

**Good Returns.**

C. S., Melville Cross, Cardwell Co., Ont., says: My White Elephant had 13 eyes. I split three of the eyes into 10 pieces and planted one piece in a hill, making 10 hills out of the three eyes. The other ten hills I planted one eye in a hill. They all grew and made a very strong growth. I had over 100 pounds of tubers from the 20 hills. The 10 hills from the three eyes grew as strong as the others and yielded as many potatoes. Some of them weighed over a pound each. I sowed the sorghum about the 10th of June; it only grew about three feet high, but branched a great deal. I do not think, however, it is of any use here, as our climate is too cold. We never grow corn here as a crop—only a little for boiling. The Washington Oats did not amount to anything. The asparagus grew well, but I cannot tell whether it will be any better than what we have at present, as it takes three years to grow before it is fit to use. The carnations and picotees have made a fine growth. The package of carnations was mixed with the Chinese Pinks; they came up about half carnations and half Chinese Pinks. I think that is the reason why some report the carnations as flowering this year. But the paper of Chinese Pink seed was the best of all. I took first prizes with them at all the leading exhibitions in this Province; first at the Industrial Exhibition at Toronto; first at the Provincial Exhibition, London; first at the Great Central Exhibition, Hamilton, and at three or four county shows.—[Rural New Yorker.]

**Farmers' Club at Syracuse.**

The Farmers' Club of Onondaga county, N. Y., which holds its weekly sessions at 10 a. m. each Saturday, is widely known for the intelligence and energy which have marked its proceedings. Having an opportunity for attending on a recent occasion, we are enabled to give a few brief memoranda of the discussions. About forty members were present at the time; we were informed that the attendance sometimes numbered as many as two hundred.

The principal subject for the day was the discussion of the question whether the soils of the county were wearing out. Mr. Edwards took the affirmative, and alluded to the fact that new lands needing nothing at first, required afterwards the continued addition of fertilizers to maintain their character. He said that all things were wearing out, that there were no standing still, and most of his remarks were of a general character, and not specially applicable to Onondaga county. Continents were formed by the wearing and disintegration of rocks, and the soils in turn were worn out by cultivation. In new countries manure was but little appreciated—he had seen the practice in Kansas of dumping manure into streams to get rid of it, but after a while all would be needed to supply the waste.

George Geddes had no sympathy with those newspaper writers who endeavored to make out that we were all going to the poor-house. He thought the members of the club then present were hardly a specimen of such destitution. He quoted in detail from the census reports, showing the increasing average crops per acre. He recommended the adoption of a new system of returns requiring assessors to make yearly reports of the crops, and at present in the absence of such returns superficial writers could more easily make out deterioration in the products of farms.

L. T. Hawley reported his experience on a field of ten acres, the first corn crop from which, after clearing out the stumps, bushes and other rubbish, was only three bushels per acre. Plowing deeper and giving continually good cultivation, the hay gradually increased, and the land now produces good crops. He thought much of the improvement came from gradually plowing deeper and turning up the natural elements of fertility.

W. W. Newman had observed that upland farms usually produced more the second decade than the first, and the third more than the second, and he thought the tenth decade would show a still greater improvement. New land produced straw; longer cultivated, it gave grain. He thought the farms of Onondaga county were gradually increasing in their average products, which is owing, at least in part, to the plow bringing up and mixing fertilizing elements.

George Geddes, in answer to an inquiry, remarked that a portion of his farm had not received any barn manure for seventy years, and the only fertilizers were clover and plaster. This land had a

bad reputation at first, but when the late J. Stanton Gould saw the grass growing on it some years ago, he said it was the biggest timothy he had ever seen.

Dr. Boynton spoke at some length, explaining the chemical operation of fertilizers. He had injured his pear trees by too heavy an application of stable manure. He had successfully applied ground bone and plaster to his young orchard of a thousand pear trees, and last year he sold \$300 worth of fruit from it, besides large numbers which were lost by premature decay.

Mr. Scott, of Clay, maintained that clover, plaster and good manure were quite sufficient to keep up the fertility of land, without resorting to the purchase of commercial fertilizers, and he urged the importance of saving all the manure of animals, liquid as well as solid, and preventing its washing away; and he particularly recommended winter spreading, and owners need not fear its washing away, as the same thawing that produced the water would thaw the surface of the soil and cause it to absorb the liquid. Well-conducted, diversified agriculture, with suitable rotation, would not carry off the mineral elements. Superphosphate, at \$35 per ton, he thought too high in price for farmers to apply largely. He had found an excellent preparation for wheat to consist of a crop of peas, fed to swine on the ground without gathering; and he recommended sheep husbandry as an important part of diversified farming.—[Correspondence Country Gentleman.]

**Wheat—Its Flouring Properties.**

IS EARLY CUTTING AN ERROR?

The following article from the American Miller is deserving the attention of every leading farmer in Canada; the subject would be a good one to bring up at the Farmers' Clubs. This journal is open for the views of any one that may hold different opinions on this subject. We admit that the straw is improved by early harvesting, and have been more favorable to early harvesting than we now are; the color of the grain may be improved by it, but we strongly favor the opinions set forth in the following extract:

"I am persuaded to place on file, with your permission, the result of an old miller's observations on the above-named subject—one whose hand was on the lighter screw years before the advocacy of early harvesting, when wheat was allowed to stand until fully ripe, and cut with the cradle. With our then modern mills we made more and a better using grade of flour from a given amount of wheat than we are doing to-day, by the new process, with all our milling facilities.

