

imported from Europe, A change of seed of all our cultivated grains, grown on different soils and in somewhat different climates, is a matter of much greater moment than many farmers, judging from their practice, seem to imagine. We are convinced that more attention will have to be paid by our farmers for the future to these matters, or the attempt to grow wheat in many places will prove to be abortive, and consequently unprofitable. In several large districts in Upper Canada spring wheat has in great measure superseded the winter varieties, and although the price is relatively lower, yet the comparative certainty and greater yield of the crop will, in most cases, be found more than a compensation.

The most generally approved variety of spring wheat at the present appears to be the *Fife*. Upon high, light ground it is thought less suitable than the club, and some other sorts; but on low, wet lands it is perhaps the best suited of all varieties. It possesses also this advantage over others, that it will bear late sowing, and upon suitable and well prepared soils will generally yield from 25 to 30 bushels and upwards to the acre. Many people prefer sowing it late, in order to avoid the risk of the midge. Fife wheat can be sown as late as the middle, or even the end of May in the western section of the Province, with a good chance of a favorable result. This feature in its characteristics must recommend it to a large number of farmers at the present time. The Fife has, we believe, been cultivated in this Province for upwards of a dozen years, and by obtaining seed from different soils, carefully selected for its purity and plumpness, it may be kept from any serious deterioration for some time to come. From the want of attention to such precautions the Fife wheat generally is not now equal in weight and quality to what it was a few years since. In the present uncertain state of wheat growing both here, and throughout a large zone of this North American Continent, the introduction of new varieties both of winter and spring

wheat is a matter of the greatest public interest. We may state for the information of such as are practically interested in this matter, that Mr. Fleming, Seedsman, of this city, has a large quantity of Fife Wheat, for seed, which he warrants to be of pure quality.

In recommending farmers to turn their attention more to spring wheat for a while at least, we would urge them to make the best preparations in their power. The ground should be well ploughed and free of weeds, and in a condition as regards its chemical constituents, fit for producing a profitable crop. *Nothing short of these requirements, can, for any length of time, remunerate the producer.* The continuing the cultivation of poor, worn out soils, while it exhausts the pocket of the farmer, is equally certain to deteriorate the *quality* of the grain.

In conclusion we would recommend the rolling of wheat lands, such as are light and spongy especially, as early as the state of the surface will admit. This will tend to consolidate the earth around the roots of the plant, and will materially assist, by fixing more closely the roots, to enable them to obtain a more certain and copious supply of food from the soil. In case the surface should be smooth and hard, and the roots and lower parts of the plant alive, a light bush harrow, followed by the roller, might be beneficial. But where winter wheat is extensively killed in the root, by the action of wet and frost, there is but one alternative, to plough the ground immediately, and sow either spring wheat or some other crop.

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#### STRAW CUTTERS.

The advantages of cutting fodder for cattle are now universally acknowledged, and there are few farms of any considerable extent, but have a straw, or, as it is commonly but erroneously called, a chaff cutter, which is found to be a machine of great economic importance.