

THE FRENCH MERINO RAM, "WRINKLEY."—"Alex. Young," of Ryckman's Corner, communicates the following:—"I am the owner of a French Merino ram, which has always taken the first prize when exhibited. He has been shown at the following places and distinguished himself. When a lamb, he obtained the first prize in Toronto at the Provincial Exhibition of 1862; first prize as a yearling at Kingston, in 1863; first prize as a two year old, or aged, at Hamilton, in 1864. He is known by the name of "Wrinkley." He is not a heavy sheep, being only 127 lbs. live weight, but yielded when shorn on the first day of June last 17 lbs. of wool. I challenge competition with him in weight of fleece, taking weight of sheep into account. I have several rams much heavier, but not producing as much wool. I also have heavier ewes, five of which produced 53 lbs. of wool."

BUILDING SOCIETY REFORM. On this subject "J. L." writes. "Having drawn attention to some crying evils of Building Societies, allow me to suggest some remedies to be applied, in order to make them equitable to the borrower, as well as profitable to the investor. Of course the rate of interest should be reduced first of all, and the borrower told exactly what rate he is to pay, instead of being left under the impression that he only pays 6½ or 7 per cent. Then if he wishes to redeem before the expiration of the time of his loan, he ought to be allowed at least what the Society can make out of the same money, instead of from 4 to 6 per cent. less. It would also be very desirable to reduce the preliminary expenses of the survey of the property, &c., which add to the interest paid. There are some other abuses which might be advantageously reformed, such as fees and heavy fines on the members who do not pay regularly, sickness or any other valid excuse making no difference. If these Societies would either suspend their re-payments at such times, or convert them into those of a longer period, it would surely be a great boon to investors and borrowers."

SHEEP FARMING ON A LARGE SCALE.—"Sheep Farmer" writes from Toronto as follows:—"For the last few years I have been thinking of trying my hand at sheep farming on a larger scale than it is possible to carry it on in Canada. Now I am a true Briton, and as loyal as the Queen herself, but I do not think that I would succeed in Canada. Would you be kind enough to state therefore what district of the United States you consider best adapted for sheep farming, and what would be the probable cost of a world farm with the stock, &c. I may state that I am not without a small capital to start upon, and if I farmed at all would get a first class farm. By giving me the desired information through the columns of your widely circulated journal you will oblige."

ANS.—Our correspondent must contemplate a prodigiously large scale of sheep-farming indeed, if it be not possible to carry on his business in Canada. We know of no reason why he should not gratify his intense loyalty by staying in this country. There are as good regions for sheep husbandry in the Queen's dominions as in any other part of the world. Our advice to him is to pitch upon a suitable locality in Canada, begin his new business in a moderate way, enlarge it as he gains experience, and help to make this country what it must be some day,—one of the leading sheep regions of the world.

THE CAUSE OF RUST.—On this subject "W. R." writes as follows:—"I do not agree with your views on rust, expressed in the article on "Thoughts on Ploughs and Ploughing," in a recent issue. As far as my observation and experience go, rust is as prevalent on land that has neither been ploughed nor manured, as on land that has, and a slight shower, even a moist fog, that does not wet the ground half an inch deep, is far more apt to cause rust than a good day's rain, that would thoroughly wet the ground to the depth of the manure."

ANS.—Our correspondent will observe, if he refers to the article again, that the opinion there expressed as to the cause of rust, is merely conjectural. We are, however, glad to find that it has been the means of drawing attention to this important cereal affection. Discussion and difference of opinion are foremost

among the means of all true progress. Wisdom, said the wise man, is found in the multitude of counsellors. In the collision of ideas knowledge and information are generated, just as light and fire are produced by the brisk contact of flint and steel. On the subject before us, there is a wide field for difference of impression. It is not a little remarkable that "rust" comes down to us associated with some of the wierd superstitions of antiquity. Its destructive effects were experienced in the early ages of the world, as well as in our day; and the progress of two thousand years has failed to discover the true cause, or a specific remedy. The Patent Office Report says that the ancients held the rust disease of sufficient importance to appoint a special goddess as a presiding deity over it. To appease her anger, and save the grain from the dreaded visitation, they were accustomed to sacrifice a red bitch on her altar, each year. We trust other correspondents and readers will take up the many important agricultural questions that press themselves upon general attention. We want the views of practical men. Every attempt at the solution of a knotty question forms a stepping stone which may render good service to other investigators.

DISEASED TURKEYS.—"Dorcas" writes as follows:—"I wish to know if you, or any of your readers, can explain to me a malady which attacks my young turkeys? They grow suddenly weak in the legs, scramble and stagger for a day or so, and finally "squat down," unable to raise themselves on their legs any more. They sprawl out their legs in vain, trying to get up, and cannot. At the same time the middle joint is swollen; six have been so taken one after the other, out of twenty-five; for the rest they seem quite well, and eat heartily, fed on fresh curds, but they die. Nobody here seems to have seen the complaint before."

