

brands. The Inspectors of Flour at last determined that Spring Wheat flour should be branded as such; and, by this means the two qualities were kept distinct. The failure the past season was so great, that the country from this source alone must have sustained a loss equal to £400,000! The failure of Spring Wheat was not confined to one District, but it was general from one end of the Province to the other. There were, certainly, isolated cases; but nineteen-twentieths of the crop did not more than pay the expenses of harvesting, thrashing, cleaning, and taking to and from mill, leaving nothing for the payment of rent, seed, and cultivation. So that it will be seen, that the Spring Wheat crop of 1848 was not only a non-paying one, but that it subjected the Farmers to a loss of some £1 10s. per acre, besides a great disappointment. On the farm occupied by the writer of this article, upwards of eighty acres of Spring Wheat was sown and harvested the past season, which, to all appearance, ten days before the crop was cut, gave most satisfactory evidence that it would yield, on an average throughout the entire crop, a little upwards of thirty bushels of sound grain to the acre; but, in reality, it yielded only ten bushels of a very inferior sample—so bad, indeed, that in other years it would have been feed to the cattle in an unthrashed state.

It will require, but very little calculation to ascertain the actual loss that a farmer would sustain whose crop so singularly failed as the one alluded to, and which by no means is an isolated case. The loss of rent, value of seed, and the cost of ploughing the entire eighty acres, in the autumn and spring, would be sufficient alone to make a farmer very cautious in seeding down so great a breadth of land with a crop that would occasionally prove so thoroughly fruitless. The largest spring wheat crops of which the writer has any knowledge, exceeded two hundred acres, which to all appearance a few days before harvest, would give an average product of twenty-five bushels per acre, but which, in reality, did not pay the cost of harvesting. The owner of the crop in question assured us that his actual loss might be safely estimated at £500.

Although the farmers of Canada may look upon the business of growing spring wheat with a good deal of doubt as to its favourable result, yet it must not be received as being more subject to risk than autumn wheat, when a period of eight or ten years are taken into the calculation. On the score of economy, the country should be supplied with a sufficient quantity of spring wheat flour, to meet the entire local demand for breadstuffs, and the flour manufactured from winter wheat, should be exported to the markets of the mother country. It is useless to sow this crop upon badly prepared ground, and it should also be sown as early as possible, or as soon as the ground becomes sufficiently dry to work the harrows with efficiency. In most cases it is well to have the ground well prepared for spring wheat in autumn, and when this is done, the seed should be sown as early as possible. When it is not intended to cross plough in spring, it is an excellent practice to pass a steel tooth cultivator over the ground once or twice, if time will admit of it, just before sowing the seed. From five to six pecks of seed per acre will not be found too much on most soils; and before sowing the seed much care should be observed in thoroughly purifying it from all other grains, and the seeds of weeds, as well as smut. A little care in this respect will much more than repay the cost, and besides, a perfectly pure sample of grain is always more creditable to the grower, than one that is mixed with other species of grain, and that is discoloured with smut.

BARLEY.

This grain being principally used for malting purposes, is not so important a crop to the country as some others. The land for barley requires to be well worked with the plough, harrow, and roller, and by rights, should be ploughed in autumn, so that by the action of frost it may be made perfectly friable. For a matter of experiment, the editor, a few years ago, in cultivating fifteen acres of barley land, ploughed a portion of the field twice, and the other portion three times, and another four times; that which was ploughed twice yielded 30 bushels, that three times 40 bushels, and that four times 50 bushels per acre. No portion of the land was ploughed only once, but