



Alsike Clover.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

Sir, It has been said by some that the Alsike Clover would not do well in Canada, that after the first year it would die out and fail to produce an abundant crop. That such is not the case, however, the sample I now send you will fully prove. It was grown by my brother, H. M. Thomas, of Brooklyn, Ontario, and was taken from the same field that last year produced eight bushels of seed to the acre, this being the third year's growth. The whole field is a swamp of clover, and a perfect wave of flowers. It has been in full bloom for four weeks, and will continue for at least a week longer. It is abundant in honey, and a perfect cloud of bees visit it every day. For two weeks past the weather has been so dry that other flowers have secreted but little honey. Even white clover has failed to secrete its usual abundance, but my brother's bees have continued gathering large supplies from the Alsike Clover, and storing large quantities of surplus honey. I would urge the growing of this clover as being one of the best honey-producing plants, while at the same time it is more productive as a hay crop than red clover, and better calculated for winter feed for cattle. Eight or ten acres will be found sufficient pasturage for forty or fifty stocks of bees, and will well repay the trouble of growing it. H. M. Thomas will again have plenty of the pure seed for sale, which will be advertised in proper time.

J. H. THOMAS.

Brooklyn, July.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—The sample of Alsike Clover accompanying the above communication, exhibits certainly a most luxuriant growth; some of the stalks even now, though somewhat shrank, measure nearly five feet in length, and the average of the bundle is four feet nine or ten inches; which, especially considering the recent dry weather, is sufficient evidence that this plant is at home in the locality. Mr. Thomas's continued success in the cultivation of this crop, and the favorable account which others also give in reference to their own experience with it, should induce Canadian farmers generally to give it a trial.

Fine Sample of Wheat.

We have received from Mr. Samuel Berriman, of Stamford, a splendid-looking sample of Soule's Wheat, the heads being fully six inches long and the stalks six feet. The date of the letter which accompanies the specimen is July 7th, and from the shrunk condition of the grain we judge it was gathered very green. We cannot therefore say how the yield would prove when ripe, but subjoin Mr. Berriman's account though we fear he will be greatly disappointed. "The sample," he says, "was grown in a light sandy soil, on the highest point of the mountain here, and distant about three miles from Niagara Falls and the Suspension Bridge. The subsoil is gravel, over one hundred feet deep. The yield cannot fall short of forty bushels to the acre.

"I have grown this description of wheat for sixteen years, regardless of midge, and with one solitary exception have done better than with any of the rough wheats, such as Midge-proof and Mediterranean.

"One acre of White Wheat is worth nearly two acres of red—in this way, supposing two acres in one field, the condition being the same in every respect, the one red, and the other white, both apparently equally good, if the red yield twenty bushels, the white will yield thirty. Now as to the price: if the red be worth \$1.30 the white will bring \$1.75. The straw also from the white is worth more than the red."

Bent Grass.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

Sir, I send you herewith a living specimen of a grass that grows somewhat abundantly in this city. It is the *Agrostis Alba* or *stolonifera* of botanists, and is known in common parlance as white bent-grass, or florin grass.

Unlike its congener, *Agrostis vulgaris* (red-top), it is not suitable for a hay crop, but it is one of the most valuable of known grasses for pasture, on heavy clay soils, or clay loams in moist situations, and when cultivated in such will surely double their productiveness. It will also prove very valuable to the landscape gardener in this country, for lawns and parks; making, when cut short and well trimmed, a thick green carpet with a soft nap.

As grass may be considered the basis of the farmer's wealth, I have sent you this specimen that some of your agricultural visitors may see it, and may possibly send other specimens to the exhibition at Hamilton.

A. KIRKWOOD.

Toronto, 22nd July, 1868.

SLEEP Ticks.—A correspondent writes:—"Have you used with success, and do you confidently recommend Miller's Tick Destroyer? This spring we used tobacco water for our sheep; whether we used too strong or not I do not know, but several of the lambs were found dead a few days after."

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—We have used and can recommend Mr. Miller's Tick Destroyer as an efficient remedy for sheep ticks. Tobacco requires to be used with the greatest caution. The writer adds a note respecting a weed which has been very prolific in his neighbourhood. The name is not clearly written. If he will send a specimen we can most likely tell him something about it.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO CANADA AUGUST 1 1868.

