

A Mistake.

The editor of the *Germantown Telegraph* is opposed to the packing of the snow upon fields of wheat by rolling it, in order that the snow may remain on the ground longer and thus protect the roots from the freezings and thawings of early spring. He says:

We think this is a mistaken policy, and will give our reasons for it. The packing of the snow closely upon the grain is liable to shut out the air, and in that event it will destroy the wheat instead of protecting it. We doubt if there is a farmer forty years of age in any of the States, where the temperature falls to zero at any time, but who can recollect that when heavy snows have fallen, followed by a freezing rain or sleet completely coating the snow, they have proved most disastrous to the wheat crop.

We would suggest, on the contrary, that instead of rolling the snow roll the wheat as early in the spring as the ground will admit. This will force the roots, which the alternate thawings and freezings may have spewed out, back to their natural position, and will completely restore the crop, which otherwise might be seriously damaged by the exposure of the roots and the lack of support to the growing stalk.

We have tried this and know of the happy results that followed. We have been told of others who have followed the advice we gave them several years ago to this effect, and they all have testified to the same.

A New Wheat (?)

We have received from the Secretary of the North Lanark Agricultural Society a sample of wheat and a circular, giving a most flattering account in regard to it. The wheat sent has a very large and white kernel; it is claimed to be a spring wheat, and is sold at a high figure under a new name. Our opinion is asked regarding it. We feel justified in saying, if the sample sent us is spring wheat, we feel satisfied that it will never be of service to Canadians; we have seen too many samples like it tried. There will be plenty of green people, who do not take the *Advocate*, that may be induced to invest in it. We would advise our subscribers to leave it alone. We have seen no account of the wheat from any reliable seedsmen, and if any good, new seed is procurable they will be sure to have it. Do not be led away with circulars, dodgers, or talkers. We have also two other letters enquiring about it. We deem it best not to mention either the name of the wheat or the vendor.

According to *Land and Water* sunflowers are raised to a considerable extent in Russia for the sake of "a very clear and palatable oil" expressed from their seed, and which, like cotton-seed oil, is used, after purifying, "for adulterating olive or salad oil."

Sharpless' Seedling Strawberry.

With pleasure we now give the accompanying illustration of this new strawberry. We have never seen the plant or the fruit, and know nothing about it, further than what we glean from others. Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry are gentlemen of wealth and position, and have a name of honor to maintain, which now stands as high as that of any nurserymen or florists in the States. We quote the following from their catalogue:—

Large to very large in size, an average specimen measures about one and a half inches in diameter. A specimen exhibited at the Nurserymen's Convention, held in Rochester, June 20, 1878, weighed one and a half ounces and measured 7 inches in circumference. Generally oblong in form, narrow-



SHARPLESS' SEEDLING STRAWBERRY.

ing to the apex, irregular, often flattened. It is a clear light red in color, with a smooth shining surface. Its flesh is firm and sweet, with a delicate aroma, first in quality. The plant is vigorous and luxuriant, hardy and prolific.

A new variety having fruited with us (Ellwanger & Barry) several seasons, we have no hesitation in recommending it as the largest and best strawberry now in cultivation.

As all new plants are sold at high prices, they sell single plants at 25c. each. We have made such arrangements that we can send every old subscriber two plants if they will send us one new plant subscriber to this journal.

Stock.**The Fat Stock Show in Chicago.**

The first Show of Fat Stock ever held in the U. S.—at least the first show of any prominence—was that which closed on the 7th Dec. in Chicago. The design was to encourage the rearing and feeding of the best meat-producing animals, and to reward those who have made efforts in this work; to give opportunity for a comparison of breeds, in a competition in which the test should be adaptation for the butcher's block rather than the possession of "fancy points." The show was not perfect; it was not so largely attended as it

ought to have been, and the State Board of Agriculture, under whose auspices it was held, will doubtless have to make good some deficiency of receipts, but it paid its cost, nevertheless, in its general good results. In the cattle classes—which included animals not from Illinois only, but from Kentucky, Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Canada—by far the largest showing was of Shorthorns and their grades; next came the Herefords, then a few Devons.

The judging was done entirely by practical butchers, and the awards, in general, commanded the hearty approval of the best judges among the spectators. One of the lessons emphasized by the committees in their awards and in their reports is that:—Great size and excessive fatness are not necessarily points to be greatly desired. The views of these experts—for they were carefully selected for their practical experience and knowledge—are thus summarized:—The earliest matured steer is the most profitable for the feeder, butcher and consumer, and the development and most rapid growth of young cattle should be encouraged. Feeders and breeders are strongly urged to grow block steers, reasonably small in bone and short in leg, neat in head and neck. The best bullocks for the butcher and consumer have square, broad backs, carrying the width and thickness of loin from hip-bone to shoulder-blade; well rounded and filled with firm but mellow flesh from behind the shoulders to the last rib; filled well down in flank, making the hind-quarter

ter equally well developed with the forequarter, and carrying flesh down to the hock.

No award of the committee's excited general criticism except that on "the best car-load of steers;" yet in this the committee carried out their views. Probably a majority of the onlookers expected the first prize to go to ten steers shown by Messrs. Van Meter & Hamilton, of Kentucky, averaging nearly four years in age and 2,251 lbs. in weight, and certainly this was a remarkable collection of steers; yet the committee placed it third, giving first prize to a lot entered by Mr. J. D. Gillett, of Illinois, averaging probably, a few months less in age, and 2,040 lbs.; with second prize to a