

the latter penetrating in some cases as much as twenty feet.

We, sir, believe in the future of our country, and take pleasure in endeavoring to assist in its growth, remembering the saying, "That man is a benefactor to his country who has made two blades of grass grow where only one grew before." And you, sir, will know:—No grass, no cattle; no cattle, no manure; no manure, no crops. We shall be pleased to continue our remarks on corn, potatoes and turnips for next issue.

Mr. George Keith, Seed Merchant, Toronto, writes:—

Spring Wheat.—The Red Fife and White Russian varieties still head the list, both for large yields and good samples, in this district.

Oats.—The best sample received this year is the Black Tartarian, which has yielded an immense crop. I would recommend farmers to procure pure, imported seed.

Mangels.—Carter's Mammoth Long Red still holds its place at the head of the mangels. 1,960 bushels have been grown to the acre.

John A. Bruce & Co., seed merchants, Hamilton, Ont., write:—The past season in this section was very unfavorable for spring wheat. The long continued drought during July and the early part of August caused a premature ripening, and in consequence the grains are all more or less shrivelled. The leading varieties are:—White Russian, Manitoba, Red Fife, The Magyar, Lost Nation, Red Fern, White Fife and Mars.

Oats.—The favorite sorts in this section are:—Black Tartarian, Egyptian, Early Calder, Triumph or Cluster, White Russian, Welcome, Scotch Potato and Prince Edward Island. During the past season the following new varieties were tested in various sections, and, notwithstanding the unfavorable season, the reports were encouraging:—Giant Swedish, Early Archangel, Holstein Prolific. The coming season will no doubt thoroughly test their adaptability to our climate.

Barley.—The only kinds cultivated in this locality are the ordinary four or six-rowed, also Rennie's Improved Six-Rowed. The Chevalier or two rowed is being enquired after, and the prospects are that it will be thoroughly tested during the coming season in all the favorable barley sections in Ontario.

Buckwheat.—The Common Grey is the leading variety, but the New Japanese was grown to a considerable extent, and reports of its great productiveness and large grain will, no doubt, soon make it better known.

Mangel Wurzel.—This is a large and yearly increasing crop. The kinds most largely grown are:—The Gate Post, Long Red, Norbiton Giant, New Giant, Intermediate Yellow, Orange Globe, Golden Fleshed Tankard, Red Tankard and Red Globe.

Carrots.—The favorite varieties are:—White Belgian and Large White Vosges. The latter is a short growing variety, producing very thick roots of fine feeding quality. For shallow soils it is better adapted than any other.

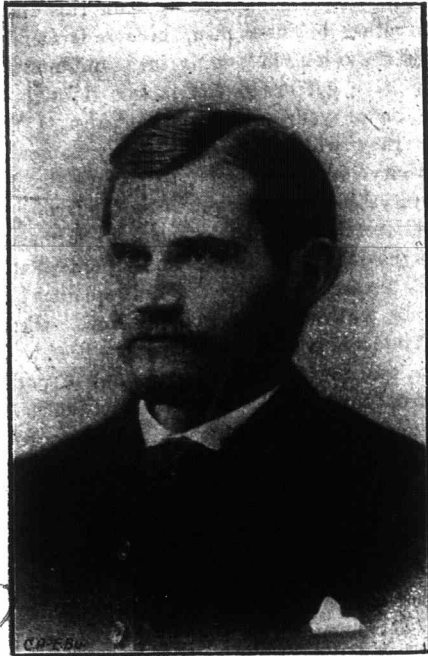
Peas.—Golden Vine, Crown, Blue Prussian, Black Eyed and White Marrowfat are the principal kinds.

Dear Sir,—You will find enclosed the sum of \$1, being my renewal for another year. I have taken your paper for four years, and like it better every year.—S. H. DEPEW, Paris, Ont.

To show how important a factor Great Britain is as a market for the agricultural produce of the world, the following figures will be of interest. Her imports of foreign produce during the eleven months ended Nov. 30, 1889, were as follows: Live animals for food were imported of the value of \$48,480,105; grain, \$232,586,155; dead meat, \$84,611,670; butter, \$46,551,530; cheese, \$20,777,725.

Professor James W. Robertson.

Prof. Robertson, the recently appointed Dairy Commissioner, was born in Dunlop, Ayrshire, Scotland, November 2nd, 1857; descended from the sturdy Scotch, who were among the "Scottish Worthies" of conventicle and persecution fame; brought up on a beautiful and productive farm, excelling as such in even that lovely part of Bonnie Scotland; educated, until 14, at the Dunlop Free Church School, the Ardeer Public School, and Cunningham Institute. He spent three years at book-keeping and business in the office of Bailie J. Burt, the well-known temperance advocate and workingmen's politician of Glasgow. He came to Canada in 1875, and assisted in the exportation of cheese to Scotland for one year while living on the farm in London Gore. Afterwards he learned the cheese-making business in the Salford factory of Mr. James Harris, in 1876. He was engaged by the North Branch Cheese Manufacturing Company of London Township, to run their factory in 1877. During the four years spent at North Branch, the output of the factory



grew from eighty odd tons to over one hundred and twenty tons of cheese in the season. He acquired a facility in public speaking by debating in the local gatherings in Venus Lodge Room, and by teaching a Bible class of young men and women.

