

Correspondence—Continued.

Another Tree Swindle.

A party from Derby, Vermont, has been through this section with brazen face and lying tongue, and sold a lot of apple trees at 50 and 75 cents each, representing the fruit to be superior and the trees fine. The trees, on delivery, were found to be poor, miserable-looking things, and when planted out hardly any of them grew. The farmers here thought it a Canadian sell, as they stated they were Canadian nurserymen, and were not aware it was a Yankee swindle until now. D. L.

Windsor, Nova Scotia.

[There are so many swindling agents traveling through our country that something should be done to protect the unwary. They are often well dressed, have a most pleasing manner, nay, they will put on religion, or any kind of a cloak to meet the party to be duped. By the most cunningly devised lies they will get farmers' signatures to papers; that is the last seen of them. The papers or notes are sold to the first note-shaver, and the law does the rest.

We must raise a revenue in our country to pay our debts; a good tax on every traveling agent might abate the evil and turn the business of the country into its legal and proper channels, namely, the producers, or the substantial dealers. In villages, towns or cities, or factories, a large revenue might be thus derived, the farmers would be better protected, and legitimate and honest dealers would be encouraged.—Ed.]

SIR,—Some dissatisfaction having been expressed by a few of my customers regarding the Mainstay wheat, which I put out last spring, I have much pleasure in handing you the enclosed letter from Capt. Delf, the originator of the Mainstay.

W. H. BROWSE,

Manager Canadian Agt. Emporium.

London, 20th July, 1877.

SIR,—I am in receipt of your letter of 21st June, and I am sorry to hear any complaint of the wheat from your side, as on this side I am constantly receiving the most satisfactory reports; in fact, speak to whom you may, all are loud in its praises. There may have been something adverse in the season with you to prevent its proper development, and in all probability it will succeed better the second year of growth, as most varieties of grain require to be acclimated in some measure.

The grain crop here offers but very poor prospects, especially the barley and oats, while wheat will be generally a bad crop.

WILLIAM DELF.

Great Bentley, Colchester, July 6th, 1877.

Ontario Fruit-Growers' Association.

At the last meeting of the Ontario Fruit-Growers' Association, held in Stratford, Rev. Dr. Burnett presiding, there were on exhibition a number of specimens of fruit—cherries, raspberries, gooseberries, &c. Messrs. Arnold, Mitchell, Jarvis and Parker having been appointed a committee to examine them, presented the following report:—

Mr. Bradt, Wentworth—Bradt's Seedling Russett; a very fine apple and in excellent condition for the lateness of the season.

E. C. Fearnside, Hamilton—Tradescant Seedling Napoleon Bigarreau Cherries; very fine.

A. Moyer, Jordan—Currants, black, white and white raspberries, of excellent quality.

H. Parker, Woodstock—A beautiful sample of Whitesmith Gooseberries.

John White—Gooseberries, the same as exhibited at Philadelphia, and pronounced ahead of any known kind; they are mildew-proof.

Mr. Searle, Clinton—Fine, large English Gooseberries, also Clinton and two Rogers hybrid groups.

D. Housberger, Jordan—Fine raspberries, Brandywine, Herstine, Reed's Prolific, Elm City and Highland Hardy.

V. S. Gregory, St. Catharines—Raspberries and gooseberries; the latter very fine.

Mr. Saunders, London—Four hybrid raspberries of excellent flavor and size.

E. Arnold, Paris—Fine samples of gooseberries and raspberries.

R. Kettlewell, London—Fine Seedling Cherry.

Improvement in Farming.

We take the following extracts from "A New Theory of Tillage" in the *Scientific Farmer*. They can hardly be said to be new ideas to the readers of the *FARMERS' ADVOCATE*, but they present thoughts and facts in different aspects and from another authority:—

The better the gardener, the more thoroughly he cultivates his growing crops; and the more thoroughly he understands the reasons which underlie his processes, the better fitted is he to contend with adverse circumstances of soil, or climate variation. As the florist's pursuit utilizes industry and intellect, the gardener's pursuit receives a more laborious industry, and a lower grade of intellectual standing. In America, our best gardening represents the principles which underlie our best farming, but our best farming, through the neglect of principles, cannot be said to be gardening in all but the succession and variety of crops. Although the difference of price between vegetable crops early in season or out of season may allow a greater expenditure to the gardener, than will the price of ordinary farm crops justify the farmer, yet this is not the whole difference between the two classes. The crops are governed by the same natural laws in their growth, and accordingly the best results upon all are to be gained by the most judicious application of those principles which affect their growth; whether applied by the farmer or the gardener; and as reason indicates, so does observation show that the best farmer and the best gardener is the man of the most intelligent application of intellect to his work.

Of the class called farmers, but one remove above the pastoral state, and of which we see so many examples scattered all over the West—even many, I am sorry to say, in the more densely populated East—we can say nothing concerning principles, for they have none; but little about practices, for they hardly have these. They keep tilling their own virgin soil, and the harvests, after a time, cease to smile, and the weeds of the field, ever on the watch, take the place of the harvest, and sour the man and sap his land.

