

# THE CANADA FARMER.

VOL. XII.—No. 5.  
PUBLISHED MONTHLY.

TORONTO, CANADA, MAY 15, 1875.

{ \$1.00 Per Annum.  
{ SINGLE COPIES TEN CENTS.

## The Field.

### Barley.—Its Fluctuation in Price.

In late numbers of the CANADA FARMER, we have drawn attention to the advisability of growing more barley and less wheat, in view of the unremunerative price of the latter grain. The same idea seems also to have simultaneously struck the English and the United States agricultural press. As a matter of course, if the suggestion were followed, and all farmers abandoned wheat and took to barley-growing, barley would soon be given away to get rid of it. We do not advocate too great concentration on any one crop. The farmer who diversifies his farming most judiciously, is the one who has fewest bad years. Therefore, those who have not grown barley would do well to try it. And we repeat our conviction that, having in view the superior quality of the barley that can be grown in the Dominion, Canadian farmers generally will find it to their interest to go more largely into the growing of that cereal.

The great objection to barley-culture we have already stated, viz., that it is more of a speculation than is the growing of any other grain, from the fewness of the buyers and the alacrity with which they combine to retaliate on the sellers by bearing down prices when a short crop has run them up to fancy figures. The Hon. Mr. Geddes gives, in the *New York Tribune*, an instance of the tremendous difference that may occur in two consecutive years in the returns from barley-growing. Some years since, he raised a splendid crop of barley, and so did the whole country, but the preceding year had produced a small crop, and the brewers gave him \$2 a bushel for his nearly 50 bushels per acre. The next year he had hardly 30 bushels per acre, and other growers were generally alike short in their crops. The price paid for this small crop was only about 60 cents, and slow of sale at that. Notice the difference. One year he received nearly \$100 per acre for his barley crop, the next hardly \$18. The solution of all this is to be found in the fact that the brewers were short of barley when the former crop came in, and each of them moved early and sharply to procure a supply; the crop was much larger than they thought, and when the next year came with its short crop the brewers were cautious and well stocked, and made their own terms.

Canadian farmers, that is, those living in the districts famed for their superior barley, are less liable to be the victims of a glut than are our neighbors over the line. For of late years, there have grown up, on this continent, many breweries which pride themselves on the fancy brands of their ale and beer. These breweries will purchase the very best grain that can be obtained. The consequence is that even in a plentiful year, the A 1 grades will go off readily, while the inferior will not realize their cost.

We do not wish to be understood as prophesying heavy prices for the next crop of barley, or low prices for the next crop of wheat. There is nothing so uncertain as the price of grain a year ahead. Another grasshopper year in the West, which is far from improbable—a widespread drouth, from which even now some districts are suffering—a European war which people who ought to know say is imminent—or many other things might happen which would unhinge the most elaborate of calculations. Therefore, let each farmer act on his own judgment, and, if he succeeds, let him claim the credit.

SPRING RYE.—Will some reader of the CANADA FARMER, who has had experience with Spring Rye, give the result of it? And can it be bought in Canada?—S. E. T., *New Jersey*.

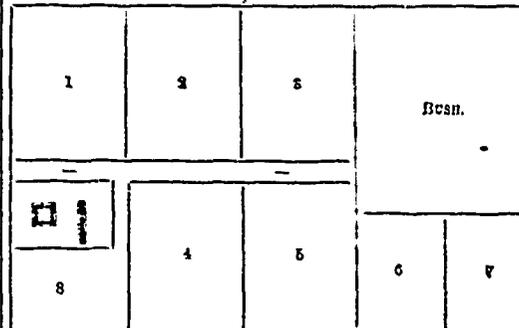
### Laying out a Newly Cleared Farm.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER:—In the March number, "Farmer" wants help to lay out his farm. In the first place, I would suggest (if his buildings are not of a very substantial nature and if there is no particular reason for locating them in the corner) that they might be moved to a more central place, for if the buildings are not in the most convenient and best situation, one can not always work to advantage. When a settler starts on a farm, his shanty is put where the first spot is cleared, and, as buildings are increased, he gets attached to that spot, never thinking but that it is the best possible site that can be obtained.

When the buildings are in one corner, the farm can not be laid out so well, and there is more time lost in going to and from work, and as time is money, it would be to our interest to study its economy.

I would advise against having small fields, in as much as fences are a heavy item, as well as wanting the land that is occupied by them. Fifteen acre fields would answer such a farm as he describes, and an oblong field is better or handier than a square one in mowing or reaping. This will be evident to the most casual observer.

