

serving of the thanks of the Agricultural community for his pains and perseverance. Judging from the appearance of the specimens sent, and from the little information we have been able to obtain from other quarters, we are of opinion that this variety of Barley is deserving of repeated and extensive trials throughout the Province. The best time for sowing Winter Barley is said to be from the middle of September to the end of October. On well prepared land two bushels of seed per acre is sufficient, and it will generally ripen a week earlier than Fall Wheat. Those that have tried it in the States speak of it as a hardy and highly productive variety; and but little subject to disease or the attacks of insects. From forty to sixty bushels per acre have been grown under favorable circumstances. Of its feeding and malting properties we have not as yet received any very positive information. No doubt but the attention of our farmers will be drawn to it from the preceding communication.—*Ed.*]

Agricultural Intelligence.

THE WIREWORM.

[We take the following from an interesting little work published by Constable & Co., Edinburgh. As the wireworm often commits ravages on the crops in Canada, especially in land that has been down in pasture for many years; these papers, from the perspicuity of their style, and the facts they contain, will be read, with both pleasure and profit, by a large number of our subscribers.—*Eds.*]

THE BEETLE.

The parent of the wireworm is an active, abstemious beetle, which may be seen running up the stalks of grass and wheat, and flying lightly about. When it first appears it is of a pale colour, soft and tender. Exposed to the air and light, its body hardens, and its colour gradually changes and assumes the tints of the species to which it belongs. There are many species of wireworm beetles of various colours, some black, some brown, some parti-coloured. Like all true insects, they have six legs, two wings,

and two covers over them, called wing-cases. They have two immovable eyes, called compound eyes, because they have a multitude of small planes or facets. As the eyes are projecting, and the facets are numerous, they are able to see in all directions, though each facet sees only a limited portion of the view. They have also two antennæ or feelers at the front of the head, which are frequently called horns. They are believed to be either the organs of smell, or hearing, or touch, and by some understood to be the organs of all three.

These beetles, like other insects, are male and female. They are active and run with their noses close to the ground like dogs; and they have the peculiar power, when laid on their backs, of throwing themselves up, and turning head over heels like a tumbler. For this reason they have received the English name of skip-jacks or spring-beetles; and from the noise which the apparatus makes, which enables them to leap, they are also called snap or click-beetles. They thus recover their natural position when they fall upon their backs, their legs not being long enough to enable them to do so. This apparatus consists of a tooth or spine projecting backwards from the breast, and received into a corresponding hollow at the anterior part of the belly, into which the spine is drawn as the animal wishes, but cannot be pushed out without an effort. If it desire to leap (which it can do only when lying on its back), it presses down both its head and tail, and pushes out the breast, the spine in the hollow resisting the pressure, until at last it is jerked out suddenly and violently, the recoil making the insect bound into the air several inches.

In the perfect state, insects usually eat but little. It is only in the grub or caterpillar state that the wireworm does injury, by gnawing the roots of plants; when it has become a beetle, it no longer feeds on them, but confines itself to the juices of flowers. It therefore does no harm in this state, and is only to be dreaded for the eggs it will lay, which are destined, in due time, to produce voracious and destructive grubs.

It is not known with certainty whether the eggs are laid at one or two seasons of the year. Two broods of many insects (more especially of butterflies and moths) appear in the same year—one in Spring and another in Autumn; but the same individual insect does not lay two broods of eggs, for the female of all insects dies as soon as she has deposited her eggs.

When, therefore, there are two broods of insect in one year, the second brood is the