

cause for having weak lambs and careless mothers I attribute to poor feeding and poor shelter, with a bad supply of water."

TOWNSHIPRA NCHES.

CHATHAM.—Thirty-seven members; amount of subscription, \$37; balance from previous year, \$26 18; sundries, \$7 90; total received, \$71 08. Paid in premiums, \$42 25; copies *Agriculturist*, \$5; expenses, \$14; balance in hand, \$9 83.

Extracts from Report.

The soil of this township in the front and rear is generally a heavy clay and clay loam, while in the centre of the township it is a sandy loam, and has always until the last three or four years been a largely wheat producing township. During the years 1857 and 1858 the wheat crops were nearly all destroyed by the weevil or midge. In 1859 it is impossible to say whether the crop would have been again destroyed by that scourge of the farmer, or not, as in order to escape its ravages, the farmers generally had sown their seed early, and of such early varieties, (the Mediterranean, blue stream, and Soule's,) that in trying to escape from Scylla they fell into Charybdis; inasmuch as the wheat crops here being so far advanced when heavy frost in June came, was consequently all, or nearly all, destroyed.

The Board think that they may safely set down five bushels to the acre sown, as the average return of the wheat crop of Chatham township for 1859; whereas the usual average in this township in a good season may be set down as 30 bushels. The pea crop has been a remunerative one—the kind of peas sown has been generally the common blue and the Prussian blue. The average return to the acre sown may be set down at 25 bushels, for which the farmers have realized the handsome sum of seventy-five cents per bushel, and even as high as \$1 per bushel has been paid for good samples of clear blue—these prices being paid by Americans, who came from Rochester and Buffalo, N. Y. For some years peas could not be raised here, on account of the peabug, but in 1858 and 1859 the crop was entirely free from this destroyer.

The corn and buckwheat crops, which were extensively planted, on account of some other crops having been totally destroyed in the spring, have proved very light crops, owing to the cold, dry summer and early fall frosts.

A large area of land was likewise planted

to potatoes, which have been below an average crop, say 150 bushels to the acre.

In the cultivation of the soil for these crops no artificial manures have been resorted to, other than the common produce of the barn-yard; as it has been found, especially in the front farms, that the application of manure to the soil extensively has caused too great a growth of straw, and a less quantity of grain than otherwise. The average price of farms may be set down as \$50 per acre for farms in the front, and \$20 per acre for farms in the rear; for bush lands, which lie chiefly in the rear, the price may be set down as \$8 per acre.

The prices paid to farm-labourers have been \$12 per month, and board; for day hands, 75 cents per day.

With regard to animals, until late years not much attention has been paid to the improvement of the native breeds. Lately, some very fine Durham cattle and Merino sheep have been introduced, and appear to suit this locality, and promise to repay the expense of introduction. But it would be premature to state figures as to the advantages sufficient time not having yet elapsed fully to test the question as its importance demands; although it may be here remarked that this is chiefly a grain producing township, and there has not heretofore been much attention paid to the improvement of breed in cattle. In horticulture, this township can excel; but with a few exceptions, it is not so extensively cultivated as its importance demands. Lately Mr. Wm. Webb has established a nursery near the town of Chatham, where fruit trees of every description are propagated, and garden seeds of all varieties are raised in perfection; but on account of the heavy frost in June, which destroyed all garden fruits, the Board have no report to make of the different varieties displayed in 1859, as it would afford no fair index of the capability of the soil for this class of culture.

Lastly, under this head the Board have to report, that the great disadvantage under which the farmers labour in this township,—which is also the reason why the Board have no report to make out of any thorough draining undertaken by particular farmers,—is the level nature of the land throughout the whole extent of the township, which will require a combined system of ditching and draining to be undertaken, either by the Municipality or Government in connection with the people, to