

Fall Wheat.

From all parts of the country we receive reports similar to the following, from the Oxford Tribune:—

Never in the history of this part of the country has the fall wheat been known by even the oldest farmers to be so far advanced in growth before winter as it is this season. In some parts bunches measuring from twenty inches to two feet from the root to the tip of an extended blade can readily be found in fields sown in the earlier part of the season. Many farmers were feeding it down, as they believe the top is too heavy to remain sound under a heavy covering of snow, and some are even plowing it under. In a climate like ours, where changes are so sudden, it is pretty hard to tell exactly the best time to get the wheat in the ground, but, as a rule, from the tenth to the fifteenth of September is considered about the proper time. The steady warm growing weather with which we were favored this year in October may never be repeated in the history of those who experienced it. Although the mercury was between eighty and ninety on the 22nd, and everybody wore their summer clothes, yet before the evening of the 24th it fell to about forty, and overcoats and underclothing were in demand.

Elmira Farmers' Club.

From the report of the E. F. Club, in the Hus-bandman, we abridge the following items:—

Sugar from Sorghum.—Gen. Le Duc has been making personal examination of the sugar interests in the west, where he found evidences of real progress in sugar making. Writing to the Elmira Club he says:—"Having made an inspection of sugar-boiling among the farmers and manufacturers throughout the west, I do not hesitate to say that it is a complete success. As an evidence of this the Crystal Lake works north of Chicago have, this day, (Oct 23) ready for shipment a car load of most excellent sugar, to be placed on the market, and this will be followed by another car load this week." With the encouragement of success now attained, it is reasonable that the next year will witness extended planting of amber-cane and sweet corn throughout a whole district.

Wood ashes as a fertilizer for potatoes.—A letter to the Secretary of the Club says:—"For a fertilizer for potatoes you recommended wood ashes, which I used, and found that they increased the yield, but there were more rotten potatoes where they were applied than where the planting was on inverted clover sod. I have found that to cover potatoes four or five inches deep with straw or coarse manure, will give the best results. I planted three acres of clover sod, ploughed in spring, and a part of it being very stony, I covered it with straw to save cultivating among stones, and the result was that the potatoes were larger and more of them in the hill. Planted the potatoes in the usual way, covering about four inches deep, and in digging all we had to do was to pull the tops and take away the straw, and these were the potatoes clean and good.

Winter Rye.—G. A. Russ writes to the Club, telling his experience of growing rye, and adds:—"The conclusion we arrived at was, that if the field and its conditions were promising for a good winter crop of wheat or rye, having the ground thoroughly fitted, it would be safe to sow with oats, or other spring grain, the usual quantity of rye to the acre in addition, and the rye would not be in the way of the spring crop sowed, and the following year we should be able to harvest a good crop of rye without further trouble. By sowing the rye early in the spring without other grain, and after it got big enough so that it would do to feed, pasture it; or sow in the fall previous and have it live through two winters, and pasture it one season and harvest it the next, and have it done well. I think it would be safe to try the last two methods on a small scale, and the first I have no doubt about.

BET SUGAR FOR CANADA.—The following is from the Windsor, N. S., Mail: "The State of Maine Sugar Beet Refinery has offered to invest capital to the amount of \$400,000 in erecting a refinery in Nova Scotia, provided that the counties of Annapolis, Kings, Hants and Colchester will guarantee each to put under cultivation 1,000 acres of land for raising sugar beets.

The Rat River Mennonites have raised 180,000 bushels of grain this year.

Texas and English Farmers.

From an American paper we extract the following pithy article. Will those so-called Canadians whose great delight it is to malign this Canada of ours, take notice of this revealing of secrets?

An attractive advertisement appears daily in the London papers, offering the freehold of farms of eighty acres for sale at less total cost than one year's rental of the same would be in England. "Rich land, mild climate, good markets for produce, and a house all ready for occupation"—these are some of the additional inducements offered. What more could an impoverished English farmer want than a cheap eighty acres of rich land, in a genial climate, with good and available markets for his produce? At least so thought a number of sturdy yeomen who bought their farms and paid their passage to New Philadelphia, Texas. They arrived here recently, and, nothing suspecting, went on their way westward rejoicing. It now appears that they have been grossly deceived, if not actually swindled. The land which they went out to cultivate proved to be absolutely worthless for agricultural purposes—dried up, barren and unproductive. The settlers to whom they took letters of introduction had long since left the place in disgust. Without proper irrigation—a most expensive operation, and entirely beyond the means of these farmers—nothing could be done, and very little with it. The most necessary thing in that part of the country is water, and it is the scarcest. In short, through the misrepresentation of the agent, they were led to expect as the advertisement implies, rich and productive lands, instead of which they found a very poor grazing country.

Many Crops and a Variety of Stock.

It becomes more apparent every day that the land occupier's income must come, not only from one or two large sources, but from a number of smaller ones also. We must have many crops and a variety of stock, and must learn how to make the most of each and all of them. The times when merely to get a farm was to be on the road to wealth are gone probably forever. All that can be looked for now is that he who takes a farm may get a fair percentage on the capital he had to commence with, if he follows the road to success adopted by men of all other professions.

