Barley and Wheat.

In seasons such as the present, when the price of breadstuffs has fallen below remunerative figures, the enquiry naturally arises, "What grain crop pays the farmer best for his labor and expense?" It can never be answered definitely with any degree of certainty. There are so many circumstances connected with droughts and wet seasons which often bring about results contrary to what we found our estimates upon, and which stand in the way of our intended system, that we may betimes, when we look for a fair profit, meet a disappointment.

The English farmers are quite disheartened from the present price. The importation from all points of the compass is increasing from year to year, and, though the supplies this year are greater than usual, on account of the greater yield of the vast wheat-fields of America, they cannot expect a decrease in the future. The fertile territories of Australia and Asia are, by railways and steamships, brought within easy access of the British markets. This harvest has given a greater yield to English farmers than they have had for some years past, but the prices are not remunerative, and, besides, the bad condition in which a large proportion of the wheat has been harvested has caused a glut of damp samples to flood the market that the millers will not buy, and it is disposed of at such rates as are commonly given for grinding barley and feeding stuffs. Large quantities of such wheat have been sold at 32s. to 34s. per qu.—96c. to $1.12 per bushel. The *Agricultural Economist*, on behalf of the farmers, enters fully into the question. "Barley," it says, "sells much better, although the various samples of that grain have a more than ordinary range in value. Still, when it is considered that bright, prime lots for malting, command even higher figures than the best white wheat, and that malting barley not absolutely prime fully equals Red Wheat in value—anyone can perceive, without much reflection, which is the best value to make sale of now."

When wheat and barley command in the market almost, if not wholly the same price percental, the farmer cannot be wrong in making barley his main cereal, instead of wheat, were there any tolerable certainty that the season would be as favorable for the barley crop. 'Tis true the demand for barley is limited, that for wheat seems to be unlimited; but the area for the growing of No. 1 malting barley is also limited, whereas to the sources of the supply of wheat we can hardly affix limits. Let us compare the prices of both cereals :—

Prices in London, England, Nov. 1 : — Wheat, White, per 100 lbs, £2.2s to £2.13s. Ditto Red, £2.2s to £2.8s. Barley, malting, £2.2s to £2.10s. Ditto, feeding, £1 to £1.2s. In the American markets the prices of wheat and barley show little difference. Wheat, per bush. $1.03 to $1.08. Barley, per bush., $1.00 to $1.05 for choice lots New York grown grain. Some choice No. 2 Canada sold at $1.12½ per bush.

For barley-growing the soil should be in good tilth, but it need not be in so high a condition as is required to produce a heavy wheat crop; barley is not so gross a feeder as wheat; too much rank manure in the soil is injurious to it, the crop runs too much to straw, and is apt to lie, and this makes the grain less adapted for malting purposes. Barley may well follow a wheat crop if the soil be in good tilth and condition. Barley might be better grown on light loam, or hilly and gravely soils than it is at present; it should, however, be borne in mind that none but malting samples pay the farmer a handsome profit.

How Several Industries Build up Each Other.

The farmer tills his fields with all assiduity and care. He sows the tiny seeds of the clovers and grasses. He stocks it with sheep, and that animal returns to the soil far more than she takes from it. The woolen manufacturers purchase the wool, and hundreds of busy hands convert it into broadcloths and blankets, tweeds and cassimeres and carpets. These are purchased by the farmer, it may be by him on whose field the wool was grown; and gives in payment not only money, the representative of wealth, but the other products of his farm. Each one for himself and at the same time each one for many others. Thus is the wealth of the nation fostered. Take an instance. The carpet manufacturers of one American city, Philadelphia, supply 615 power-looms and 3,309 hand-looms. These looms have a capacity for producing annually twenty-five millions of yards of ingrain and venetian carpet. This information is furnished by a census taken by a leading establishment in that city, and shows the extent to which one branch has grown there, fostered and protected by the representatives of the people. The hands employed in these industries are the most profitable consumers of produce, purchasers of the most perishable and best paying products of the farm, such as fowl, eggs, fresh butter, milk, vegetables and other products. In this manner the industries of a country build up each other, and are, partly at least, dependent one upon the other. We require to have in "this Canada of ours" a more general putting into practice of this principle. We need home markets for our wool and other products. Our country abounds in natural resources. We have unlimited stores of undeveloped wealth. Let us put them to the best account.

