

Barley—Sheep.

The following extract from the *Agricultural Gazette* is replete with very good practical advice on barley growing. Our farmers, while getting valuable hints from it, can easily adapt to their circumstances any thing not immediately applicable under the present circumstances and mode of agriculture in Canada:—

It is none too soon to be thinking of our barley crop. We have seen too much thin barley during the last two years, and we have found the difference between 35s. and 50s. per qr. This fluctuation in value has not been, as in the case of wheat, the consequence of changes in the markets of the world. The same farmer has been selling his barley, the same week, at the two figures above quoted. It is entirely a matter of quality, and it is of vital importance for a farmer to secure as far as he possible can the quality to command the top price. We have discussed the subject on former occasions, but it seems as necessary as ever to direct attention to it, and invite discussion thereupon. So far as we have been able to ascertain, success seems to depend upon the following points:—

1. Moderate manuring.
2. Early plowing.
3. Early sowing.
4. Good seed.
5. Successful harvesting.
6. Careful preparation for marketing.

Above all these controllable circumstances is what is called "season." Seasons beat the best of us; they constitute the element of chance in the agricultural game. Just as the careful whist player finds himself beaten by cards, so the clever farmer, after taking every precaution, finds himself beaten by the season. Still the skilful player wins in the long run, and the plea that much depends upon season in farming matters is no more worthy of attention than the complaints of a bad whist player against uniform bad luck. We consider the six points of successful barley cultivation just laid down as incontrovertible. We are, however, inclined to allow a certain amount of latitude as to the precise meaning of "good seed." After a correspondence in these columns upon the subject last spring, we are ready to believe that thin barley, if it is of a good breed, and has not been too often grown on the same land, may succeed as well as stout barley of the same description. This is precisely the same as allowing the possibility of inferior animals of a good strain, propagating good offspring. In both cases, however, the balance of probability would be upon the side of individual excellence as well as excellence of lineage. No doubt cake and corn are to blame for much thin barley. Sheep should lie off the fold at night. By this means two portions are manured instead of one, and the barley is certainly improved in quality. Where, as the season advances, we are compelled, for the sake of our sheep, to bestow cake and corn with a more lavish hand, oats will be more likely to succeed than barley, as they prefer a grosser diet and yield proportionately a better return.

THE FREE GRANT LANDS.—A writer in the *Kingston News* says the emigration to Olden and Sharbot Lake district is rapidly increasing, no less than twenty-eight settlers having moved in since the 1st of November, all respectable farmers and men of means from Wolfe Island, who will, no doubt, help to increase the value of the land, and make the country really what it should be—a valuable stock country, as it is more adapted to stock-raising than agricultural purposes, and will, no doubt, be valuable for minerals when the country becomes cleared. The country is bound to be settled up (that is, all the land that is suitable for settlement), and very little of the Sharbot Lake is unfit for this. In fact there is more good land in Olden and Oso than most of our frontier cousins imagine.

Clover may be sown at any time before the spring rains. When the seeds are sown on the snow, that melts and carries them down into the crevices of the earth left by the frost. Some prefer to wait until the frost is out, and the ground will bear the weight of the teams, and then harrow in the seed and roll.

Soiling Stock—A Season's Record.

On the 1st of October I sowed two bushels of Winter rye where I had raised my last fodder corn, some of which was planted so late as July 20, and yielded a very heavy crop. November 6 I fed the last of my barley green fodder; this was sown August 1, where I had harvested early potatoes and peas. The barley was a heavy crop; I should think nearly equal to two tons to the acre of dry feed. I never had barley do better nor look better; at the time of feeding it was a very rich, dark green. I had an excellent crop of barley fodder where my earliest planted corn grew; this I fed off in October. And one of the advantages of soiling I will here state. The manure used for July-planted corn was made during June, and the manure spread on the ground where I sowed the barley was made in July; in September I seeded down over two acres of ground where I had raised a heavy crop of Hungarian; the land was manured in May previous to putting in Hungarian, and after ploughing in September I had manure enough to give the ground a good dressing before putting in the grass seed; the manure I harrowed in before sowing the seed; then brush in the feed and afterward roll it; and I sow with the grass seed a little flat-turnip seed. The turnips I took out of the ground to-day, the last of them, and I have a nice lot, although they were not sown till September; these I have been feeding over a week, tops and all, and shall have enough to last me till near the 1st of January. I feed them immediately after milking, and find no taste of the turnips in the milk. With the turnips I am feeding barley fodder, dry, which was cut in July, and timothy and red top hay.

