

This is such a woful account of our condition that I feel rather ashamed to mention it, and fear that you will either think I am jesting or that my information is not correct. This information I acquired from the owners of thrashing mills, who have been moving from barn to barn since last harvest, and have had every opportunity of ascertaining the fact, and upon whose veracity I can depend. They mention one farm that used to be a first rate farm for wheat, that had forty minots of wheat sown upon it, and yielded only sixty-five, and many others little better. We hear every kind of reason given for the failure but the right one, such as bad years, bad luck, bad degenerating seed, &c., but very seldom bad farming. Now we think this last could be easily proved to be the principal cause, as there are individual farms here and there all over the Island that could show a very different account respecting their crops, but these have been cultivated in a different way from that generally in practice. I think the reason why we have so little wheat is because we sow so much of that, and other white crops, thereby exhausting the fertility of our farms and rendering them comparatively barren. I have extracted the following sentence from a lecture by Henry Youle Hind. No farm can continue to produce grain growing crops on a greater surface than one third of its cultivated extent for many successive years without diminishing greatly its produce.

This sentence ought to be printed in large gilded letters and posted up at every cross-road in Canada East and West; it would keep us Eastern Canadians in remembrance of our own sins and the sins of our fathers, and be a warning to our Western friends. Mr. Hind's statistics shows that they are cultivating under grain crops forty-seven acres in the hundred. If their sins do not find them out their iniquity will certainly be visited upon their children. Now I do not believe that this or any other generation of farmers, had or ever will have a right to impoverish any succeeding generation, by robbing the earth of its fertility, or to leave the world in a worse condition than they found it.

I think you have done well in laying before your readers a catalogue of the kinds of wheat sown in Scotland, and hope that your

suggestions will be carried out, the introduction of some of the rapid-growing, spring varieties may prove of great importance to Lower Canada. But in case of your suggestions not being carried out or any mistake taking place in the selection, which would be no uncommon occurrence as I once sowed wheat that the seedsman warranted to be spring wheat which took fifteen months to ripen from the day it was sown, and the sample consisted of three different kinds and all ripened at different times, now to avoid such disappointment I think we might do something for ourselves. I am determined to try it in this way. I have collected as many kinds of the early spring wheat as I can lay my hands on. I will prepare a piece of land on which the seeds are to be sown dividing the land into as many equal parts as I have different kinds of seed. I will sow the same weight of seed on each portion of land at the same time and treat all in the same manner marking the progress of the growth of each recording the time at which each kind ripens, and weigh the produce grain and straw together, and the grain after thrashing. By such experiments as this we may ascertain which varieties would be most profitable for us to cultivate. You may tell me that this will prove nothing beyond the farm or the immediate vicinity of the farm where the experiment is made. There may be some truth in this but there is nothing to hinder some farmer or farmers in every county in the province to try the same thing and Report through the columns of the Journal, which I feel certain you would willingly appropriate to such communications. And also by showing the different samples at our district and provincial Exhibitions both thrashed and in the straw. In connection with this I give the results of an experiment I made last year on twenty three pounds of wheat I selected in the ear from a mixed lot. It was sowed in drills twenty-seven inches apart, my object being rather to increase the quantity of seed than to obtain a large crop from the land. The land was manured and prepared in every respect as for green crops, the seed was sown in proportion of thirty pounds per arpent. It yielded thirty-eight pounds and eighteen ounces to the pound sown, and in proportion of twenty minots and one gallon, per arpent. It is known as Webster's wheat, it belongs to the velvet or