

ETOBICOKE TURNIP MATCH.

The match comprised ten competitors, paying one pound each; the Agricultural Society, for the encouragement of root culture adding the sum of five pounds, making a total of fifteen pounds, which was divided into three premiums, £6 5s., £5, and £3 15s., respectively.

Toronto, Nov. 14, 1857.

Thomas Musson, Esq., Sec. Etobicoke Agricultural Society.

DEAR SIR,—We the undersigned having been appointed, with Mr. George Leslie, (whose unavoidable absence we regret); judges of turnips, and instructed to assign three prizes to the three best specimens of turnips, of not less than one acre each, beg to report as follows:—

On the 10th and 11th instant, we inspected the turnips of the six competitors who had resolved on standing the trial. In each case we measured off a space 33 feet square, equal to the fortieth part of an acre, in what appeared to be an average portion of the field, and after topping the bulbs the produce was carefully weighed, a process much better calculated to secure trustworthy results than the most exact measuring.

We shall state briefly a few facts and inferences relative to each growth, in the order of the amount of produce, beginning with the largest.

Mr. Robert Conway, near Weston, in the Township of York, had a splendid piece of purple and green top Swedes of about two acres. The ground was deeply ploughed in the fall after potatoes, and liberally manured with farm-yard dung. Turnips sown about the middle of June, with a slight dressing of the same kind of manure, in drills 24 inches asunder. The soil a lightish loam resting on a thick stratum of gravel. The latter fact will in a measure account for the soundness and superior quality of the bulbs after so wet a summer. The space measured (one-fortieth of an imperial acre.) yielded 1642 lbs of excellent well-grown turnips. Estimating a bushel of Swede turnips at 56 lbs, this would be at the rate of 1173 bushels per acre!

Mr. William Lee, of York Township, near the Don, dressed with stable-yard manure, purple-top variety, in drills 20 inches apart, sown 10th of June. A light soil, resting on a wet subsoil. Bulbs rather small, with a strong inclination in some to decay, and long necks or shanks; owing, no doubt, to the wetness of the soil and the peculiar character of the season. Yield 1129 lbs., being at the rate of 887 bushels to the acre.

We were much interested in observing the operation of some covered drains in the same field, four feet deep. They were laid with three-inch pipes, and have kept running through the whole of the summer, discharging an immense amount of water. Mr. Lea manufactures various kinds of draining tiles, pipes, &c., of excellent quality.

Captain Shaw, near the city of Toronto—Sowed in drills 20 inches apart, about the middle of June, after a dressing of farm-yard manure. Soil, a lightish loam; but the subsoil appeared wet, and the crop, both as to quantity and quality, had severely suffered thereby. The season had evidently been too unfavourable for the usual display of the Captain's skill and perseverance in root culture. Many of the bulbs were rapidly decaying, and distinguished by long necks. The produce was 1052 pounds, or 751 bushels per acre. That the inferiority of the quality and style of growth in this crop was owing to the peculiarity of the season, and not to the impurity of the seed, is in this instance most conclusive. Last year Captain Shaw's purple tops were well grown and sound. He had a considerable portion of old seed left, which has produced this season turnips inferior in size and quality with long necks, &c. Indeed, on wet lands in particular, this tendency has been obvious in other productions during the late remarkable season.

Mr. E. W. Thomson, Aikenshaw, York Township—Purple tops, sowed in drills 28 inches apart, with farm-yard manure. Soil light, dry, and sandy. Previous treatment liberal; bulbs of uniform, moderate size, well shaped, devoid of long shanks, and perfectly sound. Yield, 1019 pounds, or 728 bushels to the acre. Sown about the middle of June.

John Clayton, near the Hamlet, in the Township of Etobicoke.—Soil light and sandy; sown in drills only 18 inches asunder; no manure; had turnips last year on the same ground, well manured with farm-yard dung; bulbs small, with symptoms of decay.—Yield, 928 pounds, being equivalent to 663 bushels per acre.