

value may be tenfold. There is another large class of farmers, while they are anxious and would like to try the new and expensive varieties of seeds, won't do so, but wait till some neighbor, who has had a little more enterprise than they, has more than he needs for his own use, and then they are ready to try the new sort. This is just where they make a great mistake. They are allowing their enterprising neighbor to get the cream and they are content with the "skim-milk." Supposing I, as a seedsman, were to adopt this policy; where would I be, or what would the wide-awake, intelligent farmer and gardener think of my mode of doing business? He would soon say, "You are behind the times, and I must find some other dealer to supply me with seeds." Then there is another view of the question—as an investment. Farmers are too slow in this matter and don't view the matter from an intelligent point, or as a financier or investor would. Supposing a farmer buys a bushel of new seed wheat for which he pays \$4. The change of seed and new variety, with strong vitality and vigorous growth, will increase his yield, we will suppose, 7 to 10 bushels per acre. This increase per acre will pay for the bushel of seed and 25 per cent. on the investment, to say nothing about the extra value of the product of this bushel of wheat, which may be fifty cents to one dollar per bushel.

We know of a customer of ours who invested two years ago in a peck of Red Clawson wheat, for which he paid, after a good deal of haggling, \$2.25. This year he has threshed 270 bushels from the product of his peck, and has sold his crop at a handsome profit over market price. I leave those who read to draw their own conclusions. I remarked at the commencement of this article that farmers did not pay the attention they should to the changing and selection of seed grains. This is sadly neglected by a very large class of farmers. Of the benefits from changing seed grains I need not speak, as every intelligent reader of this paper must know; if not try the effects of a change of seed from one kind of soil to another. But there is another point to which I wish to call special attention, and that is the selection of your seed grains, and sowing clean seed. Selection, if carefully followed up, along with hand picking, would give some very pleasing and surprising results to any one who will take the trouble to follow it up for a few years. It will repay all who take the care and trouble. There is one point more in connection with the selection of seed grains that farmers are very negligent about, and that is sowing filthy *versus* clean seed. Whatever you do, sow clean seed. Cockle and chaff are more than worthless. If a man sows wheat he will reap wheat twentyfold. If he sows chaff he will reap chaff a hundredfold. This fact is patent to all intelligent farmers, and I am sure that all the intelligent readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE will not question this statement, yet I find the old theory of wheat producing chaff about as hard to eradicate as it is to get all the chaff out of the seed wheat.

The first lesson to learn in stock farming is that it costs as much to house and feed a poor animal as a good one, and that there is no profit in the former. The next lesson to learn is that it is even more unprofitable to breed from such stock, thereby perpetuating the losses, than to feed it. Breed well first, then feed well.

Good Goods Bought at Living Prices.

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

DEAR SIR,—Having been a reader of your paper for many years, I have watched with interest the efforts of your advertisers to attract attention to their different wares which they were offering for sale through your columns. For several issues back there has appeared an advertisement by Stanley Mills & Co., Hamilton, offering road carts, harness, scales and other goods at apparently very low prices. Their terms, they stated, were that the cash should always be sent with the order; that, and the fact that the prices were much below what I ever knew such goods to be sold at, first drew my special attention to their advertisement. Now my first thoughts were suspicious, but as I wanted to purchase a road cart and a set of single harness, I determined to visit Hamilton and inspect for myself. I did so, and the result was so satisfactory that in justice to the Messrs. Mills, I have taken this means of advising other readers of the ADVOCATE who, owing to distance, are unable to make a personal visit to the establishment, not to hesitate about ordering from this firm, as I have found that they adhere strictly to what they advertise. A short description of my visit would probably be appreciated by some of your readers. As stated before, I wished to purchase a cart and harness, and asked to be shown these articles first. After a careful and critical examination I purchased a \$16 cart, and also a set of single harness at \$15. I had often wondered if a really good cart could be made for \$16, but I now am convinced that my \$16 cart is as good in every respect as some of the road carts my neighbors use, and which cost them \$30 and \$35. To say the least, the harness was exceedingly good value. I was shown a line of harness at \$10 per set that puzzled me to know how they were made for the money. The principal object of my visit over, I asked to be shown through the establishment. The firm has just recently added the manufacture of buggies to their already large business, and my attention was directed to them first. The salesman showed me a thoroughly well-made buggy, all complete, for \$55. This appeared to me exceedingly low, and I asked to see the unpainted material used in their construction. There seemed to be a great many of these buggies in the course of manufacture, and I had a good opportunity to examine properly. No fault whatever could be discovered with either the wheels or bodies, or any of the woodwork. I was told that the firm did not manufacture the gears, but purchased the complete unpainted gear from a concern in Galt, Ont., who made a specialty of that line. If I remember right, Narnock was the name of the Galt firm. I asked to see the brace and six auger bits, which were advertised for only \$1.50 for the set. They were good articles everyone of them, especially the bits, which had keen, sharp lips and screws, and were well finished. The young man informed me that for an additional 50 cents they could be sent through the mails to any post office in Canada. This must prove a great advantage to persons at a distance. A vise and anvil at \$2 was good value, but rather small for farmers' use, but one only required 50 cents more to get a good, strong article in the same line. I had often felt that, as a farmer, I should own a platform scale, and although I was