"This great change was caused by the advocates of early harvesting, and by the reaper. As evidence look at York State. Her flour once led the van in the world's markets, without word or comment, but immediately following the introduction of the reaper the first complaint ever offered came privately: 'Your flour works soft and sticky; what ails it?' Yet owing to the high standard of this flour in the English markets, it continued to sell year after year, though at a reduced price. This complaint became more emphatically expressed until Liverpool dealers became disgusted with it, and ordered their agents in New York to buy no more of the 'd—n doughy, sticky stuff.' This drove nine-tenths of the mill owners in the State to the wall.

"Again, six or seven years ago, we noticed in a Michigan paper an article taken from the Ohio Farmer, advising its patrons to harvest early. We also saw the following winter and spring Ohio and Michigan flour offered in the Boston market at \$6 per barrel, that ought to have brought \$7, and would, had it not worked soft and sticky. This complaint has always followed the advocacy of early harvesting, and always will. It is a natural consequence.

"Wheat in its last few days or even hours of ripening, undergoes a great change, as nature in her last efforts to perfect her work, expels the moisture from the berry. At the same time the berry absorbs the remaining glutinous matter from the straw, and granulation becomes perfect. The moment a stalk is cut this natural phenomenon of ripening ceases, and drying up ensues, which leaves a portion of the most valuable matter in the straw. Since the introduction of the reaper much wheat has been cut in an immature state, owing to the advocacy of early harvesting and the unevenness of ripening; and this wheat has been used as seed, to be again harvested in like condition, and thus served on until the berry has become

shrunken and deteriorated from the plumpness of a city alderman to that of a country parson. Thirty years ago, three-fourths to one and one-fourth bushels to the acre was called good seeding, producing a strong, broad-leaved healthy plant that was never known to winter-kill or run out, with good cultivation. Fully ripened wheat contains about 10½ to 11 per cent. of moisture, and varies under no ordinary circumstances one-half per cent. It therefore never becomes musty in the bins, and is always merchantable. When a broken kernel is viewed through a strong magnifying glass, it shows a perfect granulation from centre to outside, each cell of flour being distinct and separate, though closely packed, and of a milky rather than a snowy whiteness. It always grinds cool, freely and easily. The chaff has a dry, soft, elastic, mellow feel, always bolts freely, with the greater part of the offal in large, clean flakes of bran. 'Cut your wheat early.' This false and pernicious doctrine has ruined more mill owners than all else put together. Harvesting wheat in an immature state and allowing it to dry, or ripen, as it is called, in the shock, expecting a good flouring wheat, is analogous to drying half baked loaves by the stove, expecting good bread. At the present day it requires two or more bushels of seed to the acre; the plants produced are weak, subject to the attacks of parasites, and often winter-killed. This wheat at first marketing contains 12, 14, 16 and even 18 per cent. of moisture. It is therefore damp and unmerchantable, and soon musty in the bins; and when dried to a marketable condition grinds warm, or hot, with a withered toughness, leaving a portion of ungranulated flour adhering to the bran with a tenacity like unto Adam's sins, that no extra power of water by night will ever take off. "Yours, etc., OLD MILLER."

**Tar Water for Potato Bugs.**

Mr. S. R. Hart, of Brighton, N. Y., near Rochester, has for two years past used on his potato vines water which has been impregnated with gas tar. Two quarts of gas tar in a pail, and fill the pail with water; stir it up well, and let the tar settle. Then sprinkle the vines with the water from a sprinkling pot. This has proven more effective than Paris green. He has also tried it on currant bushes, and finds it equally effective. It is inexpensive and perfectly reliable, and no doubt will prove equally sure death to insects of every kind on trees. This gas tar can be had for \$1.00 a barrel, and one barrel would supply a whole township. I give you this information, believing you readers will find it a great desideratum in these days of insect pests.

**Ontario Fruit Growers.**

WINTER MEETING.

The Ontario Fruit Growers Association convened the 18th inst. in Hamilton, Ont., to discuss a programme prepared for this winter meeting.

Mr. P. C. Dempsey, of Albion, occupied the chair. There were present: Messrs. W. Saunders, London, vice-president; D. W. Beadle, St. Catharines, secretary; N. Halton, Hamilton; H. F. Young, Trenton; A. McD. Allan, Goderich; Geo. Leslie, jr., Toronto; John Magill, Oshawa; J. S. Woodward, Lockport, N. Y.; S. D. Willard, Geneva, N. Y.; L. Woolverton, Grimsby; W. E. Wellington, Toronto; J. D. Mayer, Jordan; C. M. Homsberger, Jerordan; M. Pettit, Winona; Chas. Jury, Cown Hill; B. Scott, Arkona; W. M. Moore, Stony Creek; J. J. Bowman, Ancaster; A. M. Smith, St. Catharines; G. H. Cline, Ancaster; J. M. Denton, London; Thos. Beall, Lindsay; J. D. Pringle, Hamilton; Chas. Arnold, Paris; Wm. H. Skins, Hamilton; P. E. Bucke, Ottawa.

The programme contains twenty-four subjects for discussion, most of them of the highest interest to fruit growers.

"What varieties of grapes are most profitable for market?" was discussed by Messrs. B. G. A. M. Smith, Gott and the President. The Concord and Delaware received great favor from most of the speakers. Mr. Gott said he produced Concord grapes at the rate of 5½ tons, while the average rate in the State of Michigan was only 2½ tons to the acre. Mr. Saunders spoke on the second question of the most desirable varieties for amateur cultivation. He put at the head of the Burnett, the Canada and the Creveling, followed by Rogers' hybrids and the Delaware and Concord. The Martha grew about London, but the Iona would not ripen there. Mr. Wellington thought the Champion a good grape for amateur growth; a