

wheat and potatoes in America. For instance, where is the Blue Stone and Soules wheats? Where are the Pink Eye and Peach Blow potatoes? These were the best varieties known a few years ago, and perhaps may in a few years take their places as the best varieties again; but should they do so, they would be introduced under a new name. In the State of Ohio, in the vicinity of the Iron Mines, the Democrat wheat was originated; from there it has spread, and as a hardy, productive wheat, of the best milling qualities, in our opinion there is none to surpass it at the present time. This we say judging from what we have seen, heard and tasted. It is a bearded variety and of an amber color. We have seen it growing on Mr. F. Shore's farm, in Westminster township; Mr. S. thinks his is the best field of wheat in his township. Others speak very highly of it. Still as it resembles an old variety so closely, we should be inclined to take it for an old variety were it not claimed that the originator was a careful person, and some Americans claim there is a difference in the grain.

The Democrat wheat we first introduced into Canada last year. The old Scott wheat, beardless and having a white chaff and a red grain, is a safe, reliable wheat that makes excellent flour. These two varieties we consider will, on an average, be found unsurpassed, taking all things into consideration. The Fultz wheat some claim to be equal or superior to the above varieties. It is a good wheat and should be tried. The Clawson we consider the safest white wheat to sow, but as the flour is not of as good a quality as that made from the wheats above mentioned, we do not commend it. The weakness of the flour made from the Diehl wheat has undoubtedly tended to reduce the standard of our flour. The Gold Medal, Victor or Soules varieties do not appear to gain in favor.

If you have the Michigan Amber, the Silver Chaff, the Mediterranean, or any other old variety that is doing well with you, by all means sow it. Any fresh variety should be introduced with caution.

Agricultural Education.

In a recent number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE we urged our educational authorities to introduce into our common schools the elementary principles of those sciences with which agriculture is so intimately connected, and that in grounds attached to our school house the pupils should become conversant with the principles of horticulture, forestry and botany. The subject is, we find, attracting attention at the great centres of education in Great Britain. One of the topics of the highest importance brought before the meeting of the Royal Agricultural Society of England was that of instruction in the rudiments of agriculture in primary schools. The committee of the society had received letters from Canon Girdlestone, one of the most eminent educational authorities of the age, and from Mr. Williamson, of Harrow, that venerable seat of learning, the first on teaching the knowledge of common things in agriculture, and the second on teaching the elements of gardening in primary schools.

That practical agriculture can be most thoroughly learned on the farm, and from a farmer who knows and practices it, we have always maintained, and we also assent to the views expressed by Canon Girdlestone, "that it is very desirable that reading books on the common things connected with farm labor should be used in rural schools, and that a knowledge of these should be added to the special subjects, for which a grant may be obtained." We would not by any means deprive the pupils of the opportunity of acquiring general in-

formation. Such opportunities they now have; but why, we ask, should even the rudiments of a knowledge of those subjects that will engross their energies during their approaching manhood be excluded from their early education? It is justly insisted on that there should be provided suitable class reading books on farm life, which would be read as a matter of course by those young people, who would in a very few years be the farmers, the yeomanry of the country, and on whose present education and training the prosperity and independence of the Dominion will mainly depend.

In our High Schools and Collegiate Institutes the pupils are now trained in the rudiments of military discipline, thereby marking the country's recognition of the great advantages to be derived from an early education preparatory for possible future events. How much more practicable and really useful would it be to make our common schools subsidiary to the science and practice of agriculture, that is certain to be the life-long pursuit of the great majority of our Canadian youth.

This agricultural education would not be wholly limited to the elementary books. The teachers would be able to make it more practical. Many of them at present have some knowledge of the science, and they who have not would soon acquire it so far as to enable them to impress on the minds of the pupils the lessons studied.

At a meeting of the committee of the above mentioned society a fear was expressed that an attempt would be made to give technical education, and that the best education boys in the rural schools could have was a good general education up to 12 years of age, and then go to work. The idea that such a measure as we propose would not be of universal utility is entirely baseless. Even in the employment of farm labourers we all know the superior advantage of employing skilled labour; and surely none can deny the much greater necessity for the employer of labour to be master of his business than for the mere workmen. For the farmer as well for persons in other professions a good education in all that pertains to his business is as advantageous, we might say, as necessary, as a sufficient capital.

