled it up and put on new leather on the plunger and otherwise fixed it. I cut some round the fence below the barley field. Colin has scuffled the corn in the orchard. he drove Kate Moore to Rockwood this evening and had his clothes fitted there that Stinson is making up for him.

Quite a little shower this morning but of very short duration. we would be much the better of a good fall of rain. Crops however are looking much better of the showers that have lately fallen. Colin has been hard working among the corn come to day. he and I made up a trough for the pigs. and I cut some more at the fence corners. Maggie drove the 2 Cousins down to Hugh Blackie's place and remained the most of the day. Margaret and I drove down to C. Casinos, and took the case full of eggs (30 doz) for which he allowed 10¢ per doz. We got a shirt 55¢ and a pair of boots, gaiters, \$1.85. = \$2.40. the balance in cigar. except 10¢ in cash. Bella rode up with their neighbours Mr & Mrs Hagan, who are on the lookout for a home to purchase they took a look at Webb's place and at others, also drove over to Thos. Tolton's and Dunbars. and we met them on the Town line, on their way home, as the sun was going down. I am preparing this evening for being off for Meaford in the morning along with Thos. Tolton.

THURSDAY 16 (200-165)

A very fine day, Sunshine and ~~cool~~ ^{cool}. I was up early this morning and made ready to be off for Meaford. Colin drove me over to Thos. Tolton's after we got breakfast, and I had to wait quite a while before they were ready to start. we got away somewhere between 7 & 8 o'clock. it was rather cool for riding and I wore my overcoat with ^{after waiting some time for them} comfort. Little Ed Stevens rode along with us, we met at Bellwood, according to arrangement. Mary Stevens & the rest of her family, when the 2 buggies both journeyed together to Mr Hodgins, near Kenilworth where we remained all night. Hodgins was drawing in hay his crops look fairly well and they seem to be doing very well. they have a very good stone house to live in and the outbuildings are fairly good. he has rented 165 acres and pays \$340 in advance rent. we passed through Arthur Village in going up and I noted a great improvement in the place since I saw it last.

Always from
Hobbs.

driving up
towards -

Meaford
along with

Thos. Tolton

stop all
night at

Mr Hodgins
place near

Arthur
Village.

A little warmer to day. Thomas & I, with our little passenger, (Ed Stevens) started off from Hodgkins before Mary did. And on our way up called at George Gray's place, Mount Forest, they invited us to stay for dinner, which we did. George is very comfortably settled in the village, and, with his wife, seems to enjoy good health and a comfortable living. They have a good house and a fine garden. He has rented this farm of 100 acres to his 2 sons, and he says, he can live comfortably on the rent and his garden. He says he has half his ^{house} rented, for which he receives 50 dollars a year. After paying them a good visit and taking a walk round the town awhile, we set out north again and arrived at Holstein in good time. we walked round the village some land, after tea we paid Colin McKinnon a visit. They seem to be very comfortably settled. Edward Stevens had been out in the country on business, but returned later on. The crops appeared to be pretty good most of the way up to this place, but not quite so good round here.

Still on our journey towards Meaford. arrived at Holstein this evening. Saw Mrs. Gray at Mount Forest.

We saw Mrs. Gray at Mount Forest. arrived at Holstein this evening. Saw Mrs. Gray at Mount Forest.

Warmer to day, Thomas and I started off alone this morning on the last stage to Meaford. The road proved to be rather hilly, and in some places they were doing gravelly work which made them heavy. we drove up by way of Fresherton and thence up the Seventh line of Enniskillen and St Vincent. Thomas drove the horse very slowly and carefully and though it was very warm, he did not sweat hardly any. we took dinner at the Railway Station just before Fresherton. and after feeding ourselves and the horse we again started north, reaching Rocklyn somewhere between 4 & 5 o'clock. we fed him again there and made the last stage to Meaford in about 2 1/2 hours. Thos. did not hurry the horse and he arrived in Meaford in good condition. we found all the friends well and we received a friendly welcome.

Meaford arrived. our destination about 8 o'clock.

A good horse. did not sweat hardly any. we took dinner at the Railway Station just before Fresherton. and after feeding ourselves and the horse we again started north, reaching Rocklyn somewhere between 4 & 5 o'clock. we fed him again there and made the last stage to Meaford in about 2 1/2 hours. Thos. did not hurry the horse and he arrived in Meaford in good condition. we found all the friends well and we received a friendly welcome.

