

Seeds.

New Variety of Rhubarb.

The *Rheumobile*, a native of India, has just been introduced into England. Dr. Hooker describes it thus.—The individual plants of *Rheumobile* are upwards of a yard high, and form conical towers of the most delicate straw-colored shining semi-transparent concave imbricating bracts, the upper of which have pink edges; the large bright glossy shining green radical leaves, with red petioles and nerves, forming a broad base to the whole. On turning up the bracts the beautiful membranous fragile pink stipules are seen like red tissue paper, and within these again the short branched panicles of insignificant green flowers. The root is very long, often many feet, and winds among the rocks; it is as thick as the arm, and bright yellow inside. After flowering, the stem lengthens, the bracts separate one from another, become coarse red-brown, withered and torn; finally, as the fruit ripens they fall away, leaving a ragged-looking stem covered with panicles of deep brown pendulous fruits. In the winter these naked black stems, projecting from the beetling cliffs, or towering above the snow, are in dismal keeping with the surrounding desolation of the season.

Spring Wheat.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER.—At the present time, when farmers devote a good deal of anxious consideration to the question of "What can we grow with the greatest amount of profit?" and, as hitherto, spring wheat has been a leading cereal, and must still continue to be extensively cultivated, I append a few ideas in reference to our experience in this locality. We have tried several varieties of spring wheat in this township, and each variety has its admirers, owing to the different soils, so that where one kind of wheat might flourish another might entirely fail.

The Ohio is considered about the best variety, and on high and dry land gives perhaps the largest return of any, but, when sown on low or damp soil, it is very liable to be injured by rust or blight. It delights in a rich mellow soil.

The Fife ranks next in order, and, for general cultivation, is safer than any other. It yields well, and is generally preferred by millers. The straw is stiff and does not rust.

The Red Chaff seems to be gaining friends, and, with the same cultivation, gives the best yield. The grain is coarser than either the Ohio or Fife, but it seems to improve every year, so that, in a year or two, it may be equal to the others. The straw is not as stiff as that of the Fife, but it stands well, and does not rust, and is well suited to low or swampy land. But in a few years it may lose its productiveness, so that by the time it is acclimated we may want another change, which brings the suggestion that it is the land that is run out and not the wheat.

If we would return to the soil what is required to produce wheat, we would not require to change our seed so often; and where turnips are raised to a considerable extent (unless artificial fertilizers are used), it is impossible to raise a first-class crop of wheat. We want more and better manure; to raise more clover and not sell it; cleaner cultivation and mixed farming—not, when one crop is high, discard all others for that one. Wheat is low at present, too low to pay the expenses of production. Still it will not pay to give it up.

Instead of going to extremes, we should sow only where we are sure the soil is in proper order for an extra crop. Get it in in the best possible manner, and raise a part of everything that the land will produce to advantage. We shall then have more time to attend to them properly, would be less affected by rise or fall, and, by a proper rotation, keep up the fertility of the soil.

Erin, Ont.

ZENAS.

PERMANENCE OF VITAL POWER.—In clearing away the refuse from the ancient silver mines of Laurium, Greece, a large number of seeds of a papaveracea of the *Glaurium* genus were found, which must have been buried there for at least fifteen hundred years. Exposed to the beneficent influence of the sun's ray, they rapidly took root, flourished, buddest and blossomed, their yellow corollas being beautiful in the extreme. This interesting flower, unknown

to modern science, is particularly and frequently described in the writings of Pliny and Dioscorides, and is thus again resuscitated, after having disappeared from the surface of the globe for more than fifteen centuries.

Silver-Hulled Buckwheat.—Mammoth Squash.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER.—In the spring of 1873 I purchased one-fourth of a pound of silver-hulled buckwheat, and sowed it in drills and raised 67 lbs. Of this last season, I sowed one and a quarter bushel on about two acres of the poorest land I have, and half of it ploughed only once. I threshed fifty bushels, good measure, beside five bushels at least which my fowls eat. I have not had any flour yet, but the appearance of it convinces me that it will make more flour per bushel and yield more per acre than common sorts. It will weigh three or four lbs more per bushel.

