

to the Millers and Stone as a showman in those early days came John Snell, whose post-office address then was Edmonton, a name later changed to Snelgrove. A Devonshire dumpling was he, whose dialect betrayed his nativity, but he was a hustler, of an enterprising spirit, and a born manager of men. Emigrating when a young man, he roughed it for a time in the lumber camps in New Brunswick, saving enough to buy a partially-cleared farm in Peel County, which in time grew into 500 acres. Though not among the earliest importers, he paid big prices for some of the best imported stock, and took a prominent place in the prize-list of Provincial fairs from his first appearance in that field, which was, I believe, at Cobourg, in 1855. And for more than twenty years after that the principal names figuring in Provincial Fair prize-lists, in the cattle and sheep classes, were Miller, Stone and Snell. John Snell's sons for many years after his death imported, bred and showed Cotswolds extensively and successfully, and the eldest, John C., who early became affected with an itch for scribbling, was finally captured by "The Farmer's Advocate," for its editorial staff, where his experience as a stockman has stood him in good stead in his work in connection with that important publication, which has done more for the advancement of agriculture and the improvement of the live-stock industry in Canada than any other agency, excepting, of course, the importers and breeders of pure-bred stock. One of the saddest events in my memories of these men was the accidental death, while yet in his prime, of Joseph Snell (whose host of friends all called him Joe), a born stockman, a constant lover of sheep, one of the best all-round judges in the list, popular among his compeers, a sportsmanlike showman, and one who always had a cheery word and the glad hand for competitors and others.

It was in 1866 I first met that biggest of big-hearted stockmen, John Hope, a typical Briton and a critical judge of sheep, as indeed of all classes of stock. It was down in Kentucky, where I had gone in charge of a shipment of sheep, just after the close of the Civil War, to be shown at the State fair by George M. Bedford, for whom Hope was then figuring as farm manager, and we surprised the natives there and at Ohio State Fair with a display of sheep such as they had never seen before. John, after his return to Canada, made several importations of sheep and cattle on his own account, and later became manager for Hon. George Brown, of the Bow Park Farm, at Brantford, where he cut a wide swath in handling

a show herd of Shorthorns, such as has scarcely been equalled since. His career also had a pathetic ending when he was yet in the prime of an eventful life. The limits of allotted space forbids following the list of worthies on the honor roll further in this contribution, and I label this "to be continued." "SHEPHERD."

#### LARD AND PINE TAR FOR FLIES.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In reply to your correspondent, who writes regarding flies, would say that we have tried practically everything that has been thought of here or that has been recommended elsewhere, and have come to the conclusion that the best, all things considered, is a mixture of ten parts lard and one of pine tar, stirred thoroughly together, and applied with a brush or a bit of cloth to the parts most attacked by the flies. Application has to be made about twice a week. It takes a little time, but not as much time as other applications, for the reason that nearly all other applications have to be made once or twice a day. Some applications, such as fish oil, last quite as long, but are so malodorous as to be quite impossible in a dairy stable. Others, such as kerosene emulsion, require so much preparation and such care in the preparation as to make their use more expensive than the mixture of lard and pine tar, although the materials of which it is prepared are somewhat cheaper. The preparations on the market are usually of such a character as to require very frequent application, and they are also, generally speaking, very expensive.

Your correspondent is perfectly right when he says that a farmer is likely to lose about \$5 per cow from flies in the season. He is, however, I think, hoping for too much when he expects to be freed from the pest with little or no effort on his part. Every possible remedy known has been tried, but the very nature of the pest is such that it is not likely that it will ever be found possible to get rid of these flies or to combat them, save at considerable cost of time and money.

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Every farmer in Canada needs "The Farmer's Advocate."

## The Winter Wheat Crop Still Has a Place.

Notwithstanding the enormously increasing production of wheat in the Canadian Northwest and other countries of the world, the demand for this king of cereals seems to be keeping somewhat ahead of the supply, prices being apparently rather on the up-grade than otherwise. This fact, combined with various distinct advantages of the winter-wheat crop in securing a catch of clover, and in distributing the work of seeding and harvesting to better advantage than where spring grain is grown exclusively, prevents wheat from going out of favor with Ontario farmers, and probably a larger acreage than for some time will be sown this fall. In view of these facts, a discussion on the preparation and seeding for winter wheat will be appreciated by many readers.

In a circular letter sent out recently to a select list of correspondents, the following questions were submitted:

1. Extent to which winter wheat may be advantageously grown under present Ontario conditions.
2. Place of winter wheat in the rotation, and plan preferred for fertilizing the land.
3. Important points in preparing the ground, with a view to securing a firm but well-pulverized seed-bed.
4. Seeding: i. e., variety, date of sowing, amount of seed per acre on different soils, cleaning of seed, plump versus shrunken seed, etc.
5. Pests or enemies to be guarded against in your locality.

#### WHEAT NO LONGER KING, BUT STILL DESERVING A PLACE.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I think fall wheat can be raised in many parts of Ontario profitably, even at the low price it has been for years past. During the early settlements fall wheat was the summum bonum of the pioneer's income. It was about the only crop he could get a little money from. It was considered a paying crop at \$1.00 per bushel, while oats could be bought for a York shilling (12½ cents) a bushel, barley (in York money) about 19 cents a bushel, peas three York shillings a bushel (37½ cents). According to these prices, there was a

small profit in raising fall wheat, even on a bare fallow, and the farmers risked the winter-killing and other casualties to which the wheat crop was liable more or less in all seasons, such as drouth, wet harvests, rust, and, in later years, Hessian fly and midge.

