

Antagonish, N. S.

REPORTED BY JOHN GREGORY, ANTAGONISH.

The seeds used here are all imported from Ontario, with the exception of oats and potatoes from P. E. Island and some grass and clover seeds from the States. The seeds used are always renewed every third or fourth year. All grain is sown broadcast. Of wheat Red and White Fyfe and White Russian are principally sown. I have always received the best results from White Russian, but I have never been able to get the seed unmixed. In all cases it is sown too thick, two bushels and sometimes three bushels being used to the acre. The yield will average about twenty bushels per acre.

Of oats I think the P. E. Island black oats are more sown than any other, but White Russian, White Egyptian, White Australian and Welcome are also sown. About three bushels is usually sown to the acre, and the average yield is about 30 bushels per acre.

Of barley both two and six-rowed are grown. I have always received the best results for two-rowed.

Report of the Co-operative Tests in Grain Conducted by the Experimental Union.

Mr. C. A. Zavitz, R. S. A., Secretary of the Committee on Agricultural Experiments, reported that this work had met with great success this year, and the progress is shown by the fact that in 1886 there were only 8 experiments with 33 plots; in 1892 there were 25 experiments and 1585 plots. In these experiments the varieties which do best on the College Farm are sent out; for instance, a farmer could not test 118 varieties of oats as we did this year, but he can with a few. The six varieties which have done best for the past three or four years are sent out. Some might think the quantity of grain sent out too small; but we started in 1888 with less than two pounds of the Joannette oats, and now they are scattered all over the province. The samples were first sent to the successful experimenters of last year, and then to good farmers in sections which are not represented, so that it will be seen that what we call co-operative tests are the results from nearly 300 successful experimenters, and include representatives from every county in the province. Those marked "at O. A. C." are the same experiments conducted at Guelph.

Spring Wheat—Six varieties, twenty-five experiments:—

	Co-operative Test.	At O. A. C.
Red Fern.....	19.6 bushels.	27.8 bushels.
Manitoulin.....	19.0 "	26.8 "
Heirson's Bearded.....	18.3 "	24.0 "
Pringle's Champion.....	18.3 "	23.7 "
Rio Grande.....	18.2 "	20.5 "
Holbein's Imported.....	17.3 "	22.6 "

Red Fern for milling quality.—The Millers' Association examined fifty-seven varieties, and there was a discussion among the committee as to whether they would put it in as a first-class milling wheat, but the majority were in favor of putting it as first-class. Heirson's Bearded had headed the list for four years, and is the heaviest wheat we have.

Barley—Six results of five experiments:—

	Co-operative Test.	At O. A. C.
Mandischuri.....	40.7 bushels.	53.0 bushels.
Oderbrucker.....	32.5 "	42.2 "
Common Six-rowed.....	30.7 "	42.8 "
Hallett's Pedigreed.....	27.8 "	39.0 "
Mammoth Cheyenne.....	27.2 "	30.0 "
Chevalier.....	26.2 "	31.0 "

The Duckbill barley stands second on the list for this year and last, but we have not put it in our report as we wish to test it further. The Mandischuri will not do so well for malting, but in yield for feed it will give good results.

There was more interest taken with oats this year than with anything else. The experiments were carried on by one hundred and twenty-four farmers.

	Co-operative Test.	At O. A. C.
Oats.....	57.6 bushels.	75.6 bushels.
Siberian.....	56.0 "	61.2 "
Bavarian.....	54.5 "	62.4 "
Oderbrucker.....	54.1 "	68.8 "
Poland White.....	54.1 "	61.0 "
White Tartarian.....	54.0 "	76.5 "
Joannette.....	53.3 "	76.5 "

Out of one hundred and eighteen varieties grown this year, the Oderbrucker stands highest with us. The Joannette is a very fine yielder, and has a thin hull; the straw is medium in length, but is a great stooler, and came second. The Black Tartarian stands out of eighty varieties, probably about two-fifths of the way down, but is very liable to rust. Regarding the stiffness of straw, I took down notes this year regarding the amount of straw lodged. The four first were very light; the White Tartarian medium, and the Joannette none. The Golden Giant stands head of the list of those tried for two years, of which there are about eighteen varieties. The Gothland stands about eighth.

Winter Wheat.—We sent out a year ago last fall many varieties of winter wheat in ten different sets; therefore, it is hard to make a summary of all the sets. We sent out with all the sets the Canadian Velvet Chaff; with half the sets the American Bronze, and with the other half the Jones' Winter Fyfe. Of twenty-seven experiments:

	Co-operative Test.	At O. A. C.
American Bronze.....	28.5 bushels.	52.5 bushels.
Jones' Winter Fyfe.....	30.9 "	47.1 "
Can. Velvet Chaff.....	26.2 "	45.3 "

What Our Seedsmen Write Us.

JOHN S. PEARCE & CO., LONDON, ONT.