ANS.—The disease described by our correspondent is probably megrims or dizziness. Too full feeding and want of air and exercise will sometimes occasion this malady. At the same time there are no more fruitful causes of disease in fowls than impure water, neglecting to effect a frequent change of diet, and a deficiency of green food. A large teaspoonful of castor oil will probably relieve the sufferers, observing not to expose them to the glare of a scorching sun.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, JULY 15, 1865.

The Season.

The confident anticipations of an abundant return indulged in by many of our correspondents and contemporaries, prior to the date of our last issue, have since undergone considerable modification. Although the harvest, upon which we have already entered, promises to be at least an average yield, there is no disguising the fact that the devastations of the midge have been pretty extensive, and the consequent forebodings rather gloomy. The continuance of drouth, too, has checked the full development of the spring-sown grains, on all but deep, well-cultivated soils. With these facts before them, some of our local exchanges speak despondingly of the harvest prospects, and express the belief that in many sections the return will not much exceed that of last year. Others again describe appearances as cheering and encouraging. In the face of the very conflicting testimony which is before us, it is impossible, at the present time, to express a decided opinion as to the issue. The truth will most likely lie somewhere between the two extremes, and probably the crop, as a whole, will be quite an average one. In order, however, that our readers may judge for themselves, we cull a few extracts, exhibiting both sides of the question, as viewed by the contemporary press.

The Merickville Chronicle says:—"We are again doomed to short crops on all the light land in this vicinity. Our best farmers will doubtless harvest a fair crop, but we much doubt if poor tilled land ranges much in advance of last year. Two such seasons as this and last have never occurred in the memory of the 'oldest inhabitant.'" *The Barrie Observer* remarks: "The midge has done considerable damage." *The Dundas Banner* "regrets that the midge has been creating fearful havoc." *The Stratford Beacon* learns that "this troublesome pest (the midge) has eaten its way into, and destroyed nearly all but the real midge-proof wheat." *The St. Mary's Argus* states that "grubs have been very numerous, and that fodder will be scarce this winter." *The London Prototype* hears "startling reports of the ravages of the midge in the eastern sections of the country." *The Galt Reporter* is informed that the midge has committed sad havoc with the wheat crop in that section.

The foregoing reports, it will be observed, are all of a dismal character. It is somewhat re-animating to turn to the following: *The Morrisburg Courier* declares that "the prospects of a rich harvest are flattering in the extreme." *The Brockville Monitor* says, "every description of grain crops looks luxuriant." *The Guelph Mercury* states that "the crops throughout Bruce promise a most abundant yield." Several other reports of a like favourable character lie before us, but limited space forbids our inserting them.

The harvest of the midge-proof variety of wheat was commenced in the western sections of the Province, nearly a fortnight since. In the majority of instances, it has wholly escaped the attack of the destructive pest. The result of an experiment conducted in the vicinity of Toronto, with this description of wheat, and instituted for the purpose of testing its ability to resist the attack of the insect, seems to prove that its immunity is owing to its rapid growth and early maturity, rather than to any inherent quality. Two of the most approved varieties,—the Mediterranean and the Lambert—were sown in October last. The grain germinated well, and on the 22nd of June presented a most luxuriant appearance, being five feet in height, and in full bloom. By the 8th instant, however, many of the ears of both varieties were badly infected. Other heads, again, although exhibiting traces of having been slightly pierced, had apparently escaped any positive injury. As specimens from the crop in question were exhibited at this office, the facts above stated may be relied on. Several other samples of midge-proof wheat have also been submitted to our inspection during the past week. In every instance they had been early sown, and no traces of the midge could be detected. The producer of one choice sample, nearly ripe, informed us he had sown his in the latter part of August. Seeding at this date, in many cases, may be earlier than is necessary or convenient. Still the practical lesson taught by this year's experience, is to sow early if the crop is to be saved.

Spring cereals, as already hinted, have suffered from drouth. This unfortunate circumstance will undoubtedly decrease the yield of grain and curtail the quantity of winter fodder. There are encouraging reports of the flax crop from those of our farmers who have sown a patch this season. We have seen several fine healthy specimens, grown at different points, averaging fully four feet in length. Next year we venture to hope its cultivation will be more general. Hay-making has been briskly proceeded with during the past fortnight. As a rule, the crop has been secured in splendid condition, while the yield has been almost unexceptionably good. Early-sown turnips, in most sections, were entirely destroyed by the fly. In some places where they were resown they give promise for a fair crop. Their ultimate success, as well as that of our other esculents, will, of course, depend on the weather. In the meantime, it may be well to remind some of our farmers that they rather hurry their turnips into the ground. With our peculiar climate, we are disposed to believe that none should be sown earlier than the middle of June. This idea is strengthened by the fact that, in every instance in which we have had an opportunity of obtaining information, those sown after the 20th of June have, this season, had perfect immunity from the attack of the fly.