The Season.

In our last editorial on the weather and crops, opened July 30, we chronicled "recent heat and drought." Since then the conditions have continued with augmented intensity, so that at this writing (July 28), every green thing is well nigh dried up. It seems hardly credible that so great a change can have taken place in so short a time. Yet so it is, adding another to our many lessons concerning the mutability of earthly things, and the uncertainties that beset the farmer's calling. Spring grain and root crops have suffered very severely, but it is matter for congratulation that the hay and fall wheat escapes, being too early to be injured by the heat and drought. It remains to be seen how far the remainder of the season may repair damages, but at present all nature has a scathed appearance which tells but too plainly of the fiery ordeal through which it has passed. Nothing shows the severity of that ordeal more convincingly than the state of recently transplanted trees. The early part of the season was a most favourable one for tree planting, and there were scarce any failures. Now, however, it is widely different. There has been great mortality in new plantations, nor are there wanting instances in which old established trees have succumbed. Liberal mulching has proved the only successful protection. Where this has been practised, life and growth have been maintained with very few exceptions. Heat seems to agree with insect life. The plague of flies has been worse than usual. Grasshoppers have been very numerous. The Cicadas have made merry all through the hottest days. Gardens and orchards have suffered greatly from insect pests. "The little busy bee," however, is an exception. It has found the heat unbearable, and has done little for days together, but fan itself, like a "nothing-do" lady.

Emigration Documents and Arrangements.

We have before us the "Return" to an address of date 7th May, 1868, by the Senate of the Dominion Parliament for all the correspondence which has taken place from the first of January last to the date of the address, between the Minister of Agriculture and the various emigration agents in all parts of the Dominion, as also in any parts of Europe bearing upon the probable extent of immigration to be expected in 1868, and the arrangements made to meet and encourage said immigration; and the first report of the standing committee on immigration and colonization.

A very considerable number of the letters given in the "Return" are of very little general interest, referring as they do principally to estimates of the probable expense of each agency during the current season, with instructions on the part of the Bureau, that the plan of forwarding destitute immigrants from Quebec to their destinations would henceforth be discontinued, or at the very most that any allowance of the kind would only be made in very exceptional cases. Against the strict enforcement of this regulation the emigration agents urge some very strong objections.

It is somewhat difficult to strike the just medium in such a matter, for it is very manifest that the system of "forwarding" is liable to great abuses; and, as a matter of fact, we believe has been greatly abused. Sometimes this has been the case from persons presuming upon this arrangement, and being sent with means barely sufficient to land them destitute in Quebec, as it afterwards the Canadian Government would take all care and all expense, and treat such immigrants, and care and provide for them, as if they were children. Often also we believe this kindness has been abused by parties who had means, feigning poverty, in order to secure conveyance at Canadian expense. At the same time, to make anything like a very stringent regulation stopping all this, might sometimes inflict great injury upon very deserving and very suitable parties, and deprive the country of some excellent settlers. It would be likely also to levy an extra tax upon the landing places, and possibly to divert a good deal of the immigration from the St. Lawrence altogether; for, as the agents urge, it is not to be forgotten that, after all, the capitation tax levied on each emigrant more than meets all the forwarding outlay, and even those who land without any intention of remaining in Canada, benefit the railways to a very considerable extent, and expend a good deal for provisions as well; so that it would be a matter of regret if anything should arise to stop the course even of that immigration by the St. Lawrence from which our country derives the least benefit. We must acknowledge, at the same time, that we can see very little occasion for such excessive liberality as has been exhibited when parties have been "passed" through from Quebec to Chicago at Canadian expense. Let it be clearly understood that those who come to Canada must come prepared to work at the very earliest opportunity, and at whatever comes readiest to land, and that all that can in reason be expected is that they be helped to the nearest place where their labour can be made available, after which they must look to themselves for providing the means to take them "further west." Thousands and tens of thousands have found Canada a "good land;" but those chiefly have benefited by it who have most fully believed in self-reliance and self-help. The Government can do a good deal, and it ought; but it is not to be expected that it should do everything.

From the correspondence we do not learn that anything has been done during the winter of this year to ascertain what may be the wants of the country, and where may be the most likely places for immigrants finding employment and a home. From all that is here published one cannot learn that anything like systematic enquiry has been set on