

but as I then did the plowing and sowing myself I was often late in finishing, and I saw the wheat I sowed from the 18th till 25th of September was almost always the best crop. In 1831 I had quite a loss by this same day, and determined to get all my land ready and not commence sowing until the 20th September, or thereabout. I continued that course for about 20 years, and had almost no failures, with the exception of 1844. In September of 1843, as I intended going to the State Agricultural Show at Rochester, I sowed early, in order to sow my wheat before I went, and in consequence lost at least half my crop of 80 acres. Some time after the midge commenced to destroy the wheat crops along here, people got almost crazy to have their wheat early sown—some, indeed many, sowing in August, but I never began earlier than the 11th or 12th of September, and had no failure.

I have proof positive that if I had sown about the 20th of last September, I would have had fine looking wheat now. By some imperfection in the drill it missed dropping from one spout the whole length of the field for several times; these rows I had drilled over about the 20th or a little later. Now these rows are as healthy looking wheat as any man can wish to see, while the other is worthless. If farmers will take heed to what I have written, it will do more good than the loss of 13 acres of wheat will harm me, although I fully expected 500 bushels when I sowed it. It is folly sowing so early. I never knew one day difference in coming in ear, or of ripening, from that sowed on the 12th or 2nd of September, if the condition of the land was equal, and I have no doubt if farmers generally will make notes of their sowing and the ripening of different fields, they will find what I say is correct.

We now have very fine weather. My barley looks very well, grass very good, clover ditto. I have not been from home to see the wheat, but my friends tell me much is bad. Mr. Foster, who has as good land for wheat as any in this country, says his is an entire failure. I presume he sowed early, as he keeps up his work generally.

I should add that those who sow the end of September and in October, should sow more seed to the acre than those sowing earlier.

JOHN JOHNSTON.

Near Geneva, May 14, 1863.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Visit to the County of Wellington, Mr. Stone's Stock, the Crops, &c.

Having spent a few days in the County of Wellington, it may not be uninteresting to our readers generally to bring under their notice, in concise way, some of the more prominent matters that we observed in connection with the state and progress of Agriculture.

The ride from Toronto to Guelph on the Grand Trunk is in many respects an interesting one, embracing a section of country considerably diversified, and possessing on the whole great agricultural capability. After leaving the sand drift which forms a surface of some extent to the west of Toronto, comprising soils generally weak and of unequal degrees of productiveness, the traveller passes over the strong, and—where properly cultivated—highly productive lands of West York and Peel. The soil over extensive and comparatively level tracts is a calcareous clay, more or less retentive, admirably adapted for raising the finer qualities of wheat clover, and indeed, the usual farm crops, which almost every where had a very promising appearance. Upon these strong, rich lands, especially when the surface is wet, arising from flatness, the advantages of draining, especially deep underdraining, are most obvious even to the travelling observer. Instances were pointed out to us while in the train, which clearly indicated the vast difference between the appearance of crops on drained and undrained land, all other conditions being equal.

We had the pleasure and advantage of spending a day with Mr. F. W. Stone of Guelph, a gentleman too well known and respected both in Canada and the United States to need any eulogium from us. As an importer and breeder of farm animals of every description, except the Horse, Mr. Stone has for several years occupied a first position on this Continent, and a quiet day with such a man increases one's knowledge as well as pleasure. We had time to go over his home farm only, and regretted our inability to see his other farm, some four miles distant, where his celebrated flock of Leicesters is chiefly to be seen. The home farm consists of about 500 acres, most pleasantly situated within a mile of the flourishing town of Guelph. The farm buildings are new, quite extensive and apparently arranged in a convenient manner to meet the varied requirements of horn cattle of various ages, sheep, pigs, &c., as to ventilation, warmth, cleanliness, &c. One cannot help feeling in surveying this extensive suite of buildings, which are finished in a very substantial manner, that the enterprising owner has been guided by an enlightened desire to profit, rather than a prodigal expenditure. While Mr. Stone is to be regarded as an enterprising farmer, in the highest and