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dying so rapidly. We are unable to give you any reliable cure. The Aphis is leaving its desolating mark on every apple orchard we have visited; the light, sickly appearance of the leaves shows that the trees are sick. Limbs and branches are dying, and our orchards have not the healthy appearance they formerly had. Where are the luxuriant green leaves we used to see a few years ago? As to our grapes, one successful fruit grower informs us that he has tried every grape and every fruit that has been put out by our horticultural societies, and he has wasted much time and space in propagating them; but there is not one of them equal to the old varieties. The Clinton, Hartford Prolific and Delaware appear to be the most reliable varieties for the farmer to propagate. The other varieties die back, are shy bearers, mildew, and are a disappointment.

These remarks are rather discouraging, we must admit; but there has been and still is a fault that we are all apt to fall into, that is, of pointing out the good qualities of every novelty, and not examining into the defects close enough.

If any of you have a crop of good apples in any section of the country, particularly of the winter varieties, you will be able to obtain a good price for them. We know of two buyers in this city that are ready to contract at good prices at the present time.

#### New Varieties of Wheat.

Every year there are new kinds of wheat being brought before the public for their acceptance. Although we do not believe in a great number of the varieties, yet it is well that experiments should be made in producing the most improved kinds of grain. That old varieties can be improved by selection and change of climate and soil, is evident. But in reality there are only two kinds, red and white. We now present our readers with a number of new kinds which are seeking public favor.

The Martin Amber, which our engraving represents, originated in the eastern part of Pennsylvania in 1878. "Its habit of growth in several respects is," according to the originator, "different from any other kind cultivated. While young the plant lies spread over the ground, affording a good protection to its own roots. It remains in this position until May, when it begins to tiller out and grows very rapidly. It is claimed that it surpasses by far every other kind in the number of stalks from one grain by ordinary cultivation. The straw is of average length, very bright, and stands erect, until ripe, when the heads incline somewhat; and although stiff enough to support the large heads, is free from that brittleness which characterizes some wheat on becoming ripe. The grains are of a beautiful amber color with a thin hull. Expert millers pronounce it first-class, for, by reason of its very thin hull, it makes very little bran, but yields a large return of flour of the best quality. The yield, by ordinary cultivation, is from 35 to 45 bushels to the acre. Threshes very easily and perfectly, and weighs 63 pounds to the measured bushel. It has never been tested as a spring wheat, but we have very good reason for believing that it will do very well in sections where spring wheat is grown."

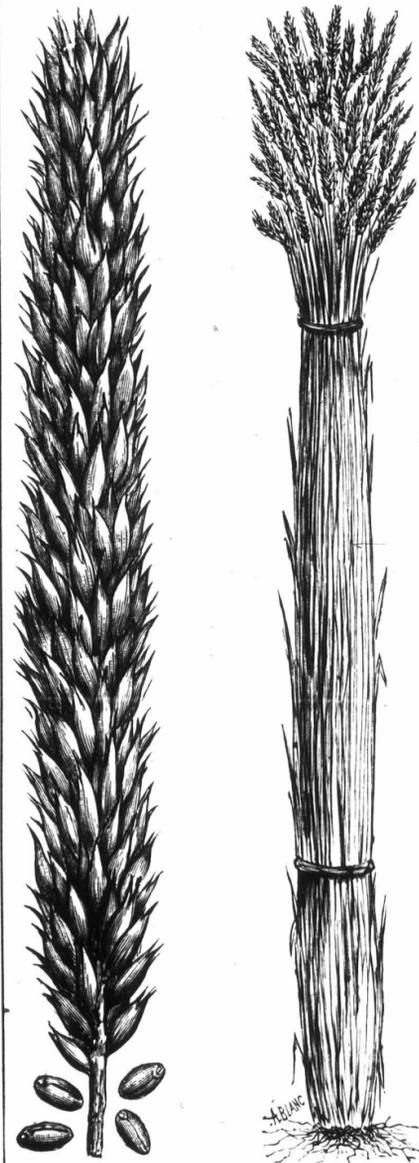
The samples which we have received are very good, and this new variety deserves a careful trial by our farmers.

The Mediterranean Hybrid is a cross between the Diehl and the Red Mediterranean. Sibley & Co., the growers of this variety, maintain that its heads are broad, of medium length, full of plump, heavy, red grains; blue straw, stiff, and of medium height, and consider it of the most important additions to the list of winter wheats which have been made in many years. They state that it has produced about 40 bushels to the acre by ordinary cultivation. It has the compact head of the Diehl, and the head and blue straw of the Mediterranean, and is very hardy. Some sample heads of this variety have been shown us, but do not commend themselves to our favorable judgment.