Sunday 19

Fine and warm to day. Thomas attended the meeting at the disciples Church this forenoon. but I remained at Alex's house. we walked together in the evening, up to William Ewart's.

Weather continues very fine and the Lake is very smooth and glassy looking. I have been moving ~~round~~ the top and surroundings, Thomas and Ella Senter took a drive together to visit a Cousin of Thomas' A Mrs Richardson, Sister to Mrs Jay. Margaret and I together paid a visit and had tea at David Mitchell, we had a very pleasant time with them, David has his house and surroundings very nicely and conveniently arranged, and his garden and lawn looks very fine, he has the advantage of the water works system and has hoses to reach all parts of his garden and premises. All Alex.' family are at home, and they have Miss Hogg of Collingwood visiting with them, also many callers, so that it is a lively place at present.

TUESDAY 21 (205-160)

A very warm day. indeed it was quite hot a good part of the day. Thomas and I drove the horse and buggy up to Jamie's place this forenoon, and, after going all round his little farm, which we did with great pleasure, as his crops are very good, we settled down to dinner. Some of the girls took back Thomas' horse & buggy to Meaford, and Jamie and Annie & Thomas & I, with his horses and a democrat took a drive up to the little Lake.

Meaford

WEDNESDAY 22 (206-159)

1896

A most beautiful day, Sunshine and warm, about ten o'clock, I think, we saw the fine new Steamer, Majestic approaching Meaford, and Thomas & Brother Alex & I set off for the wharf. The excursion was from Collingwood to Marton, and called at Meaford. The three of us got aboard, and we were surprised to find Maggie & Louie & Miss Hogg also on board. Mr Hogg from Collingwood met them on the wharf and bought tickets for them, and made them come. There were, they said, about 850 on board, a brass-band accompanied the excursionists. we had a beautiful sail to Marton, so smooth that we could hardly perceive the motion of the vessel. The Steamer was very finely finished off, and elegantly furnished. on returning home a stiff breeze sprung up which made the Lake a little rough. but, it did not affect, but very little, the motion of the vessel. Marton now is very different from the time of my former visit to it, it is built up to be a fine large town, with fairly good buildings. Lumbering and other interests make it have a busy appearance. the road to the town from the wharf is a very bad one, being by the side of the railway track, and between the wagon track and Railway there is not much room for foot passengers, and not safe. I called on the Hunters. James was from home. Called also on Mr Symons, Storekeeper, they seem all to be driving a good business.

THURSDAY 23 (207-158)

Cooler to day and very windy. we had been in expectation of seeing the Steamer "City of Midland" make her appearance with excursionists, as per advertisement. on account of the roughness of the lake it was reported the Steamer was going to Collingwood instead of Meaford. this proved erroneous, as we sighted her later on. She arrived, I think, somewhere about 2 o'clock, or a little after. there were indications of a good deal of sickness having been on board, it was said there were about 250 passengers. Thomas and I walked up to the Exhibition grounds, where a baseball game had been arranged for between the Meafords and the Midlands. the time being so limited they could only get 3 or 4 innings, when they had to make for the boat at 5 o'clock. Meaford players had the best of it.

Very dull and threatening looking this morning at Meaford Thomas and I were early astir and made ready for starting home. we got under way, after bidding the friends good bye, about 10 o'clock, when getting a piece on the road, the rain began to fall, and for a time we thought we would have a wet day. it cleared up about noon however, and we had a pleasant drive the rest of the time, as we proceeded south we found less trace of the rain, we reached the same Hotel, Whites, Globe Hotel, about 1/2 past 12, and after a good dinner left there about 2, turned at the 6 Corners and had good roads all the way down to Damascus which place we reached about 1/2 past Seven. we put up at Jonathan Lovells. we found the crops were very good the most of the way through Proton & Luther as far as this place, but the head of Luther they were magnificent. Jonathan is going round with his arm in a sling. he met an accident some time ago which broke his arm or collar bone, he is recovering but not able to work. I called at Isaac Andersons on our way down, they made us welcome to stay with them, but we thought we had better go on to Lovells.

SATURDAY 25 (209-156)

A beautiful morning. Thomas and I got up about Damascus 1/2 past five this morning and the rest of the household were soon after us after getting breakfast, we took a walk back to see Andersons folks, and have a sight of his garden, which was very fine, we were soon on the road again, driving through the marsh, we reached Greigsons place about 1/2 past ten, and being invited, we waited for dinner, where we also got feed for our horse. after dinner we again set out for home, arriving between 4 & 5 o'clock. Thomas brought me home but I would not stop for tea. thus wound up our journey to Meaford. They had a rain here a week ago.