I find the fall the best time to put in timothy and redtop seed; I prefer the month of August for sowing it, but this year I was a little later, but I have an excellent catch, and the grass is looking well; I shall get a good crop of hay next summer from this, which will be ready to cut about the middle of July, and after that I shall get a good crop of rowen. Your readers must bear this in mind, that upon my land manure is a great consideration, and with us horse manure is worth at least \$8 per cord; and I have brought up my land from supporting two cows ten years ago to supporting ten now, and have purchased very little manure and very little special fertilizers, but I have bought a good deal of shorts, corn meal and brewers' grains, and I have endeavored to take good care of my manure, saving all refuse and raking up leaves, together with loam to absorb the urine. I have thus been enabled to make a big manure heap. I have now in the barn cellar three or four cords, and intend plowing for spring rye and for an early sowing of barley and clover; when I have ploughed, I intend drawing out the manure and spreading it broadcast and letting it remain till spring, then harrow it in and sow seed and harrow in that, and then roll it. I find in soiling a great advantage in getting the seed in early, for a week or two of early feed in spring is worth a good deal. My winter rye always comes early, but I want something to follow it, which must be spring rye and barley. Persons who intend trying soiling will find an advantage in following my system, although they may not adopt the whole of my method; every man must vary to suit varying circumstances, and I may materially vary mine if I find some other method superior.—T. W., Hillside Farm, in *Tribune*.

The *Perth Courier* finds that during the past two years there has been shipped from Kingston nearly 10,000 tons of phosphate. This enormous amount has all been brought into Kingston either by the Rideau Canal or by wagons from the adjoining townships. The average price paid for the material during 1877 was \$10 per ton, and during 1878, \$12 per ton. This was sold for shipment to England and elsewhere at from \$13 to \$13.50 per ton. It is probable that a large quantity of phosphate will be mined during the winter in Ottawa county. In all there are about twenty mines opened, and an average of ten men employed at each, making in all two hundred. On an average each man will take out half a ton of phosphate in a day, so that every week about 600 tons are taken.

Meadows and pastures that need renovating may be improved by passing a heavy harrow over them in different directions and sowing two bushels of fine bone-dust and five of ashes upon them. Seeds may be sown either of clover or timothy and orchard grass mixed, and a heavy roller passed over the fields.

GLEANINGS.

Farmers are like fowls; neither will get full crops without industry.

White stone is ground up in New England to adulterate flour and sugar.

Half the vinegar which is sold in shops is rank poison. Farmers make your own vinegar.

In Montreal they have an excellent habit of fining people who carry uncovered lights into barns or stables.

Clydesdale working horses have recently been sold at auction in Great Britain at from \$300 to \$375 each.

Bark grows thickest on the north side of trees; thus, to tell which is north when in a forest, girdle a tree.

The average net weight of the hogs slaughtered in the United States is 226 pounds, and the lard in each hog between 38 and 39 pounds.

The exports of sugar from Boston for 1878 amounted to 21,696,941 pounds, including 14,634,218 pounds to Canada. Let us have home-grown sugar.

At Maple Rapids, last week, a cow and yoke of oxen had been regaling themselves by chewing a lot of tobacco stems, and shortly after died from the effects of their pic-nic.

Ohio has 23 linseed oil establishments. This is one State. Canada can raise as much lint fibre (flax) and linseed as any portion of the States. Let us, too, have linseed establishments.

The exports from Wallace, N. S., amount to \$19,340, not including the value of cattle sold and taken away. Of this amount, 3,500 bushels of potatoes brought \$5,100.

A very fine sample of wheat, full and plump, grown eight miles from Fort McLeod, proves that that section of the Northwest Territory is a splendid wheat growing country.

American green corn is sent to Europe by steamers during the season in large quantities, and finds a ready market. Cannot Canadians try their hand in the same business?

A despatch from Liverpool says the British steamer *Speke Hall*, which arrived from Boston on the 7th inst., lost 140 cattle by death on the passage. It is not said if the deaths were from disease.

A lecturer in Boston, U. S., says hundreds and probably thousands of barrels of "terra alba" (white earth) are sold in our cities every year to be mixed with sugars in confectionary and other white substances.

Land to be sowed with beans should be plowed early, for it will be all the better for remaining a few weeks in rough furrow exposed to the elements ere being sown. Oats in particular always like a stale furrow.

An instance of spontaneous incubation is reported from a Western New York barnyard, when the heat of litter accidentally thrown over a nest of eggs hatched out eleven healthy chickens.

An agricultural exchange urges that horses and cattle thrive best when watered regularly three times a day the year round. A greater number of times impedes digestion, and with a less number the animal suffers from thirst.

Four tons of cholera-killed hogs are rendered daily at Rockford, Ills. The oil is run into kerosene barrels and shipped to Chicago, where it is converted into lard oil. We Canadians are happily free from not a few evils that affect our neighbors over the border.

There have been amazing crops of potatoes raised in America—sometimes 600 to 800 bushels to the acre. At the same time it is well to enquire what is the ordinary yield. The average yield of the whole country in 1878 was 69 bushel per acre, against 94 bushels in 1877.

The wool clip of Australia is about 284,000,000 pounds; the total clip of the world in 1877 was about 1,496,500,000 pounds; this, when scoured, would yield about 852,000,000 pounds clean wool. We are increasing our wool product in Ontario, and we have room for a very great increase; while Algoma and our great Northwest afford almost unlimited fields for sheep-farming.