In compliance with your request, we give you below a few of the leading sorts of seed grains, etc., that have proved valuable, and should be tried by the readers of your widely circulated and valuable paper:—

CANADIAN THORPE BARLEY (TWO-ROWED).

There is no doubt whatever that this is the best and most valuable two-rowed variety in cultivation to-day. It has many points of superiority over any other sort, and every one of our customers who tried this barley are more than pleased with the results. As a crop for feeding this is the best barley to sow, and now that hog raising and feeding is becoming an important adjunct of farm work and profit farmers will most decidedly consult their own interest by sending for and trying some of this barley.

IN SPRING WHEATS.

We have seen none better than the Colorado. This is the best and safest spring wheat to sow. While there are other sorts in the market, and by some are claimed to be very superior, our experience with them has not been satisfactory.

OATS.

Among the oats that we offer, the Abyssinian, American Beauty, Golden Giant Side and Rosedale stand at the side. The Abyssinian has proved a most promising variety, and one that all your readers should try. The Rosedale still holds its own among all its competitors. There is none better; very few, if any, to equal it. The American Beauty is another oat well worthy of trial by any one in need of fresh seed.

CORN.

No house in the seed trade has given this branch the care and attention that we have. We have the

best and truest sorts and brands of ensilage corns on the market. Our stocks are carefully grown and selected. Our M.S.S. still leads the van for large, sweet ensilage for sections of the country where it will mature, and Pearce's Prolific is head and shoulders above and ahead of any other sort for colder sections of Canada, such as Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Northern Ontario. Rural Thoroughbred White Flint is a good sort where it will mature sufficiently. Its germinating properties are not the best, and it should be only sown on good, warm, rich land, well-drained. In fact, corn should not be put on any other lands.

We have a new and very early dent, called Extra Early Huron Dent, which we are introducing for ensilage purposes, and have no hesitation in saying that it will prove a most valuable acquisition and will fill a long felt want, viz., an early dent that is as early as our early flint corns, such as Pearce's Prolific. This dent has proved itself to be such that your readers will do well to try this new and promising sort for fodder and ensilage.

Those who have not already received a copy of our catalogue for 1893 may receive one free by addressing John S. Pearce & Co., London.

GEORGE KEITH, TORONTO, ONT.

I would draw the farming community's attention to the undermentioned varieties of grain and seeds: In wheat, the Saskatchewan Red Fyfe is without doubt the finest spring wheat in cultivation, and should be more extensively raised in Ontario. The White Fyfe and White Russian are largely in demand. In oats the Black Tartarian is the best for all purposes, having a thinner hull and more food than any other, besides being a heavy cropper. I have a supply of these oats now on the way from Scotland. In barley the two-rowed varieties do not seem, as a rule, to do well here; the six-rowed is a more sure crop. In field peas the Mummy peas seem to be taking well, and are rapidly taking the place of the Common White. The Prussian Blue pea is much in demand for export, and should be more extensively grown. In fodder corn we have found the Red Cob White Ensilage a favorite variety. It has given satisfaction to all who have sown it. In roots, the Large Short White Vosses and Large White Belgian are the favorites in field carrots. The Mammoth Long Red amongst the mangels, and Keith's Scottish Champion Purple Top Swede, still hold the foremost position amongst the Swedes. The roots are smooth and round, and are utterly void of that irregularity in shape so prominent in other varieties. Many varieties of Swedes are apt to produce a heavy crop of "tops" in a wet season; but we are glad to say that after severe tests the Scottish Champion has clearly shown that it is no respecter of seasons; damp or dry it retains its well-known characteristics; large, smooth roots and small headgear. As much as 1,250 bushels have been cropped from an acre. This speaks for itself.

THE STEELE, BRIGGS, MARCON SEED COY (LTD.)

Campbell's White Chaff Wheat, in sections east of this, has done remarkably well, though in other sections not as well as the year previous. Colorado wheat has also been a success with many.

In barley the farmers hardly seem to know what to sow, the Two-Rowed or Six-Rowed, and we do not know of anything new in this line to offer.

In oats we find Early Gothland to have done remarkably well, and apparently has given every satisfaction, the reports from all sections giving the strongest testimony in its favor. This new Swedish oat we consider one of the best, and unhesitatingly recommend it as superior in all respects to any oat we have yet grown. They are different from other oats in the way they grow, being neither a side nor spangle, but growing closely and evenly around the main stalk. The oat in the field is handsome, and is very stiff in the straw; free from rust, and stands up well.

We know of no variety of corn that will take the place of Thoroughbred White Flint; it is by all odds the strongest-growing. And we feel confident that this corn will increase the yield per acre over other varieties of ensilage corns. It is of spreading habit; not more than one kernel should be grown in a hill. Its great suckering habit, breadth of blade and smallness of stock, recommend it as a fodder plant, while for ensilage purposes it is most valuable. This, with our Giant Prolific Sweet Ensilage, will now rank first for silo purposes. It is the cheapest corn, as eight quarts will plant an acre, at a cost of only 50c.