From 1850 to 1857 fall wheat and spring wheat grew in the counties bordering on Lake Ontario in great perfection. Prices rose to \$2.75 a bushel. Every department in life boomed. Elysium had come at last, and although all farm produce rose nearly in proportion to wheat—pork ten dollars a hundred, cattle and sheep away up—men on rented farms would drive down Yonge street (Toronto) with a small jag of wheat to any one of the flouring mills, and return with a hundred dollars or over in their pockets. These were glorious times. Every acre on the farm, as far as possible, was utilized for fall or spring wheat. Esthetic farmers bought land and built grand homes, fully in the belief that a new and permanent regime had arrived, and why not live sumptuously every day? But, alas, the spirit of the waters, in lamenting the race, said: "Poor race of men, dearly ye pay for your primal fall. Some flowerets of Eden ye still inherit, but the trail of the serpent is over them all."

The end came at last, and many hard-working farmers could not meet their obligations, and were in a manner ruined. Money and labor sacrificed for a myth. In farming, it is just as necessary to look backward as forward.

Many farmers in this neighborhood have given up raising fall wheat, considering it a risky crop at best. The price for it here has been low since Northwest wheat has been reported of superior quality for bread, and many believe a crop of oats or barley, at forty to fifty bushels per acre, is more profitable than twenty or twenty-five bushels of wheat. In this I think they are mistaken. Sixty pounds of wheat is worth more than sixty-eight pounds of oats, even for hog feed. The whole of the wheat is choice food, while at least fifteen per cent. of the oats are hull. And then, the advantage of having a large part of the work performed beforehand should count for something. Also, in my experience, it is better for seeding down than either oats or barley, although I

## THE FARM.

### THE POTATO PROBLEM.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

According to some of our best investigators, the potato threatens to become extinct. This may be an extreme way of regarding the matter, but the fact remains that many potato-growers are finding it harder, year by year, to maintain the ratio of production. Destructive enemies are working havoc, and the successful fighting of these enemies seems to be an increasingly difficult problem.

For one thing, the farmer should be provided with a Paris green of uniform strength and efficiency. Not a few purchasers in this locality secured a Paris green this year that seemed to feed the Potato beetle, rather than to destroy it. The result was a loss of time and a large destruction of potato vines. Then, too, there is need for uniformity of strength in the poison, as some farmers have found the usual quantity added to the water has been followed by burnt vines. Surely our Provincial authorities can do something to assist the potato-grower in this matter, by providing him with a brand of Paris green that may be depended upon.

There is another suggestion that is timely, and, which, if heeded, will do not a little to keep up the potato standard. It is this: When digging, let the potato-grower be on the alert for seed. Choose out the best tubers from the best-producing vines, and let these be laid away for next year's planting. The best seed is none too good, and the best-growing potato will require all its constitutional fitness for the struggle for existence that is already here, and which seems likely to continue for years to come. There is a tendency for the farmer to sell all his finest potatoes, reserving only the smallest for seed. This policy is simply folly, and it spells potato failure for the one who persists in it.

Then, there is the tendency to spend too much time in securing a potato with some special feature, say early-maturing. This is very well in its way, provided early-maturity is not secured at a loss of constitutional vigor in the potato. Precocity is not regarded as a good feature in men or animals, and it is an equivocal excellence, even in a potato. Not a few are learning, to their cost, that many vaunted varieties are simply hothouse products of little value. The standard, climatized varieties, well selected, well planted, carefully cultivated, and closely watched, mean a minimum of heartbreak and a maximum of potatoes for the market.

J. C. Wentworth Co., Ont.

have known excellent catches with oats when sown early and the land was in good tilth.

I would recommend, first, that a tenth part in the rotation may very profitably be fall wheat. Manured on sod, hauled direct from the stable to the field and spread, plowed in spring as early as possible, wrought to a fine tilth, and planted with corn. Next crop barley, then wheat following the barley. The land should be and would be in excellent condition for seed, providing the previous tillage has been assiduously performed. Taking an average of many years, from the tenth to the fifteenth of September is early enough to sow. In this neighborhood the Golden Chaff is still the most popular variety. A red wheat which was brought into this neighborhood a few years ago is gaining in favor. It has no distinct name. From seven pecks to two bushels an acre is the common run of seeding.

The belief that a change of seed was of much advantage in getting a good crop of any kind, has been very much mitigated of late years. Selection from one's own crops and the proper cleaning of the seed seems to be a more feasible and philosophical mode of improving the quality of grain.

One may take his hand full of wheat and not be able to distinguish much difference in the size of the grain, but put in the fanning mill a large screen and you can make two samples of grain, the one worth much more on the market than the other. It is preposterous to believe that a shrunken, undeveloped seed can produce a vigorous plant or seed. As a rule, farmers have not been particular enough heretofore in cleaning seed grain.

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#### FALL-WHEAT FLOUR FOR PASTRY.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

There are some reasons why I still retain wheat amongst crops in the rotation. I am using a four-course system, viz.: Clover one year, corn and roots, oats, wheat, and seed down. I have no doubt but this will be criticised by some as bad farming, viz., wheat after oats, but those who say "bad farming," are probably not situated