

SIR,—According to promise, I write you about the free grant lands, and things in general, in this (Algoma) district. On my arrival here I found a great change in the appearance of things since I left last fall. There are twenty miles of track laid on the Canada Pacific RR., commencing at Fort William, north-westward, and running through the township of Oliver; there are two engines and ten flat cars at work in laying the rails, and the road is now being graded from the Fort to Prince Arthur's Landing, five and a half miles, and it is expected the cars will be running to Prince Arthur's Landing this fall, which will secure the terminus to Prince Arthur. The stone round house and stone jail, court house and registry office, are progressing favorably towards completion, and all other Government works seem to be progressing favorably; but there is one item in the expense of carrying on the work in this section of country that could in a short time be greatly lessened if agriculturalists would properly pay attention to farming here, as the free grant lands are convenient, and really good. The Government is paying about half a million of dollars annually for produce for the works, and as it all has to be brought here from below by the boats the freight add greatly to the cost of the same,

and as the railroad will be some five years yet in building to Fort Garry, farming is a profitable subject for farmers to study. The fact of good land being given away near such a good market, where there is a rail and gravel road leading into the town. All kinds of produce do well here, and it is a fact patent that the land will produce 3 tons of timothy hay to the acre, and 300 bushels of potatoes to the acre has in several cases been produced. The climate is good, and at this last day of Sept. the late sowed peas are in bloom, and the potato tops are quite green.

I have spent a good deal of time, within the two last seasons in exploring and selecting good free grant lands for friends in my own neighborhood, and I am prepared to locate for a good many this fall and winter, 160 acres to any man or woman over eighteen years of age, subject to settlement duty, to clear 15 acres in five years, and build a house 16x20 on each lot of 160 acres. I have procured maps, got up by the Government surveyor, showing all the field notes. These lands are all of clay loam, lightly timbered. My address will be until spring, Box 527, Toronto, or at Markham, and I am willing to communicate with any person who will enclose a stamp to the above address.

L. JONES.

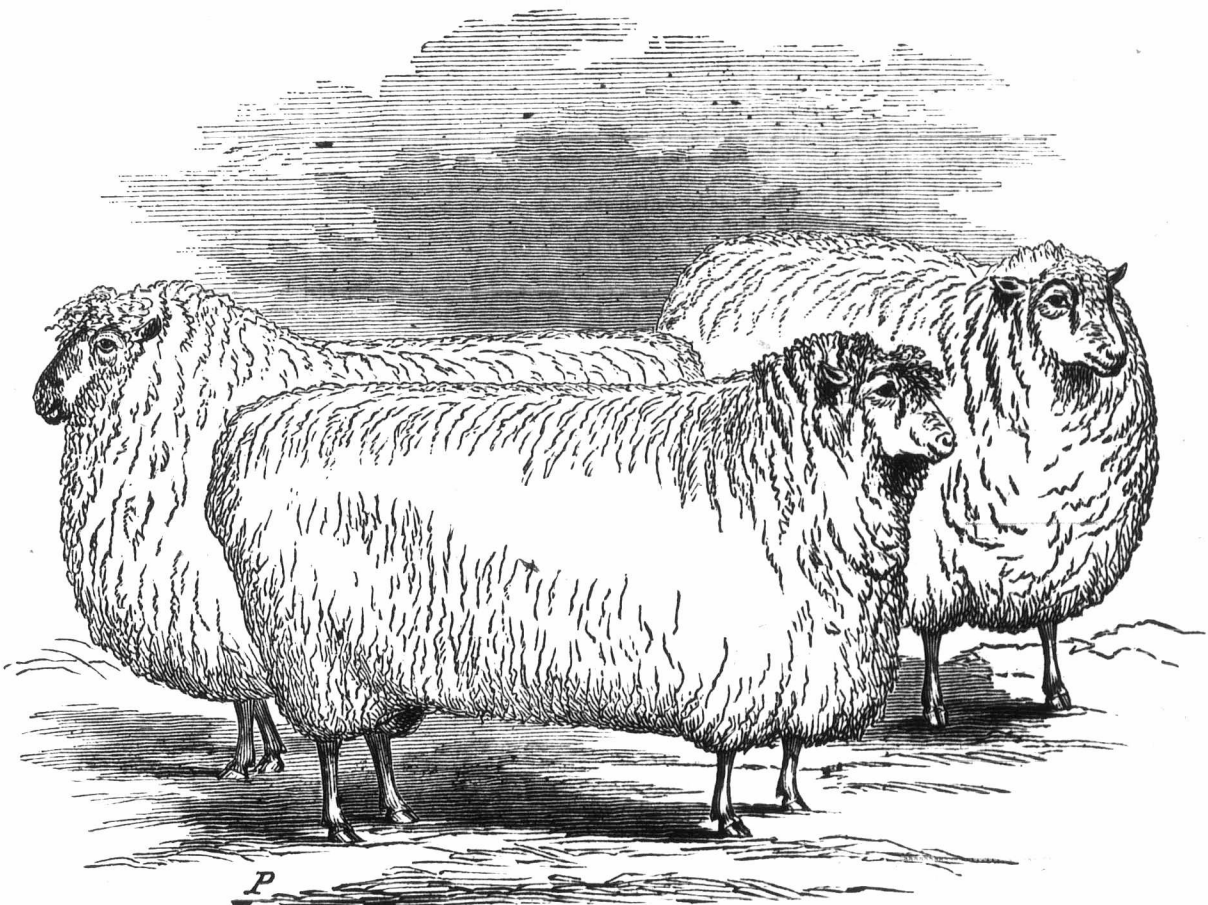
SIR,—I enclose you a few oats and wish you to tell me if you can, whether they are a new variety or not. I got one peck from Mr. J. H. Andre, Bingham P. O., Tioga County, New York, America. He claims that they are a new oat. But however that may be I think they are a good kind and will do well, especially on light land. I had nine bushels from one peck, they weighed forty three pounds to the bushel. Fall Wheat is a very poor crop in this part of the country, but I agree with you that if only Scott and Clawson wheat were