The road to success means almost invariably an unwearying attention to detail. Genius (someone said) is an infinite power of taking trouble; and success means genius well applied. Cereals can only be made to pay by the greatest possible care in choosing the varieties best adapted to the land and markets, and cultivating them with a special eye to get quality. Cattle can only be made profitable by those who condescend to watch their peculiarities, to develop the valuable ones, and to take care, in selling, that they get market price for all they have to part with. There must be no mere guesswork, no rule of thumb; we must learn to recognize the best methods of breeding, feeding and marketing, even though we have to abandon our long-established practices.—Agricul. Gazette.

POTATOES IN QUEENS CO., NEW BRUNSWICK.—Of the Hamstead Fair, the St. John's Telegraph says:—"The exhibit of potatoes could not have been finer; splendid varieties of Early Blue, Bradleys, Marquis, Early Rose, Prolifics, Black Kidney, and others were exhibited, and competent judges pronounce that they were superlative. The potato yield in Queens and Sunbury this year has been unusually large. On Senator Wilmot's farm in Lincoln, the yield is 450 bushels to the acre. John Ferris, Esq., has dug 1,500 bushels, and expects to dig 500 more. Mr. I. C. Burpee, of Chipman, planted in the spring 12 barrels, which have yielded 464 barrels.

A farmer says: "Four years ago my barn was fearfully infested with rats. They were so numerous that I had great fear of my whole crop being destroyed by them after it was housed; but having two acres of wild peppermint that grew in a field of wheat, it drove the rats from my premises. I have not been troubled with them since, while my neighbors have any quantity of them. I felt convinced that any person who is troubled with these pests could easily get rid of them by gathering a good supply of mint and placing it around the walls or base of their barns."

Top Dressing Fall Grain.

The present season has been unusually favorable for the Fall-sown crops. The warm weather, preceded by copious rains, which put the ground into good condition for the best preparation, has forwarded the wheat and rye admirably. It is now a question which may well be considered how the condition of the crops may be maintained. The soil has been drawn upon very closely by the forcing of the favorable weather, and poor soils now carry a verdure which it is scarcely safe to expect them to maintain when less favorable weather arrives, as it must soon, as a matter of course. Then the plant will need support to resist untoward circumstances, which will not furnish to the soil the ability to loosen still further its fertile elements for the support of the plants. Cold is not favorable for chemical action, and as soon as the unusual warmth of the season departs we may look for a stoppage of the present vigorous growth, because the soil cannot respond, under the unfavorable circumstances, to the needs of the vigorous crop. Hence, the healthy color will disappear, and the deep green will give place to sickly yellow. More especially when the plants are infested with the fly, whose attacks can be borne patiently while the growth is rapid and the cells are full of sap, but which become destructive when the vigor is lessened, will the change become apparent. To avoid all this is of the greatest necessity; and the use of a moderate dressing of artificial fertilizer will supply precisely the stimulant needed to preserve the crop from damage. Two hundred pounds per acre will be sufficient, of any of the standard superphosphates. These fine fertilizers will at once become available, and, if spread before any harm is done, may prevent damage which can scarcely be repaired afterward. They possess the advantage of being easily spread upon the crop without trampling over it or cutting up the surface with horses and wagons, for which reason top-dressing with manure, even were it on hand for the purpose, might do more harm than would balance the saving in the cost of the fertilizer.

Top-dressing with manure is best done during the winter, and we prefer to do it with sleds on the snow rather than in the fall. Unless the manure is very fine, and is evenly spread, it will cover up injuriously much of the plant. When spread in the Winter, on the contrary, it acts as a mulch and a protection while the plant is dormant, and in the Spring, when sudden changes of temperature, with all that these imply, occur and act destructively. Then, the covering prevents thawing and freezing in sudden changes, by which the roots are broken and destroyed and the surface is strewn with winter-killed plants.—N. Y. Times.

Samples of Manitoulin Produce.

Mr. John Emery, township of Gordon, last spring planted one bushel and a peck of Early Rose potatoes, and has gathered 45 bushels therefrom. W. Hall, of the East Range, raised an Early Rose potato weighing three pounds neat, but this has been eclipsed by Mr. Woods, of the West Range. Mr. Woods says he has brought into the village thirteen potatoes, the total weight of which amounted to 39 lbs. 12 oz. Mr. Woods also brought to the Gore Bay Mills a quantity of barley, the like of which has never before been seen on the Manitoulin. The shell is black, with a very smooth skin, while the kernel is as white as the general run of barley. This barley is said to be very prolific. Mr. Woods sowed three-fourths of an acre last spring, and harvested thirty bushels of clean grain as the result.

According to an experiment made with potatoes and corn last season by Mr. S. B. West, of Columbia, Conn., the butt ends of potatoes, and the kernels of corn from the butt ends of the ears, each produced crops that were materially better than where the opposite course was pursued. In the case of potatoes, the stalks from the butt ends were much the larger and more forward at the first hoeing. The increase in the corn was some twenty per cent. in favor of the butt end kernels.

CHESTNUTS.—Six years ago, says the Fruit Recorder, we transplanted some seedling American chestnuts in a nursery row, and this season they have a number of chestnuts on them. Such a return is encouraging to those who wish to have a small grove of these handsome and favorite trees.