

Frauds in Seed Grain.

Farmers should be careful that the seedsmen and others from whom they purchase grain are thoroughly reliable. During the past few years we have heard of several disgraceful incidents where farmers have been imposed upon by salesmen who sold them common varieties, representing such to be a new and highly praised sort. In other words, the salesman substituted one sort for another. The farmer ordered a high-priced kind, the salesman supplied him an old and cheap variety, knowing it to be such. Not long ago Mr. Frank Shore ordered a new white wheat from a certain house, paying a high price therefor. In a few days he received what was represented to be the sort he ordered, but what was in reality an entirely different kind, not a new wheat nor a high-priced one, but simply a substitute which was represented to be the high-priced variety ordered. Mr. Shore, being an expert, detected the fraud at once, but he failed to get the sort ordered nor was his money returned. Another case which came under our notice was that of Mr. G. W. Monk, M. P.P., Carleton Co., who ordered three or four promising wheats. All were sown in one field. The next year one of our staff visited his farm and found but one variety true to name, and it was badly mixed. We believe this dishonorable method of doing business is practised to a considerable extent, not alone with fall wheats, but more largely with other grains and seeds. Farmers are thus victimized every year. If this treachery was only the theft of the cash which represents the difference in the value of the sort ordered and the one sent, the loss to the farmer would not be so great, but the trouble does not end there. The value of the test which the buyer wished to conduct is entirely lost, and if an undesirable sort was substituted, the crop is lost also. A great many farmers in Ontario during the last two or three years have lost their rape crop, because a worthless variety was sold to them for the true sort. The crops thus lost varied in area from a few acres up to twenty or more. Not only did these men lose two crops, but their land was filled with the seeds of a weed little better than wild mustard. The following letters bearing on this point have just been received by us:

DEAR SIRS,—I do not know of any new varieties of fall wheat, but I believe purchasers and farmers are duped by seedsmen and sharpers placing old varieties on the market under assumed names. The time has come when a means to prevent it should be sought for. I think your plan a desirable one of publishing all such information as you can obtain from reliable sources.

G. R. BRADLEY, Manotick, Ont.

DEAR SIRS,—Very little fall wheat is sown and only of old varieties in this vicinity. The few patches that are sown promise fairly well. I am beginning to think that some of our seedsmen are not doing the right thing in other seeds, as I order a great deal every spring for farmers and find old varieties sent under new names, some of them worthless. I think if Patrons take this matter up they can force just conditions. I am glad to see you speak favorably of the Patrons, and if they only wield it well, this movement will be one of their best weapons for defence. Hay is a good crop here. Other crops look fair all through.

Yours very truly,

JAMES H. ESDTON, Curry Hill, Ont.

Before ordering new sorts of grain or other seeds the buyer should study the appearance of the variety, so as to know it at sight when this is possible. Demand the sort ordered and accept no other. We have a number of reliable seedsmen in Canada, whose description of varieties can be relied upon. In all cases, deal with a reliable house, and remember the men who deal in good and honest seed cannot and will not compete in price with the sharpers who make their money by fleecing their customers, nor can men who deal only in good goods well cleaned, sell as cheaply as the men who buy and sell only cheap and inferior stuff. At the request of a reader, we shall be pleased to carefully describe any sort of seed grain at any time. We desire our readers promptly to report to us any cases of substitution or other frauds in supplying seed grain, stock or other goods.

A first-class turnip harvester can be made by taking an old iron plow, remove the mouldboard, and put two five-eighth-inch iron rods in its place, about the same slant as the mouldboard was. The rods can be bolted to the sole almost together, and spread till they are four or five inches apart at the outer ends. Get a knife eight inches long welded to the wing of the share, having the outer end inclining forward. To use this implement top two rows into one with hand hoes, and run the plow along close to the row, so as to cut off the larger roots, while the two iron rods will tip the turnip into the row without tops, thus throwing two rows of clean turnips into one. Four acres a day can be taken up in this way.

Toronto Industrial Fair.

Toronto's Great Industrial Exhibition, September 4th to 16th, is universally conceded to be the greatest of all annual fairs on the continent. To the farmer, stock breeder, manufacturer and artisan of the Dominion, what great possibilities have been developed through the medium of this great annual fair—what hitherto undreamed of resources have presented themselves! Few realize the immense value and importance of these annual events to the Province and Canada at large. The grounds, containing over one hundred acres, are most beautifully situated on the shore of Lake Ontario, on the western outskirts of the city. The Exhibition buildings are commodious and complete in every respect. The near presence of the waters of the lake adds a charm to the surroundings. From almost every point of view some glimpse is gained of this wide, restful expanse of unsalted sea. One hundred thousand dollars have been expended this year in making vast improvements. New roadways have been laid out, buildings enlarged, and new buildings erected on the latest and most improved plans. The new horse stables and cattle sheds are models of comfort and perfect arrangement. Outside doors admit the animals to their stalls; a passageway twenty feet wide extends through the centre of the sheds under a covered archway, which connects the buildings, and thus enables visitors to view the animals without discomfort even in inclement weather. These stables will also be lighted with electric light. Improved changes have also been made in the carriage hall, agricultural building, dairy and apiary building, and in fact all have received due attention. The grandstand, seven hundred feet in length, is the finest to be found anywhere in this or any other country. The approach to the stand has been improved, the walks inside and out are laid with granolithic pavement, while the lawns thereabout have been re-sodded and present a most refreshing appearance. Many important features have been introduced by the management during the past few weeks. Chief among these has been the provision of seats placed throughout the grounds for those who become tired and worn out by sightseeing. The supplying of electric light to all parts of the grounds is another matter for congratulation. The entries this year are larger than ever before, and everything points to the grandest and most elaborate display of the wonderful resources of the Dominion of Canada that has ever been seen. The electrical exhibit will display apparatus for cooking and the heating of houses by electricity, also of flat-irons which may be used continuously without being placed upon the stove.