Let there be demand for such elementary school books as will direct the young enquiring mind in agricultural pursuits, and they will be soon forthcoming, the demand will bring the supply; so have they found it in England, so would we find it here. Canon Girdlestone, who has been prominent in this progressive movement, has been in communication with an eminent firm of publishers, and they have under consideration the bringing out of books suited to the requirements of the case.

Let our Boards of Education take up this subject; Canada, always eminent for her educational system, let her in this matter, pursuing the example of England, make her education more practical, that it may bring to maturity the fruit it is so well qualified to bear.

English Letter. No. 28.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Liverpool, July 20.

The other day I called on your respected government agent here, Mr. Dyke, and found him excessively busy preparing and arranging samples of cereals, natural grasses, soils, woods, &c., &c., from various parts of the Dominion, and intended for exhibition at the Royal Agricultural Show, which is to be held shortly at Derby. I intend being present at the show, and shall make a point of jotting down anything that will interest your readers, and especially, of course, the Canadian stand, which will be to the right of the main avenue, and in a capital position. I have previously had occasion to point out the immense benefit of such exhibits; and those of you who have choice specimens of grain or any other natural products will be greatly strengthening Mr. Dyke's hands and doing a substantial service to the Dominion by transmitting samples to him for exhibition at the shows here during the coming autumn and winter.

English farmers are a hard-headed matter-of-fact race, and a good sample of grain or roots—anything which shows, in fact, what the country can do, is a more powerful argument in their minds than a cart-load of reports and statistics.

The season here continues moderately favourable. Hay making is now general throughout the southern and western districts, and wheat and other grains are gaining strength and shooting fairly well. The fly has been rather mischievous amongst the turnips, but otherwise farming operations in this country seem to be in a fairly good way. Unfortunately for them, however, outside competition is so severe that they can only just hold their own in the best of seasons, and when a bad one comes, there is no reserve from good years to fall back upon. No wonder, then, that the feeling in this country in favor of some measure of protection for home trades is steadily gaining ground. If Canada and our other chief colonies or dependencies could only be brought into a sort of commercial federation with the home country, to the prejudice and confusion of all outsiders, what a great thing it would be for them and for us! It would secure a magnificent market to you for all you had to sell; a good and growing market for our manufacturers, and afford a chance for the English tillers of the soil to get a decent living.

I am sorry to say that the cattle markets during the past month have been very unsatisfactory, and must have resulted in severe loss to the importers of Canadian cattle. As bearing on the above remarks, I should think a margin of say 20 per cent. in your favour, as against all outsiders, in the English markets would be good enough for you to give us free trade for all we could send you in return. Reciprocity is much abused here by those enlightened beings who think that we can go on forever on the principle of growing everything, and receiving nothing in return; but I am persuaded that the time is rapidly coming when our free trade must be limited to those who give us free trade in return, and I think the Dominion, above all others, will be supremely wise if it puts its affairs in order, so as to be ready to make the first and best bid when that inevitable day comes.

The present depression in the cattle trade is, however, in some degree due to the "cornering" of the trade last spring. The syndicate then formed engaged all the shipping then obtainable at very high rates in the hope of their being able to purchase cattle from the farmers at their own prices, whereas cattle are now being shipped from the Canadian ports by outside steamers at about 50 per cent. under the rates paid by the "syndicate." It will now have been proved to their satisfaction that a trade of such magnitude cannot be controlled by any clique; and perhaps it is better for all concerned that it is so. It may also be of interest to your readers to learn that although certain steamship companies have been receiving \$25 to \$30 per head, a rate which it is anticipated they will never see again, a prominent line of steamers running from Boston offer their available space for the remainder of this season, at £1 or \$5 per head from that port to Liverpool. The plain fact of the case is that a portion of the space occupied by cattle could not be utilized for any other purpose, and it is stated that stock has been brought across the Atlantic for the absurdly low freight of 15s., or less than \$4 per head.

I note by the Canadian papers that your farmers of the Maritime Provinces have been much agitated recently by the cattle and meat trade, and as an outcome of this agitation a very extensive order has been sent to Mr. Simon Beattie by parties at St. John, New Brunswick, for cattle, sheep and pigs, which are to be despatched immediately after the Royal Agricultural Show at Derby.