

Agricultural Intelligence.

Wentworth and Hamilton Agricultural Societies.

REPORT OF THE JUDGES ON THE ROOT CROPS OF 1865.

We have been favoured by the Secretary, Mr. W. A. Cooley, with the annexed report of the committee appointed, by the above societies, to examine the fields of turnips, carrots, and mangel wurzel, which had been entered, by their respective proprietors, for the annual competition. The results are highly interesting, and will abundantly repay an attentive perusal.

The undersigned judges, appointed to award prizes at the Annual Turnip Match for the year 1865, submit the following report:—

The duty assigned was to award a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize, for fields of turnips of not less than four acres; and a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize for fields of turnips of not less than one acre. Our rule in each case was to measure off a square of 25 feet (being within a fraction of the 70th of an acre), in such portion of the field as presented a fair average of the whole, and to weigh and measure the produce carefully.

1st We proceeded to Edward Markle's, Lot No. 12, in the 6th Con. of East Flamboro'; 4 acres of Purple-top Swede; soil, sandy loam; ploughed once in the fall and twice in the spring, then ridged about 21 inches apart; seed sown by hand; cultivated three times and hoed twice; yield, 697½ lbs. × 70 = 24 tons 525 lbs., or 813½ bushels per acre.

2nd. Matthew Burns, Lot No. 11, in the 4th Con. of East Flamboro'; 2½ acres Laing's Purple-top and Skirving's Swede; soil, sandy loam, barley stubble; ploughed in the fall and once in spring, manured in the drills with 15 loads barn yard manure, sown on the 10th June, in drills 21 inches apart, thinned, and hoed twice and cultivated once; yield, 520 lbs. × 70 = 15 tons 400 lbs., or 600½ bushels per acre.

3rd James McMonies, Lot No. 5, in the 4th Con. of East Flamboro'. soil, sandy loam, oat stubble; ploughed twice in the spring, and manured with 15 loads barn-yard manure per acre; sown 20th June, 3 lbs. seed per acre; variety, old Purple-top; yield, 400½ lbs. × 70 = 11 tons 35 lbs., or 467½ bushels per acre.

4th. Thomas Stock, Lot No. 9, in the 3rd Con. of East Flamboro'; soil, clay loam, about 6½ acres, oat stubble, ploughed in the fall, and manured with 12 loads of barn-yard manure to the acre, ploughed twice in the spring, with proper harrowing and rolling to put in good tilth; commenced sowing in drills on the 17th June, with about 3 lbs. of seed per acre, hand hoed twice and cultivated three times; variety, Purple-top Swede; yield, 686 lbs. × 70 = 11 tons 20 lbs., or 500½ bushels per acre.

5th George A. Stock Lot No. 8, in the 3rd Con. of East Flamboro'; soil, sand loam, oat stubble, ploughed in the spring, harrowed and twice cultivated with fallow cultivator, manured at the rate of 17 loads of barn-yard manure per acre, manure ploughed in and harrowed three times, drills 23 inches apart, hoed twice and cultivated three times; yield, 573 lbs. × 70 = 29 tons 110 lbs., or 668½ bushels per acre.

6th. John Weir, Lot No. 4, 1st Con. of West Flamboro'; 8½ acres.—soil, clay loam, oat stubble, manured with 15 loads of barn-yard manure per acre, ploughed in the fall with trench plough 8 inches deep, ploughed twice in the spring, harrowed and rolled until sufficiently fine; sown in drills 28 inches apart, on the 3rd, 7th, 9th and 10th June, with Purple-top and Watson's Improved Purple-top Swede, about ¾ of the former and ¼ of the latter, 3 lbs of seed per acre, manured in the drills with 400 lbs. bone dust, and 100 lbs. Coc's Superphosphate to the acre, hoed three times and cultivated three times, yield, 651½ lbs. × 70 = 23 tons 193½ lbs., or 798¾ bushels per acre.

7th. George Leitb, Lot No. 41, 1st Con. of Ancaster; 5 acres.—soil, clay loam, oat stubble, ploughed in the fall, 12 loads of barn-yard manure, and 143 lbs. Coc's Superphosphate, drilled in when the seed was sown, horse hoed once, and hand hoed twice; yield, 620 lbs. × 70 = 21 tons 140 lbs., or 723¾ bushels per acre; variety, Purple-top Swede.

8th. Robert Turner, Lot 48, 2nd Con. of Ancaster; 7 acres.—soil, clay loam, pea stubble, manured with 15 loads farm-yard manure per acre, ploughed in the fall with trench plough, ploughed again in spring, harrowed and rolled; seed sown 17th, 19th and 20th June, at the rate of 3 lbs. per acre, in drills 21 inches asunder; variety, old Purple-top and Laing's Swede; yield, 567 lbs. × 70 = 19 tons 1690 lbs., or 661½ bushels per acre.