The horse and cattle exhibit will be larger and finer than ever, a result largely due to the increased and improved stabling accommodation. The prize list for stock has been extended in several classes, and a new and full class made for standard-bred horses. The cheese exhibit will eclipse all previous displays. The prominence and excellence accorded to Canada's big cheese at the World's Fair has tended to awaken a lively interest in this special product amongst the cheese-makers throughout the Dominion. There are 300 entries, representing 900 cheese of 40 pounds each, equal to eighteen tons of solid cheese. These entries are from every quarter of the Dominion, including Prince Edward Island. This monster exhibit clearly indicates that competition will be exceedingly keen and spirited. Other dairy products of butter, etc., will be largely exhibited, and promise to excel in test of quality and fineness anything hitherto seen.

Words of highest praise are due Manager Hill for the tireless energy, keen foresight and sound judgment displayed, as well as the consummate skill in arranging the vast details of Canada's Great Fair. It has ever been his aim to make the Toronto Exhibition the greatest annual show on the continent. How well he has succeeded we need only point to what has already been accomplished. Farmers, stock breeders and everybody in general should take the time to visit the fair, and see the marvellous evidences of Canada's agricultural and industrial growth.

Commendation.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

DEAR SIR, The writer reads somewhat carefully all of the best agricultural papers in the States and Canada, and cannot refrain from sending you a few lines in appreciation of your most interesting and reliable journal. We feel especially interested in agriculture in the Dominion, and it is a great satisfaction to keep in touch with the progress of affairs there by reading your paper.

We write thus, not that our commendation is of any special value to you, but because it is a pleasure to record our opinion of your most trustworthy paper.

There are many hundred agricultural papers in America, and yet out of this number there are not over twenty really deserving the name, and in this list yours rank among the foremost.

Yours very sincerely,

AMERICAN FARMER CO.,

A. S. Porter, Editor,

Springfield, O., Aug. 22, 1893.

The Western Fair.

In less than two weeks from the date of our September issue, the Western Fair, one of Canada's leading live stock, agricultural, horticultural and fine art exhibitions, will have opened its gates to the public, extending a hearty welcome to all of its old patrons, as well as to those who may never have had the pleasure of visiting it before. Since the incorporation of the Western Fair Association in 1888, they, the Board of Directors and management, have at all times worked hard and studiously to gratify exhibitors and visitors. Each year the receipts have increased and each succeeding fair has surpassed its predecessor, a convincing proof of the popularity attained. Entries in every class are fast coming in, which is an indication that each department will contain a full and elegant display. The exhibit of live stock will be materially increased this year, owing to the fact that there are no other exhibitions on the same dates. This will enable all the eastern exhibitors and others who used to divide their attention among such fairs as Hamilton, Montreal and Ottawa to visit London. A word of warning might be well in passing to those who purpose exhibiting in this department to secure their stabling and space by making their entries at once. A large number of the stalls have already been taken, and many will want location which perhaps they will be unable to get on account of their own negligence. There is sufficient time from the closing of this exhibition until the opening of the Ottawa exhibition for breeders to tranship their stock from one to the other. As the closing date for cattle and horses at the Chicago fair is Sept. 9th, this gives a clear week until the opening of the Western Fair live stock department. All of the other World's Fair live stock classes do not commence there until the week following the close of our exhibition, so that this is another reason that the Western Fair of 1893 will outstrip all its predecessors.

The Apiary Department. The information necessary to intending exhibitors as gleaned from the association prize list will be of interest. Therefore we append a summary as follows: Entries close Sept. 7th, and the fee is 25 cts. for each entry. The honey shown must be the product of the exhibitor, and arrangements can be made whereby the honey can be sold after the judges have made their award, provided the exhibit is maintained. The Ontario Beekeepers' Association have donated their usual amount of \$10.00 and the prizes have been slightly increased, but the alterations in the wording of the sections, as requested by the representative of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association, will greatly increase the display over that of last year, although it was a very creditable exhibit indeed. Each exhibitor is required to show 200 lbs. of comb and also extracted honey in sections two and three, section three being the best general display, with prizes \$20.00, \$10.00, and \$5.00. A special prize of \$20.00, section three, is offered for the newest and most practical invention for the use of apiarists. This should bring out some new ideas. Honey shown at the Western Fair finds ready market at highest prices, so little trouble is experienced by those who exhibit there. Mr. Martin Emough, a respected past officer of the Ontario association, and a man thoroughly capable and worthy in every respect, has been selected as judge in this department, so that competitors will doubtless receive their proper order of merit. The poultry department has been in the past very large and exceedingly attractive. The attention given to the appearance of the building deserves a word of praise, and is something it would be well for other exhibitions to follow. The exhibit this year promises to eclipse that of former shows. The chairman of this department is making preparations to have additional coops in readiness to accommodate the extra entries. Intending exhibitors should not fail to make their entries just as soon as they are in a position to do so, and not wait until the very last moment and then be the loudest with their complaints that sufficient or suitable space had not been reserved for them. Sept. 14th is the last day entries will be received. London has been definitely settled as the collecting and selecting point for Western Ontario exhibits for the Columbian Exposition, Chicago.

Various special attractions have been secured, and those of our readers who have not received a prize list or programme should at once call for one or drop a card to the Secretary, Thos. A. Browne, London, Ont.

Nine years' tests made at the Ohio Experimental Station show that the greatest quantity of fall wheat may be grown by sowing from five to seven pecks of seed per acre, and that beyond these limits fewer bushels are produced.