Sunday 26

Dull and threatening rain in the morning

Considerable rain has fallen which will do the roots a lot of good, our turnips are rather far advanced especially as they are rather thickly sown and the fine grass is growing up amongst them. I expected Colin would have had them done, or about, in the 9 days I was away. as it was, he ran through the corn and potatoes with the scuffer and may have hand weeded a little at them. I wish he had made it more his business to see that the turnips were thinned. he hasn't done the third of them I don't think. he and I have been thinning at them to day, but the land is rather soft to make good head way. and there have been showers to prevent us sticking at them while some of them lasted we worked some in the barn at the work of fixing up the granary. Maggie has been, along with her. Abbot and the Mill girls, picking raspberries in Synnotts bush behind our sugar bush. She got over 3 lbs. they had to come home on account of getting wet, but went out again only to be served the same way again.

An extremely hot day. the Showers of yesterday have not cooled the air. there have been thunder & Showers passing around us, we hear that heavy rain fell at Guelph. Colin has been thinning at the turnips all day. I did not go at them. but was busy at other things. I was pulling a long time at a patch of wild oats. we have found in the north front field. I also fixed up the hog pen for receiving the 2 batches of young pigs. the trough was leaking and I had to patch it up. it kept me busy. in the evening I hitched up and Margaret and I drove down to Everton and got the papers and a letter for Maggie from Mrs Garbutt also got 25¢ worth oatmeal. 12 lbs. we called, on returning home, at David Robertson for a mower quest for our mowers. as I think to cut our barley. David was away and I borrowed one from Dugald again. Thomas Mac is laid up sick the doctor attending. Met Mr & Mrs Bryant coming from Everton they arranged to visit us to day.

July

WEDNESDAY 29 (213-152)

1896

Very close and hot this forenoon, thunder clouds began to loom up about noon, which culminated at last in a violent thunder storm with very heavy rain & wind between one and two o'clock, our crops & fear will be damaged considerably especially the heaviest of the oats some of which look as if a roller had passed over them. Mr & Mrs Bryant paid us a visit today and had dinner & tea with us. They came shortly after eleven o'clock, and they went home with our Nellie, as he returned home to Greely, he came out for a straw cutter that John Campbell had up at Mimosa, but which has been taken away. Colin hoed turnips up to dinner time but the deluge of rain stopped all that, he has been taking down the erection we had up for the 2 litters of pigs in the Cattle stable, we took the pigs to the pig house this morning, Colin weighed one that weighed 50 lbs. Johnny & Lizzie are away to Jennie Crofts wedding this afternoon. I cut the weeds this morning, in the lane leading to John's, and spent the balance of the time pulling at the wild oats up to noon. after which I remained in the house with the Bryants.

THURSDAY 30 (214-151)

The air has not cleared up fully yet, it remains warmer than might be expected after such a storm. the wind rose however and is raising the fallen grain a little; we hope it will bring it up again as otherwise it will be damaged both in filling and in its harvesting. Colin and I dusted the potatoes today with the bug killer. we did it in the forenoon but had difficulty in doing it as the wind rose too high. we spent the rest of the day at the turnip hoeing. the turnips are getting hard to do on account of them being too thickly sown and the joint grass is getting very strong & thick.

July

FRIDAY 31

(215-150)

1896

A very fine day. The wind has risen and drying up everything again. I finished up the dusting of the potatoes (12 rows) before breakfast this morning. Colin and I afterwards hoed at the turnips till dinner time. I quit a little before dinner and harnessed the team and got the mow out. So as to cut down the barley. I sharpened the knife and Colin cut it down this afternoon. I hope it will keep dry till we get it in the barn. I hoed at the turnips till supper time. after which I had trouble with the pigs getting into the peas. Mrs Andrew Tolton with her two little girls Ethel & Hattie, were visiting us this afternoon. Andrew is at McDermott's fixing a pea harrow they have lately purchased. I paid four dollars (\$4.00) to William Lindal payment in full to date for the work done at the barn. Johny got 15 lbs of the dog killer besides the can full.

killing pigs
cut bar
with the m
hoeing the
turnips
Mrs Andrew
Tolton and
2 children
visiting
from Hazel
paid four
dollars to
Mr Lindal

August

SATURDAY 1

(216-149)

A very fine day, warm in the forenoon, and gathered for rain afternoon. Colin and I hoed at the turnips this forenoon. I hitched up Fred, after dinner, to the horse rake and raked about half of the barley when we were stopped by the rain coming on. Johny & Colin & I drew in 2 loads and we cooked up the rest that I had gathered together. if we had started at it as soon as the dew had dried up we could have had it all in the barn easily, but I thought it would be the better of standing till after dinner and thereby was caught. I drove Fred down to the blacksmith shop and Mr. Perkins put on 4 new shoes on him. I did not pay him for it. I then drove down to the mill and got 100 lbs shorts, paid 60 cts for them, ordered 50 lbs binding twine from Geo. Marshall. @ 8 c per lb. paid 1st Oct. 44 c off for cash.