If "Farmer"'s buildings are located in the extreme corner and he is satisfied with them, a little alteration in No. 8 continuing the lane down to the buildings would



not materially change the plan. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 contains about fourteen and a half acres each. Nos. 6 and 7 contain about ten acres each but might answer in one field; and No. 8 after yards, garden and orchard is taken, may be about six or seven acres.

I append a plan which, if properly carried out, would make a farm appear to the best possible advantage, and, if put in the market, bring far more than it would if laid out in an unhandy manner.

Erin, Ont.

ZENAS.

### "A Poor Farm."

EDITOR CANADA FARMER.—"It's a poor farm," remarked neighbor N., as he looked over the fence where I was engaged trying to prune some apple trees, which had become unshapely through neglect. "Yes," I replied, "it is a very poor farm, but don't you think it can be improved? Is it a little better than when I removed on to it, about two years ago?"

"Well, I can't see much difference," he said. This answer not satisfying me, I said, "Come with me, and you will see a change for the better, I think."

First, we went to the stable. "Now, you see here twelve good and comfortable stalls, for horses and cattle. Also, in one corner, a room partitioned off for a harness room."

"That is nothing extra," was the reply.

"Perhaps not," I said, "but if you had seen this stable when I first visited it, I think you could see the extras. At first sight, it appeared to have been used in connection with some racing establishment—intended for horses under-

going the 'freezing out' process, as horsemen call it. The floors were unsafe, and full of holes. The snow would drift in through the chinks in the walls, which, altogether, made the two dilapidated stalls rather uncomfortable. The rest of the building was unprotected, and having only a few cedar branches in lieu of flooring."

"What is that place in the corner?" he enquired, as we turned to leave.

"That is a place for the hens, during the winter. I did not wish you to see that, as I don't like the idea of keeping hens in a horse stable; but, considering the state of my buildings at present, I have no other alternative. However, as it is, between warm quarters and liberal feeding, we get a good supply of eggs almost all winter."

"You see that fence," I said, at the same time pointing to about 500 feet of a newly-painted picket fence, round the house and garden. "Candidly, neighbor N., is not that better than having your neighbors' cows in the doorway all summer?"

"It is rather a nice fence," he remarked; "who built it?" I told him the farm hands dug the post holes, and I built the fence myself, as I did the improvements done to the stable. "It is not my aim," I continued, "to expend large sums of money in costly buildings, with gilded weathercocks (even if I had it, which is not the case). Any person with sufficient means could do that, even if he could not tell a pick from a crowbar. If I can make the farm pay, then I will put up good buildings, (which I like to see), but the money to do it with must first be dug out of the soil."

"I see you have built some good houses for your farm hands; what did they cost you? Will they pay interest on the money invested?" A smile was perceptible on the face of Neighbor N., as he asked the latter question.

I said I thought it would pay better interest than any other investment on the farm; "and if you do not think it too much trouble to call, some wet day, or evening (when the work is not pushing), I will prove to you the correctness of my assertion. In the meantime, the men and horses are coming in for the noon-spell (the spell we like best). Good-bye."

FARMER.

### How to Plough.

Mr. J. C. Mapes sends to the *Ohio Farmer* some concise and practical directions on the art of ploughing. He commences by giving definitions of the terms used. A furrow, he says, is the trench or channel made by the plough when it is drawn through the soil, and it is said to be wide, deep or shallow. The furrow slice is the strip of soil which the plough separates and turns away from the unploughed soil, when making a furrow; and it may be wide, or narrow—thick, or thin. A back furrow is two furrow slices turned toward each other, so that their edges will meet; or, one may over-lap, or lap on the other. A dead furrow, middle furrow, or open furrow, which are only different names for the same thing, is the channel that is left when a land is finished. When a subsoil plough is run in the furrow of a common plough, it is called subsoiling.

In ploughing some kinds of land, a certain make of ploughs will operate in the most satisfactory manner, while on different soils those very ploughs will not operate in a successful manner at all. Good ploughs for stubble ground and for cross ploughing, are, in many cases, almost worthless for ploughing heavy sod ground. Some ploughs operate well when they cut a furrow only four or five inches deep; but when they are put into the soil from seven to nine inches in depth, the draught becomes unaccountably hard, and it requires the strength of an able man to hold them; and even then they will not do the work well. Some are constructed with such an improper shape that an increased depth of the furrow of only one inch will so affect their operation, as to make them work decidedly bad. A plough that works well for ploughing deep, may cut a shallow fur-