9th. Peter Grant, Lot No. 8, 1st Con. of Barton; 6 acres.—soil, sand loam, barley stubble, ploughed in the fall and in the spring, manured with 15 loads of farm yard manure and leached ashes per acre; seed sown from 17th to 27th June, 2½ lbs. per acre, in drills 2 feet apart; variety, Skirving's King of Swede; yield, 656 lbs. × 70 = 22 tons 520 lbs., or 742 bushels per acre.

10th George Barnes, Lot No. 8, 3rd Con. of Barton, about 3 acres; soil, sand loam, oat stubble, ploughed in the fall and spring, and manured with 20 loads manure, and 7 bushels salt per acre; seed sown 21st June, 3 lbs. per acre, variety, Purple-top Swede; yield, 350 lbs. × 70 = 12 tons 500 lbs., or 495¾ bush. per acre.

RECAPITULATION.

Result of examination of 4 acre fields. —			
Edward Markle,	21 tons	8 cwt.	30 lbs.
James McMonies,	14 "	0 "	23 "
Thos. Stock,	24 "	0 "	20 "
John Weir,	33 "	19 "	32½ "
George Leitb,	21 "	14 "	60 "
Robert Turner,	19 "	16 "	19 "
Peter Grant,	22 "	6 "	20 "

Result of examination of 1 acre fields:—

M. Burns,	15 tons	0 cwt.	40 lbs.
George A. Stock,	20 "	1 "	10 "
George Barnes,	12 "	5 "	00 "

With the above results before us, we award for the 4 acre field, 1st prize to Edward Markle, of East Flamboro'; the 2nd prize to Thomas Stock, of East Flamboro', and the 3rd prize to John Weir, of West Flamboro'.

For the one acre fields, we award the 1st prize to George A. Stock, of East Flamboro'; the 2nd prize to M. Burns, of East Flamboro', and the 3rd prize to George Barnes, of Barton.

CARROTS.

We were also appointed to award a 1st and 2nd prize for the best field of carrots, of not less than ¼ acre. Our rule was to select an average of the field and measure off 12½ × 25 ft. being about the 140th part of an acre, and weigh and measure carefully.

1st. Edward Markle, Lot No. 12, 6th Con., East Flamboro'; soil, sand loam, ploughed once in the fall and twice in the spring, manured after ploughing in the spring, then ridged up about 21 inches apart, hoed twice and cultivated three times; yield, 312½ × 140 = 23 tons 198½ lbs., or 799½ bushels per acre.

2nd. M. Burns, Lot No. 1, 4th Con., East Flamboro'; soil, sand loam, in 1st year, ploughed in the spring no manure, 3 lbs. of seed per acre, sown on the 13th April, in drills 21 inches apart, thinned and hoed three times; yield, 260½ lbs. × 140 = 18 tons 500 lbs., or 608½ bushels per acre.

3rd. James McMonies, Lot No. 5, 4th Con. of East Flamboro'; soil, sand loam; yield, 261½ lbs. × 140 = 18 tons 615 lbs., or 610½ bushels per acre.

4th. Dr. Miller, Lot No. 1, 2nd Con. of West Flamboro'; soil, sand loam, in turnips last year, ploughed in 1st year in the fall at the rate of 24 loads per acre, then cultivated, ploughed, harrowed, and rolled, ploughed in the spring, then drilled 21 inches apart. A small track was then made on the top of the drill in which Coc's Superphosphate was sown, at the rate of 300 lbs. per acre; 8 lbs. seed per acre, thinned three times during the season; yield, 257½ lbs. × 140 = 18 tons 50 lbs., or 600½ bushels per acre.

5th. John Weir, Lot 4, 1st Con. of West Flamboro'; soil, clay loam, one-third of an acre, oat stubble, 18 loads of farm-yard manure per acre, ploughed 9 inches deep, ploughed once in the spring, harrowed and rolled, sown in drills 21 inches apart, on the 13th May, with White Belgian seed, at the rate of 4 lbs. per acre, manured in the drill with farm-yard manure, at the rate of 10 loads per acre; yield, 359 lbs. × 110 = 25 tons 260 lbs., or 857½ bushels per acre.

6th. Charles Rymal, Lot No. 20, 5th Con. of Barton; soil, heavy black loam, oat stubble, ploughed in the fall and in the spring, 20 loads stable manure to the acre; seed sown on the 15th May, in drills two feet apart, at the rate of 3 lbs. seed per acre, yield, 307 lbs. × 140 = 21 tons 980 lbs., or 716½ bushels per acre.

7th Robert J. Hamilton, City of Hamilton; soil, black gravelly loam, in potatoes last year; yield, 279 lbs. × 110 = 19 tons 1060 lbs., or 651 bushels per acre.