Is this severe? Consult the census; examine with care the average yields for 1873. In California, that great empire state, whose fruitfulness is the wonder of nations, the yield of wheat is given as a paltry 13½ bushels per acre. In the Carolinas, between 5 and 6 bushels. In the Southwest, from 7 to 17 bushels. In the West, from 11 to 18 bushels. In New England, from 11 to 19. In the great Middle States, from 11 to 16 bushels only.

Good farmers in Massachusetts get yields of from 18 to 42 bushels per acre; in New York from 20 to 57 bushels per acre. A careful examination of the records of farming as deducted from the various state and national agricultural reports will satisfy the inquirer that good farmers obtain good crops, but the average crops are small through the careless, ignorant, or no culture of the many.

In England, according to Caird, the average produce of wheat is 27 bushels per acre. In Scotland, according to Mr. Dudgeon, the average is 22 to 26 bushels for lighter land, and from 30 to 32 bushels for good land, while crops frequently range from 50 bushels per acre upwards. With the best farmers, these larger figures may be their usual crop.

A Few Characteristics of Clover.

BY A FREE TALKER.

Talking of clover as a fertilizer it is well to remember some of its chief and most valuable characteristics. One of these is its tap roots. These sometimes run to the depth of two, three, four and sometimes five feet in length. These roots must break and pulverise the soil and they must bring up from the subsoil valuable materials for plant food. Now, consider the value of these roots to a field that is fully permeated by them. A good judge says they are worth as much as five cords of good manure to the acre. The value of clover is as much, and even more, in the roots than in the stem; in the quantity of the roots.

Another characteristic of clover is that it is a biennial plant, a plant that lasts for two years, and then runs out, or perishes, from *bis*, two, and *annus*, year. This fact indicates its most successful treatment as a fertilizer. As a general practice it seems best to allow the plant to attain its maturity which cannot be done the first year. Hence, the best farmers adopt the plan to mow the clover the first year for cattle-food, and the second year to turn it under as food for crops. This gives the plant time to perfect itself and run its race, or fulfill its mission. The consequence of this will be a rich mass of vegetable matter already gathered in the soil. To get the full benefit of clover roots, there should be allowed for the roots to grow. There can be no doubt of the great value of clover roots, for they serve two purposes, first, breaking and dividing the soil while growing, and second, they afford the soil a great mass of vegetable matter while in the process of decay. The second year's growth, or the full biennial growth, furnishes more pulverization, more weight of vegetable matter, and consequently, more fertility.

The more roots the more tops, or the more herbage. There is a characteristic of the growth or formation of the plant worthy of attention. Every one is acquainted with the process of clover. If clover is to be used as a fertilizer this is worth attention: for green manuring is turning the clover under when fresh or in blossom. There is a great difference in the value of clover, as a fertilizer, when in blossom, than when it has formed its seed. Notice the changes in successive growth, the green leaves, the green, fresh stalks covered with leaves, the flowers. This is the stage of growth when carbon, oxygen, and hydrogen are the active principles taken into the plant.

Then comes the period of decay, dry roots, withered stalks, when all the business of the plant is to perfect its seeds. The stalk is harder and becomes like a stick. Now, we ask, in all reason, which is the proper time to plough under for the purpose of fertilization, this great vegetable mass, at the blossoming time, or at the seed time? When the leaves, roots and stalks are dry, or when they are fresh and full of the ingredients that give life to the soil? We believe that the true time to plow under a crop of clover is at the time of blossom, and that the difference between a green plowing and a dry plowing is very great.

Opinions differ, we know, but it does appear that the treatment of a clover crop should be well and firmly settled. Every part of the plant is valuable. Its great importance to the Michigan system is acknowledged. Its roots take from the subsoil, frequently where the plough does not reach, valuable constituents of plant food, while its leaves take from the atmosphere equally valuable properties, and these turned under while green, take nothing out but what they give back; yes, more, for that which has been taken from the atmosphere has been given back to earth.

This practice of feeding off, preferred by some of the best farmers, before plowing under, removes some portion of the objection that this is a very dear system of fertilization; that is to say, in green manuring you give two crops for one, or in other words you take two years to get a crop of wheat. In answer to the objection it is only to be said: this, or exhaustion; this or nothing. Beside it is not for one crop of wheat that the sacrifice is made, it is for all time to come, for the next century!—*Michigan Farmer*.

A Model Yankee Farmer.

A New Hampshire correspondent of the *Manchester Mirror* expresses his views on the deserted farm question thus bluntly: "If farms have run down the people who occupy them are a long way ahead in the race. We have got on our farms today a class of people who can cipher through the algebra, play the piano, and boast of an acquaintance with the fine arts, but they can't work. They have got fine minds, but their bodies are sickly, puny, and weak. To talk the matter plainly, we have bred the bone and muscle out of our families until we have got a kind of human Jerseys, fire-bred, mild-eyed, and nice to look at, and pet, and put on exhibition, but so tender and weak that they are fit neither for our climate, our work, nor our circumstances. Our fathers worked twelve or fourteen hours a day, and never thought of getting tired. We are used up when we have worked four hours. Our mothers made butter and cheese, fed the pigs and chickens, did the milking, raised a dozen children, made the clothing for the family, and when a shower was coming could rake or load hay. Our wives want a maid to tend the