The Canadian Farmer's Future.

The Germantown *Telegraph* gives to its readers some very good advice in a pithy and appropriate article on the future of the American farmer. It contains, it is true, nothing new, nothing more than the recommendation of what we have time and again urged upon our Canadian farmers, but those plain truths need to be brought repeatedly before us that they may be impressed on our minds and carried more fully into practice. The *Telegraph* addresses itself to the U. S. farmers, but we have only to substitute the word Canadian for the indefinite word American to make it applicable to us north of the dividing line. Referring to the great development in the varied resources and industries of the country, he says: "The farmer has learned to feel that he has a direct interest in all this because it gives him home markets that render it unnecessary for him to depend upon the foreign demand." We, in this Canada of ours, are yet in the beginning of the development of our country's resources. Our great lines of railway serve, as yet, in a great measure to carry the raw products of our mines and forests to a neighboring country, and to carry them back to us manufactured, we paying them handsomely for workmanship that our own skilled hands might have done.

"But," the *Telegraph* says, "he has not yet understood this because it is difficult for the scattered and isolated cultivators to learn these things; with the increased variety of manufacturers there come openings for more new crops than he can raise. Thus we are informed from time to time of new crops being grown and branches of industries till now unknown in the country being introduced in several districts." Well, we are beginning to be aware of our own resources.

"What is needed is that the farmer should not be content to merely follow in the beaten track, to do as his father did, to raise the same crops, and to depend upon the same markets. The times requires that he should consult his own interest according to his own best judgment; that he should read carefully, regularly, the best periodicals and publications, and especially be wide-awake for new methods, new crops, new machinery, &c. If this shall be neglected we shall see the old crops repeated, one market being over-loaded with fruit, another with grain; men casting away a crop of tomatoes as useless, &c."

What we need—what each farmer needs is a greater deversity in our agriculture, a greater variety of crops. By this, the failure of one crop, or the fall in the price of one commodity, will not be so much felt. And to this we may add, there will not be such deterioration of the fertility of our farms.

The writer well remarks that the principal error of American agriculture is that it lacks variety. Go into a new State like Iowa or Minnesota and everybody will be found raising grain. So it was in the newly settled lands of Canada. The consequence has been, the soil became wheat-sick; besides, as everyone went into the wheat-growing business, the supplies in the market increased to such an extent that the market fell below paying prices. And, even more than the increased quantity, the wretched quality of some products offered for sale have caused this downward tendency in the markets. Not only is this very low, but a positive loss to the producers; it also lowers, in a measure, the price of every sample brought to market, even though it be the very highest.

The Value of Straw.

Straw is frequently offered for sale in our markets at from three to six dollars per ton. It does not pay to sell straw at such prices. It is worth more for converting into manure, not by treading it under foot as is sometimes done, but by feeding it to stock. We do not think there is any greater waste on the farms throughout this Western continent than in this article. Straw is not equal in value to hay; yet, still, its value for feeding is not little. We have known store cattle wintered almost exclusively on the straw and turned out to pasture in fair condition. As it is not as valuable for feeding it is too often wasted, suffered, perhaps, to rot in a pile, or at best scattered in the yard. When cut before it is too ripe and well saved it is an excellent fodder. I used oat straw for many years, feeding it to stock from October to May. They were carefully fed three or four times in the twenty-four hours, not giving too much at a time, and had a feed of turnips, mangles or cabbage morning and evening. The result of this feeding was that my cattle were in a good, healthy condition when turned into the pasture on old May day. In feeding straw it is not well to put too much before them at a time, as more of it might be wasted than eaten; nor should the allowance of roots at one feed be large, as they would refuse to eat the straw, but they always eat a full share of sweet, well-harvested straw when they get a moderate allowance of roots. With such treatment we have even known fatting beasts to do well on straw and roots, and pay a good profit, but in order to finish them in prime condition, it is well to add some richer food, as cornmeal.

Animals do not eat the straw as clean as they would hay; the coarser part that they leave is profitable in the manure heap when mixed with the excreta of the animals. In this there is no waste, as there is of straw merely trodden in the farm yard. The decomposing excreta will thoroughly