sown the country would be a great deal richer in wheat than it is at present. My Scott wheat was twenty bushels and Treadwell eleven bushels to the acre. I heard yesterday of a man, a few miles from here, having 15 acres of Fall Wheat. He left 10 bushels at home and took the rest to market at one load. Another told me that he only had 30 bushels from 6 acres. Still people will sow the old seed, at least the great majority of them. I suppose they are like the Dutchman that knew his was good seed having had it 20 years. I have sown 2½ bushels of Clawson raised from the 4 ounces you sent 2 years ago, when I got some Scott wheat from you. The Australian Oats is very good, but will not weigh so well as last year. I think people make a great mistake in sowing the old seed so much, and not even trying to get a change.

JOHN PARKINSON.

Teeswater, Oct. 4, 1876.

[We have never raised any oats like these you have sent. There are none like them raised in this part of Canada. We cannot say if they are superior or inferior for general cultivation. If they continue to yield with you as will for another year we shall be pleased to give further accounts of them.—Ed.]



COTSWOLD SHEEP, THE PROPERTY OF F. W. STONE, GUELPH.

Cotswold Sheep.

The above cut represents a flock of Cotswold Sheep, the property of F. W. Stone, of Morton Lodge Farm, Guelph. Mr. Stone has imported more Cotswold Sheep into Canada than any other importer. He now has a large flock from which breeders can select different strains of blood to suit their requirements.

SIR,—I think it due to you to report the merits of the Oats called "White Australian," obtained from you two years since. This dry season it has yielded at the rate of 46 bushels an acre, while Tartarian Black oat has yielded only 30 bushels to the acre. The White is entirely free from rust, the other is not. The straw is at least 15 inches longer, beautifully white and clean. The grain of the white is fuller and plumper than that of the black. Both sorts were put in the ground at the same time. The land for both is sandy, equally well manured and cultivated. The two kinds were planted side by side, therefore nothing can be plainer than the superiority of the White Australian. Wherever you obtained it you deserve credit for introducing it into this district.

HENRY LANDOR, SUPT.,
Asylum for the Insane, London, Ont.

CROP RETURNS FOR 1876.—Hay crop was abundant. Fall Wheat very poor, from 10 to 15 bushels per acre. Spring Wheat about two third crop or from 15 to 20 bushels per acre. Barley an average crop, good sample, small berry. Oats heavy crop but a great amount of smut. Peas the best for many years. Root crop suffering for want of rain. Potatoes are a good crop and excellent quality.

THE WAY I TILL POTATOES.—I scrape the loose dirt back to the edge making the pit, say three feet wide and twelve feet long, drive a crotch or piece of board down, one in the centre of the pit and one at each end so the top of them will be about the same height as the potatoes when the pit is finished. When you want to cover put a small rail or pole on the crotches along the top, then a short piece of board from the pole to the ground on each side at both ends and centre (rafter style) and then board on these like sheeting, then cover over the boards. The space between the potatoes and covering is the safe-guard.

LAND PLASTER.—I tried an experiment in sowing Land Plaster this season. To four acres of meadow I sowed two bushels of Plaster. I left a strip across the field in the centre about two rods wide which I did not sow any. When I cut my hay there was not more than half the amount of hay

on the strip that there was on the same amount of land where the Plaster was sown and in the after-grass there was not more than one quarter the quantity of feed. It made the most difference on the clover.

C. W. R.

SIR,—If it is not intruding on you too much, and if you have the means of knowing, then would you kindly undertake to give me some information respecting steam ploughs? Are they used at all in Canada, and if so, where? What (about) is the cost of them complete, or the separate articles that go to make up the complete

apparatus for ploughing? Also, where are they made? can they be used to advantage on a farm well cleared and free of stumps and stones, except a few hard-heads; or are they too expensive to make the use of them pay? How much can be ploughed in a day with one of them? Any further information that you may deem necessary will be thankfully received.

G. F. CHARLES,
Wolfe Island, Ont.

[We are not aware of any steam plough being used in Canada. There are a few used in the States; in England there are near two thousand in use. We were surprised that at the great Centennial Exhibition not one could be found. We believe they can be used to advantage on well-cleared farms, but do not think they would pay any individual farmer we have yet seen or farm we have been on, because the farms are too small, unless several farmers would join together and procure one, or one man travel with the machine, as they now do with a threshing machine. Messrs. Avelony & Porter, of Rochester, England, are manufacturers of steam ploughs. There are many other manufacturers in England; we do not know which is the best. Will give more information about them in some future number.—Ed.]