In the spring of 1881 he moved to Cotswold, in Minto Township, Wellington County, and beginning with one small factory in four years had control of eight large and prosperous cheese factories, with a patronage of over 700 farmers. During these years he took the initiative, and helped in the organization of the Listowel Dairymen's Board of Trade, now the best known and most closely watched of all the cheese markets in Canada. He also moved first in calling the attention of the Government to the desirability of giving a grant to the Ontario Creameries' Association. In 1886 he was requested by the Ontario Government, at the invitation of Mr. Thos. Ballantyne, M. P. P., to assume charge of the Dairy Department of the Ontario Agricultural College. He was then sent to England in charge of the dairy exhibits of Ontario, at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition (report of which will be found in the Ontario Agricultural report, 1886, a special edition of 10,900 being distribu-

ted). One thing obtained that does not show there, was the free advertising of our country, its resources, its products, especially its butter and cheese, to the extent of 600 miles of single columns, in such papers as the Daily News, Telegraph, Standard, Morning Post, etc., by writing up butter, cheese, etc., in letters on Home Rule for Ireland, by the introduction of the Canadian creamery system, imperial federation, promoted by the production of fine food by the colonies, etc.

He also visited Denmark to investigate the means whereby the Danes developed their profitable butter export trade. In 1887 he began to agitate for winter dairying and the general growth of fodder corn for cows. In 1889, it is estimated that over 20,000 acres additional fodder corn were planted in Ontario as the result of this continued agitation.

In 1888 he was invited to speak at the Wisconsin Farmers' Institute. After a careful, thoughtful examination of the American methods of building silos and curing ensilage, he came back and began to work for the general introduction into Canada, and undertook to grow a crop of fodder corn, and to erect and fill a silo, in the correct way, on the Experimental Farm. Notwithstanding the unfortunate fire which consumed the farm buildings, the silo and ensilage were demonstrated successes. Reports from nearly 200 silos in Ontario filled in 1889, with only two exceptions, proclaim them a gratifying success. Over 2,500 will be put up during 1890.

Meanwhile, bulletins on the care of milk, and of instruction on the practical details of the manufacture of cheese and butter, have been issued frequently. Supervision has been had of the work of the ten dairy inspectors employed by the Dairymen's Association of Ontario. Between fifty and sixty farmers' institute meetings and conventions have been attended in Ontario annually. A course of college lectures have been delivered on dairy husbandry. His experimental work in the treatment of milk, the feeding and salting of cows, and the fattening of hogs, have brought to light some valuable information. A little writing for the ADVOCATE and other agricultural papers has filled up odd half hours. In 1887 he was appointed non-resident Professor of Dairy Husbandry, at Cornell University, N. Y.

The office recently created by Order-in-Council, is that of "Commissioner of Dairy Husbandry for the Dominion of Canada." To fill this position, Mr. Robertson was wisely chosen by the Dominion Government. The work to be undertaken may be classed under three heads:—

1 (a) Bulletins of information and instruction will be issued systematically for the guidance of butter-makers, cheese-makers and dairymen. (b) Encouragement will be given (through the holding of conventions, the organization of provincial dairymen's associations, and the dissemination of information) to the extension of dairying into districts which have not made any progress in its practice. (c) The needs and preferences of new and old markets will be considered, and information will be supplied to producers, with a view to stimulating the enterprise of commerce, to meet those needs in qualities, packages, etc. (d) Attention will be paid to the best means for preventing and suppressing fraud in the supply of milk to manufacturers, and in the articles of dairy produce.

2 (a) Charge will be taken of all the stock and stock experimental work on the Central Experimental Farm. (b) Dairy buildings will be erected, and the economical production of butter and cheese will be examined, both as regards the treatment of milk and the parts of the processes of manufacture.

3 (a) A series of Dominion Farmers' Institutes will be organized and superintended; their feature will be to stimulate and instruct the men who will attend smaller, local institutes. A report of their proceedings will be widely spread through the country. (b) Special conventions for the instruction of cheese-makers and creamery butter-makers, in the theory and best practice of their business, will be held in the several provinces.

The Ontario Agricultural College especially, and the Province of Ontario generally, will feel the loss of Prof. Robertson keenly. It will be very diffi-