Sunday 2

A very fine day, the weather appeared of doubtful settlement in the early part of the day, but became cooler and more settled looking in the after part. Maggie drove alone to meeting this forenoon and Mary accompanied her home. She & Mary with Colin went again in the evening. I wrote a letter to Alex. Holyoke and with a card to James Ramsdell and 2 papers (Mascenis) for Mr. Pease gave them to Mary to mail in the morning.

A beautiful day. bright sunshine and warm. Colin and I hoed at the turnips this forenoon, there are yet about 35 long rows to thin, and they are getting too large and as they are quite thick it is a hard and tedious job to single them. After dinner I raked the balance of the barley and Johnny helped Colin to draw it in. There were 3 loads to day, making 5 loads in all. Johnny paid me fourteen dollars & fifty cts (\$14.50). Mr. Harbut & Fred & 2 of the girls paid us a visit to day. had tea with us.

I drove over to Erin Village after Supper. and paid 2 double amounts & dues. one for John McKeen and one for Sel. also ten cents each for last months levy. A.S.W.W.I. I also settled up in full with Charles Overland for the undertaking work of Minnie's funeral & burial. 12 dollars. making 27 dollars in all with my former payment of 13 dollars.

I also bought a pair of harvest gloves, oil can and fork handle for Johnny's barley fork which I ran over, with the hay rake, and broke to day.

I remained over to the Lodge meeting, there was a very poor attendance, the new hall is a very commodious and pleasant one, and I should say more healthful than the old one, in that it can be thoroughly ventilated.

took in the last of the barley
hoing the turnips

Johnny paid me \$14.50

drove to Erin Village

settled with C. Overland

paid 2 double amounts

& dues & 10 cents extra

for John McKeen & myself

in all \$5.20

purchases

Another fine day. the indications pointed to a change we are not caring to have any more rain at present, but we may have to take it for all. Johnny helped us at the thinning of the turnips from about ten o'clock this forenoon. There was about 28 rows to do. Mr. Harbut and Fred were here this afternoon they brought back the democrat, they drove home to Morval after tea. Margaret and I were invited to our tea at Richard McWilliams in company of Mr. & Mrs. Bryant and others, we attended and had a very pleasant time. I drove down to Everton this evening and got 30 lbs. twins, also 50 lbs for Johnny. It is the red Cap 7 3/4 cts paid by the 15th and eight cents if paid 1st Oct.

Thunder and lightning and rain last night. Cleared up to day again, we finished up the thinning of the turnips this forenoon. Johnny and I hunted up a stick in the bush to make a tongue for the binder before dinner, after dinner we rigged up the binder and started to cut in the black oats in South front field. Some little things going wrong, it hindered the work. Come to get them fixed. I have been feeding the corn to the cows for some days, 2 of the cows seem to relish it all right but the others 2 are a little faint about it.

I went down to Webb's this evening and brought home the young goose that was "hors de combat" from an accident that befel it in Webb's beaver meadow.

I brought home the stick from the bush and commenced to work it up to make it fit for a tongue for the binder.

The house was fine together for my mother's mowers along with our share of hay.

Very hot weather, it seems that the thunder & lightning does not cool the air and it feels as if preparation is being made for another outbreak of thunder. Johnny & Colin have finished up the black oats and started in to the north front field. The machine gave them a good deal of trouble and caused much delay by failing to deliver the sheaf. The trip worked all right, but upon the trip being relieved of its hold the delivery arm failed to go round and throw off the sheaf. Mr. Williams boys - or rather George & his father - think they see it similarly wrong to what their own was and it will have to go to the shop, I may go in tomorrow. Millie was out from Loughborough this morning and drove away so as to get back by dinner time. John Campbell brought his organ to Johnny this morning and Millie expected that he might have to drive up for it, one of the Parkers brought it down however and saved Millie the trouble. I have been hoeing the thistles in potatoe patch.