not prepared to buy just then, I asked that I might see their stock of scales. I was shown a scale on wheels, capacity 1,000 pounds, for something like \$13. This included the price of stamping, which had already been done at the factory. It was a thoroughly well-made scale, but at that time I was not posted as to what scales were being sold at. Another article which struck me as being low in price was a wheelbarrow at \$2, and so also were the collar sweat pads at 45 cents each. The assortment of harness snaps which I was shown was the most complete I had ever seen. The whiffletrees, all ironed off, for farmers use, at only 50 cents each, were not only cheap, but they were made of the prettiest second growth white ash it had ever been my pleasure to look at. The team neck-yokes, also ironed off, were equally as good, and equally as cheap at \$1 each. Before taking my departure from this interesting cash system store I was handed one of the firm's price lists for this fall, which had just come from the printer's hands. Mr. Mills said these price lists were distributed gratuitously to all who were interested enough to ask for one. The impression which this visit left on me was that this firm were filling a long felt want of the farmers—a place that would sell things at a reasonable price, and not fairly rob the poor farmer, as some storekeepers in many parts do. Several of my neighbors were as interested as I was in my visit, and on my return I was plied with questions of all kinds, and many a critical eye glanced over my cart and harness, but not once did I hear an unsatisfactory remark. On the other hand, all seemed imbued with the same idea that I had, viz., we had been paying far too much for our goods in the past. The result was that myself and two others each sent in an order for a platform scale, which have just come to hand and are very satisfactory. Before sending in our order we enquired of several of the storekeepers near us what they would supply these scales for. One said \$18, two said \$20, and a fourth said \$23. Now we are only about twenty-eight miles from Hamilton, and the difference in price was remarkable. The scales from Hamilton, after paying the freight, cost us each \$13.35, which we thought a great saving.

JAMES WM. SPARHAM, Halton County.

Farming on the Pacific Coast.

Farming methods west of the Cascades differ considerably from those pursued on the prairies or in Ontario. Except some low-lying alluvial land and little plains, a heavy growth of timber covers the unimproved soil, and presents a temporary disadvantage to the settler. The large trees are frequently cut on the "spring-board", the chopper or sawyer having climbed from 5 to 25 feet up the tree by notching and fixing a little board in the notch. Having by this means reached a point where the tree is smaller, he fixes his spring-board in the highest notch and cuts the tree. Fire is also commonly used as a felling agent. A little fire-place and flue are made by the auger, and a coal inserted. The fire smoulders at first, soon bursts into flame, and in two or three days the big fir or spruce comes down with a crash. Then the process of cutting, "noggering" and logging go on until the land is sufficiently cleared for a crop. In some localities, in very good soil, there is not such a heavy growth of timber, as in older or vine-maple land. The latter is a small tree, but furnishes good wood, and always indicates a rich soil. Potatoes and other vegetables are very commonly first planted. Oats are a favorite crop, and yield very heavily, commanding also a good price. I know several farmers who always expect from 100 to 120 bushels of oats to the acre. This, at 50 cents per bushel, is a very paying crop. However, I think this immense yield is only enjoyed on the alluvial soil. It is