8th. George Barnes, Lot No. 8, 3rd Con. of Barton; soil, sand loam, in potatoes 1st year, ploughed in spring; seed sown May 2nd and 3rd, in drills 2 feet apart, at the rate of 3 lbs per acre; yield 383 lbs. × 140 = 26 tons 1620 lbs., or 893½ bushels per acre.

RECAPITULATION.

Result of examination of fields of carrots:—

Edward Markle,	E. Flamboro',	23 tons	10 cwt.	83 lbs.
Matthew Burns,	E. Flamboro',	18 "	5 "	00 "
Jas. McMonies,	E. Flamboro',	18 "	6 "	45 "
Dr. Miller,	W. Flamboro',	18 "	0 "	50 "
John Weir,	W. Flamboro',	25 "	2 "	60 "
Chas. Rymal,	Barton,	21 "	9 "	60 "
R. J. Hamilton,	Hamilton,	19 "	10 "	60 "
George Barnes,	Barton,	20 "	16 "	20 "

With the above results before us, we award, for the ¼ acre of carrots, the 1st prize to George Barnes, Barton; the second prize to John Weir, West Flamboro'.

MANGEL WURZEL.

We were also instructed to award a first and second prize for the best field of mangel wurzel, of not less than ¼ of an acre,

1st. R. J. Hamilton, City of Hamilton; soil, black gravelly loam; variety, Long Red; yield, 398½ lbs. × 110 = 27 tons 1970 lbs., or 929½ bus. per acre.

2nd. Peter Grant, Lot No. 8, 1st Con. of Barton; soil, sand loam, barley stubble, ploughed in the fall and in the spring, manured with 15 loads farm-yard manure and leached ashes, per acre; sown 25th May, in drills 2 feet apart; variety, Long Red Long Yellow; yield, 280 lbs. × 140 = 19 tons 1200 lbs., or 653½ bus., per acre.

3rd. George Barnes, Lot No. 8, 3rd Con. of Barton; soil, black clay loam; variety, Long Red; fall wheat stubble ploughed in the fall and spring; sown 25th May, in drills 26 inches apart; yield, 413 lbs. × 140 = 28 tons 1820 lbs., or 963½ bushels per acre.

RECAPITULATION.

Result of examination of fields of mangel wurzel. —

R. J. Hamilton,	City of Hamilton,	27 tons	17 cwt.	60 lbs.
Peter Grant,	Barton,	19 "	12 "	00 "
George Barnes,	Barton,	38 "	18 "	20 "

With the above results before us, we award, for ¼ acre mangel wurzel, the 1st prize to George Barnes, Barton; and the 2nd prize to R. J. Hamilton, City of Hamilton.

Before concluding this report, the Judges have much pleasure in bearing testimony to the great care and improved culture of the different fields of turnips which they inspected. From the great increase in the breadth sown, there is satisfactory evidence shown that our farmers now look upon the turnip crop as one of the most important grown upon the farm. The general average has not been so large this season as in former years, owing to the very dry weather which prevailed about the time of sowing. With reference to the different varieties sown, the judges have no hesitation in recommending the following for heavy upland soils, viz: Skirving's Purple Top, and Skirving's King of the Swedes; and for alluvial, lighter, and more lively loamy soils, the Old Purple Top, Watson's, Laing's Improved, and Bronze Top. They have also much pleasure in drawing the attention of the agriculturists of Canada to a new turnip, which they saw growing on the farm of Mr. Robert Turner, of Ancaster, named the "Grey Stone." It is a white-fleshed turnip, suited for late sowing, and we understand, keeps in good condition until the end of January. It grows to a very large size, and is well worthy of extended cultivation. The judges are pleased to observe that the culture of carrots is receiving that attention which they so justly deserve. They also notice that greater care is exhibited in thinning and keeping them clean than was the rule in past years. We were also pleased to notice that the cultivation of mangel wurzel is on the increase. This crop deserves still more extended cultivation. They are invaluable for milch cattle, as well as for fattening stock. In conclusion, the judges congratulate the farmers of Wentworth on the deep interest exhibited in the culture of field root crops, evincing, as it does, rapid progress toward a thorough system of profitable and scientific farming; and they hope the day is not far distant when every county in Canada will hold similar matches.

All of which is respectfully submitted.
(Signed,) JAMES FLEMING, Toronto.
GEORGE LAING, Hamilton.
November, 1865. JNO. A. BRUCE, Hamilton.

PROTECTION AGAINST THE CATTLE PLAGUE.—It is stated that the collector of the port of Boston is co-operating heartily with the Cattle Commissioners of Massachusetts to prevent the introduction of the murrain into that State. He has ordered all officers, who may know of any cattle about to land on our shores from Europe, to hold them in quarantine till they can be examined by the Commissioners, and pronounced free from infection. The Mass. Ploughman, remarking on the above, observes, that "if all custom-house officers throughout the country, would adopt the same course, or if Congress would pass a law subjecting such animals to a rigid quarantine, we should feel confident of escaping the infection."