New varieties of potatoes are constantly being offered, and many claims made for their excellence. We find that Freeman, Green Mountain and American Giant are the three best for late potatoes, while Steele's Earliest of All and Burpee's supply the place for the earlier varieties.

Free Seed Grain.

We clip the following interesting item from the "Winnipeg Tribune":—Mr. R. Kerr, general freight and passenger agent of the C. P. R., to-day replies to the representations of a committee of the Grain Exchange, which recently waited on that gentleman and urged that the railway company again follow the concession of a year ago, and carry all seed grain from points within the province free. This was greatly appreciated by the farmers last season and largely taken advantage of, resulting in a much improved sample of wheat. Mr. Kerr has been in correspondence with the officials at headquarters, and on his recommendation the company has acceded to the request and will carry seed grain to and from points within the province of Manitoba free of any freight charges.

Seed Grain.

BY J. E. RICHARDSON, PRINCETON, ONT.

In a few months' time farmers will be commencing their spring work. Before spring opens up it would be well to take time to consider what different kinds of grain are to be sown. So much depends on the soil, that a farmer should be careful to sow grain that is adapted to his land. After deciding what kind of grain you intend sowing, say oats, peas, barley, the next question is, "What variety of the above is best? This is a question which is very hard to answer. One thing is very important, and this is, whatever variety you select, try to get it pure and free from foul seeds. Many farmers are very indifferent about getting pure seed. One says: "What does it matter if grain is mixed, it will all grow; I don't want to sell it for seed, and I get just as good a price for it at the market as if it were pure. And, besides, I can buy my seed from my neighbors at the market price; whereas, if I buy pure seed, I shall have to pay more for it." In answer, I would say, "Supposing you intend to sow six-rowed barley and buy some from your neighbor; when it comes out in head you notice it is badly mixed with two-rowed, and when the six-rowed is ready to cut, the two-rowed will want about twelve days longer to ripen. Either one or the other must be a poor sample, and when taken to the market will you get such a good price as if you had sown pure seed? Most decidedly not."

"Then, again, oats. Perhaps you may wish to sow a very early variety and find them mixed with a late kind. If you do not cut the early oats when they are ready, waiting for the late ones to ripen, the early ones will shell out badly in the field and be wasted; and if you cut the early ones when they are ready, the late ones will not be matured, and will be light, and when you thresh them the light ones will be blown out upon the straw stack."

So much has been written about foul seeds that I think it is hardly necessary to refer to them, but at the same time there is a large amount sold with grain every year. I remember one day I was cleaning up some wheat in my barn, when a neighbor brought over some wheat he wished to weigh on my scales. He was selling it for seed. After weighing the wheat, he asked me what I thought of it? I replied, "The wheat would look well if you would only clean it." He answered, "Well, I ran it through the mill once; my mill won't take out any of those seeds unless I run it through two or three times, and I might just as well take it to the market as do that, as I am only getting five cents a bushel above the market price, and possibly may have to wait some months before I get my pay for some of it." I may add that you couldn't take up a handful without finding seeds of cockle, red root, and even wild flax. This farmer sold between one and two hundred bushels of that wheat and foul seeds.

As to the variety of grain to sow, which I said was a hard question to answer. First of all, I would recommend every farmer to take a farm journal. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE, for instance, takes a great deal of pains in sending experienced men through the country to report on different varieties of wheat, etc., which report appears later in their valuable journal. Then, by reading the reports of the experimental farms, a large amount of information may be gathered. By looking through seedsmen's catalogues you can see descriptions of different varieties of grain. Lastly, by keeping your eyes and ears open, seeing what your neighbor has, watching his crop grow, enquiring the variety if you see a good crop, and listening to what any one may say regarding some new or good variety they may have tried.

World's Agricultural Congress, 1893.

Among the many World's Congresses to be held at Chicago during the Columbian Exposition, the Agricultural Congress will hold an important place. From every nation, men will come together for conference and discussion, who from practical and successful experience, patient and accurate research, or consequent official position, are able to report the condition of farming in their own lands, and to suggest the wisest and best means of removing obstacles, securing greater success, and advancing the conditions of land owners, working farmers and farm laborers. Topics of a broad and general nature will be discussed, concerning the principles rather than the working details of general farm culture, animal industry, horticulture, agricultural organizations and legislation, agricultural education and investigation, good roads, household economics and general questions of interest to all. The meetings will be held in the Art Institute, in Lake Forest Park, near the centre of the City of Chicago. This building has two large audience rooms for the principal meetings, and more than twenty smaller rooms, which can be used for the smaller meetings required for the consideration of special subjects. The Agricultural Congress will begin Monday, October 16th, and will last about two weeks. The Horticultural Congress will be held at an earlier date. Prof. E. G. Morrow, Champaign, Ill., is acting chairman.