

**A Contrast.**

ON THE WING, No. 2.

On the 13th, 14th, and 15th we were in Oxford, Brant, Haldimand, Wellington and Peel. A drouth has now very materially affected the crops; the heat has been more excessive than for many years. The ripening of the fall wheat has been too rapid, and the grain will be materially reduced in size of kernel to what it would have been. The pastures are now dried and brown, and the spring crops are being very much injured; the root crops are also suffering. One effect of the drouth has been to advance the price of new cheese 2c. per lb., the quantity being greatly reduced.

The object of this trip in the wheat harvest was to obtain what information we could regarding the

## WINTER WHEAT,

to ascertain what to sow. We called on several farmers where we would be likely to obtain any information. We saw the Red Lion wheat, as it was called, the wheat that had been sold in large quantities at \$15 per bushel. We exposed this fraud to you as much as we dared do without incurring a liability of being ruined by the unjust libel law. Many of our farmers are materially injured by the gigantic swindle, despite the fact that members of Parliament repeated the remarks we then made in the house privately. No steps have been taken to punish or check these schemers.

We called on the leading seedsmen in Hamilton, Toronto and Guelph, having also visited many farms, including the Model Farm at Guelph. From this farm we expected that we should this time have been able to ascertain the necessary information, and have to go back to our old farm for reliable facts and good crops. We went over the test plots at Guelph, and were never more convinced of the dangers of attaching any reliance on reports from this institution about crops or fertilizers, as the inequality of the subsoil is so uneven; on those small plots where grains and fertilizers had been used, all receiving the same treatment, one spot would be short and nearly ripe, while another would be rank and green, and so on throughout nearly all the plots in such an uneven manner that correct results could not be given as to the yield or benefits; it is a great pity it is so, as this defect cannot be remedied.

A week later we were on the old Westwell Farm, where we first commenced our experiments. Here we had seen the crop in its different stages. The Scot and the Democrat wheat here surpass any of the old or new varieties we have seen; the soil is a clay loam; it is farmed by our sons to make a living from it the same as any other farmers.

We would still recommend the sowing of the Scot and Democrat wheat. On lighter lands some prefer the Michigan Amber or Egyptian, which is called by many other names. Some of the other varieties are doing well in some localities, but do not succeed near so well in others, and some that have been introduced with considerable blow are now being discarded. We had many new varieties sown last fall, but they were so bad we did not allow them to occupy the ground. We are and always have been on the lookout for any good reliable variety, and have thus been fortunate in introducing all the most popular varieties that are now grown, without

having been greatly injured by the clap-trap varieties.

On our farm we planted seven acres of an orchard. We had built up our calculations on the profits of our trees. The orchard has been planted from time to time, some twenty, some forty years ago. For several years past we have been much disappointed, as it has borne but very sparsely. It had been kept in pasture, and last year it was plowed to see if that would do any good. The result is that nearly every tree is overloaded; such a sight we never saw—seven acres with scarcely a blank of any kind. The crop is now estimated at over 2,000 barrels. If any pomologist wishes to see a sight, let him see this orchard at the present time. Of course there are some mistakes, some varieties are not as valuable as others; but more can now be learned from that orchard and the crops that have been raised on it, than from any other spot in Canada. In that orchard that now has thousands of barrels of apples in it, the first Fife wheat was raised that supplied the seed for all the western portion of Ontario; also the Early Rose and other potatoes, the Australian and Black Tartar oats, the Scot and Democrat wheats, which are now grown all over the Dominion. We presume half the farmers who grow these crops never knew where they came from. We have another test ground near this city, of which you will hear in future issues.

**The Seed Business.**

We have received the following circular and prepared form for our signature:—

**AMERICAN SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION.**  
WILLIAM MEGGAT, Wethersfield, Conn., President.  
ALBERT McCULLOUGH (J. M. McCullough's Sons), Cincinnati, O., Secretary and Treasurer.  
C. L. ALLEN, Garden City, N. Y., Assistant Secretary.

Secretary's Office, June 30th, 1887.