The Russian Red is another competitor for public favor; as its name denotes, it is of the red kind, and is a bald wheat. One seedsman in the U. S. states he has grown as high as 60 bushels to the acre, and also claims that it is midge proof. J. H. Zavitz, an enterprising farmer in Lobo township, speaks very highly of this variety, has

grown a good crop from it, and claims that it will weigh 69 lbs. to the bushel. The seed of this is said to have been procured at the Centennial Exhibition, in 1876.

The Rogers is another variety. The heads are of unusual length, with something like the appearance of the Clawson, but the kernels are more compactly stored. This wheat is a winter variety and originated in the eastern part of Pennsylvania. It has been grown for three years with the Fultz and Clawson, and has yielded much better than those kinds. It is a bald, white-chaffed wheat; has straw as stiff and much softer than Fultz. The yield from a five acre field this year



THE MARTIN AMBER.

on black loam, with clover sod and 100 pounds of phosphate, was 47 bushels per acre. On a fourteen acre field of light, sandy loam, without fertilizer, was 40 bushels to the acre.

The White Mountain, another new kind, is a beardless white chaff variety of fall wheat, with large white grains. It is claimed for hardness it has no equal; and as for productiveness, it is asserted 100 bushels have been raised from four bushels sowing. A considerable quantity was grown last year about Guelph. We have not ascertained what the yield is yet and how it has turned out this season, but hope to give a further brief report in Sept. issue on this and the Rogers wheat.

The Lancaster or Red Mediterranean, the bearded or improved Diehl, and Michigan Bronze, are under test, and sufficient reports are not yet to hand on which to pass even a superficial opinion.

#### 35 Dead Lambs.

We have heard from good authority that 35 lambs died recently on the Ontario Experimental Farm at Guelph; that they were in good order, even fit for the butcher, and were of different breeds. A skilled veterinary was called in, *post mortem* examinations made, and the verdict given was death by Tape-worm. We claim that the farmers should be immediately posted in any such case as this, and the cause and remedy given, if any is known; if not, let the question be asked publicly. Perhaps some of our farmers may aid us in giving the information. Thirty-five lambs are more than 25 per cent. of the lambs raised on the farm. We have had considerable experience with lambs for near 50 years, both in Canada and England, and never heard of anything like this—25 per cent. of the lamb crop lost when fit for the butcher, from the effect of Tape-worm! In what way has the disease been contracted to such an extent? Has this been caused by the food, and of what kind? Has it been imported? If so, whence? Is it likely to be spread by breeding stock from the farm? Should the Government Farm be placed under quarantine, or the stock be destroyed? Are sheep more liable to contract this disease than they formerly were? We would be pleased to have correct information in regard to this subject, but we wish the information in language the farmers can understand, and given in short space, so that it will not weary them to read it or crowd out better matter. We beg to call the attention of the authorities to this matter.

#### Wool or Mutton.

We condense the following from a contemporary: "It may be that wool can still be grown profitably, even on lands near the great cities. It must be admitted that more land is cultivated than is well tilled. Would it not be better to let more land lie in pasture for sheep, even under the present prospects, than to wear out men, teams and implements in scratching over eighty acres to get a forty acre crop? The production of mutton has received comparatively little attention from farmers, and the growing of lambs for the early spring market has not yet become a large industry near the large towns. Yet large, thrifty lambs sell well in March, April and May every year. There is no apparent reason for thinking they will not continue for years to do so, for the demand grows even more rapidly than does the supply. This is a branch of farming in which those at a distance could not compete with the farmer within a few hours' ride from town, because young lambs are too soft and tender to bear shipment any considerable distance. They soon shrink in weight, and their flesh quickly becomes dark, soft and unattractive when dressed, after a long ride in the cars. The question suggests itself, Could not the raising of mutton, and of early lambs especially, be made a profitable branch of farming, leaving the price of wool out of the question, by those living within a few hours' travel from any large city? In March and early April thrifty lambs sell at a price which is surely great enough to pay all expenses and leave something more than the manure for profit."

It is common to cut grain as low down as possible. Sometimes this is necessary to gather it all when felled by rains, but otherwise there is no advantage in low cutting. A long stubble is often an efficient protection for young clover in winter. It holds the snow, which would otherwise blow away.

This is the month for potting strawberry plants. Grown thus this month they will yield nearly as much next season as last spring set plants—that is if transplanted next month with all the earth that is in pots or boxes. Take two and one-half inch pots, or small boxes or berry baskets, or even inverted sods, and sink them in earth near the old plants and in their places the small plants, binding them to their places by small staves or a little earth; bring pots filled with heavy, rich soil; when large and well rooted, and ready to transplant, soak well with water, knock out of pots or boxes and transplant where wanted for fruiting.