*Farmer's Advocate, London, Ont.*  
Dear Sir,—At the convention of the American Seed Trade Association, held in Philadelphia, June 14th, the following preamble and resolution was unanimously adopted. Not knowing whether or not it has been your practice of distributing seeds, as therein stated, I take the liberty of mailing you this copy.

WHEREAS it is the sense of this Association that the plan adopted by certain newspapers of distributing seeds as premiums or gifts to their subscribers is very prejudicial to the interests of the seed trade, and

WHEREAS this as well as any other free distribution of seeds tends to create the impression in the minds of the public that seeds have no commercial value, and that all seeds, irrespective of the care taken in their production, are reduced to one common level; therefore

RESOLVED, That this Convention as a body, and each member individually, do hereby pledge themselves to withhold from all papers following this practice any and all advertisements during the ensuing year, unless upon the written guarantee that such distribution shall be discontinued, and that the Secretary forward a copy of these resolutions to every member of the Seed Trade Association, and to every agricultural and horticultural paper published in the United States and Canada, and also to such religious and secular papers as have adopted the plan which we aim to discountenance.

Would be pleased to have your reply on the enclosed slip.  
Yours respectfully,  
ALBERT McCULLOUGH, Secretary.

We,.....publishers of.....

do hereby pledge ourselves to discontinue the offering of seeds as premiums or gifts to our subscribers.

In response to this request we state that we emphatically refuse to sign this or any other pledge that we believe will be detrimental to the interests of our readers. We have disseminated the best cereal and other seeds that are now grown in this country; some we have presented, some we gave as premiums, and not one of our advertisers

in this country have ever objected to what we have done. It has been rather beneficial than otherwise to the honorable and reliable dealers in Canada, with every due respect to all our honorable American seedsmen with whom we have transacted business. We decline to sign such a pledge, and prefer paddling our own canoe unpugged. Should our patrons who are the best seedsmen on both sides of the line convince us that we have done them the slightest injury, we might alter our tactics without any pledge.

If this is commercial union, count us out. We will give our readers all the information about good seeds we can. We have expended many hundreds of dollars on our experimental plot this year, and we intend that our readers shall profit by it.

There may have been very great injury done by the free distribution of government seeds in the States, and many unscrupulous persons have profited by disseminating our seeds and obtaining fabulous prices for them. But the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is not a party organ, has done no injury to the seed business or its supporters, and is not conducted under secret pledges of any kind. We look on this as a tendency to suppress liberty and freedom, although it may in time become necessary in Canada for seedsmen to join this association. We consider that the word Canada might have been left out of this circular.

**Notice to Seedsmen and Others.**

We have previously given \$100 to exhibitions to be expended for prizes. This year we purpose expending \$100 or £20 as premiums for the best seeds, etc., therefore we will offer \$50 or £10 for 4 ounces of either spring or fall wheat that bids fair, after testing, to be of more value than any of the varieties of spring or winter wheat we have already introduced. \$25 or £5 for 4 ounces of any potato that bids fair to be of more value. \$25 or £5 for the most promising variety of vegetables. \$25 or £5 for the most promising variety of fruit. This offer is open to all the world. Any seed or plant must have been previously tested and proved worthy of trial, and must be a variety not now known in Canada. No old variety with a new name will be entitled to receive the award. We have a test ground on which we test new varieties. The award will be made after a fair trial. None of the varieties so sent will be disseminated without permission of the senders, and information about valuable varieties will be given in the ADVOCATE.

**FARMING IN PENNSYLVANIA AND ONTARIO.**

We take the following extract from The Week, by a writer signing himself FAIRPLAY RADICAL: "Value of land and farm buildings per acre: Pennsylvania, nearly \$50; the nine counties nearest Toronto, \$59.20; the Middlesex group of seven counties, \$55.76. Gross value of produce raised by those engaged in agriculture per head: Pennsylvania, \$431; on rented Ontario farms as a whole, \$585. So that it is clear that at present the Ontario farmers are better off in most cases than the United States farmers. Pennsylvania agricultural prosperity is far above the average of the other States of the Union."

Seventy-five percent of the lard sold in Boston is a spurious and adulterated article. It is well known that this bogus stuff is composed of such innocuous materials as cotton-seed oil, beef fat and mutton tallow.