I also purchased a packet of Mammoth Squash or pumpkin seeds, which I planted in 1873, of which two stems only came to maturity growing two pumpkins weighing about 50 lbs each, with the appearance of a squash and flavor of a pumpkin, and superior to the common. As the land was in a poor condition I determined to try them again, and with a better chance, which I did. From six stems I took twenty that weighed 1,761 lbs. The land occupied was about two square rods. I don't know of any crop on well manured land that will produce the same amount of food for cattle in the fall.

FRANCIS PECK.

Prince Edward Co., Ont.

Fultz and Diehl Wheat.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER.—One of my newspapers has in it an account of the growing, under experiments at the Wisconsin Agricultural College, of the Fultz and Diehl wheats. The Fultz yielded 35 bushels, and the Diehl nearly 32 bushels. As we are invited to give our experience, I presume the invitation will extend to asking our brother-farmers for their experience through the CANADA FARMER. I should like to know something of those wheats from some farmer who has had experience with them.

YOUNG ONTARIO FARMER.

The Extra Early Vermont.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER.—I notice some letters in the February number about the above (swindle I call it). Like other illots, I was fool enough to give seventy-five cents a pound for some last year. When they came up, they were early Rose and nothing else. I am quite sure of it. Am I the only one that was "sold?"

Lambton Co., Ont.

VICTIM.

BEST ENGLISH POTATOES.—A correspondent of the *Flora World* selects as the six best varieties of potatoes now fashionable in England—Mvatt's Ashleaf, Beaconsfield King of Potatoes (yellow flesh), Waterloo Kidney, Late American Rose, and Rixton Pippin.

"PROPER" WHEAT is the name of a California variety which is said to be attracting attention there because of its early maturity, great productiveness and the excellent quality of the flour made from it. It is said to have brought \$1.60 in the San Francisco market, when the best other varieties were selling at \$1.30 and \$1.53.

CELERY.—The *Garden* says that experimental trials at Chiswick last season shew that out of some hundred so-called varieties of Celery not more than a dozen are distinct; and that these trials in question and the special Celery prizes competed for at South Kensington in November, shewed that the best red Celery is Major Clarke's or Leicester Red, and the best white, Sandringham or Incomparable Dwarf White.

SEEDLESS WATERMELONS.—The Sutter, Cal., *Banner* says: We are informed by Mr. William Mawson, one of the champion watermelon growers of Sutter County, of a novel way of producing seedless watermelons. When the vine begins to bear he lets the first watermelon on each branch grow undisturbed, but covers the branch up with dirt, from the first melon to the second one, or within six inches or more from the end of the vine will be a seedless watermelon, the melon nearest the body of the vine having kept all the seed.

SIDNEY BLUE AND CARPENTER'S SEEDLING.—A *Country Gentleman* correspondent says of these two new potatoes. "The Sidney Blue came to me last spring from Australia, via Washington Territory. In color it resembles the much lauded Compton, which it far surpassed in yield and quality with me last season. Its form is more round and presents a much smoother appearance than the Compton. Carpenter's Seedling is a very long, smooth, rose-colored potato, sent out last spring from Orange County, N.Y. I failed to discover anything extraordinary about it, but my trial was rather unfavorable, as I failed entirely in getting a crop of Early Rose, planted in the same field with it, I therefore report it worthy of further trial.

Correspondence.

KNOTTING.—A. S., Cayuga, Ont.—Thanks for your suggestions. We shall probably take up the subject again.

GRAFTING.—S. A. H., Kendall, Ont.—Full directions for grafting will be found in another place in this issue.

FREE GRANT LANDS.—J. Brown, St. Louis.—Apply for information and pamphlets about the Free Grant Lands to Secretary Immigration Department, Toronto.

MACHINE FOR ASSORTING POTATOES.—J. W., Malton, Ont.—The machine for assorting potatoes, mentioned in the January number of the CANADA FARMER, is, we believe, an American invention. We do not know the address of the makers. They should advertise themselves.

QUANTITY OF CHEESE AND BUTTER FROM MILK.—L. Graham, Matilda, Ont.—One pound of butter from twenty pounds of milk is a good yield. One from twenty-five is a good average. One pound of cheese from ten pounds of milk is the average make.

IMPROVED SHEEP SHEARS.—Several correspondents have inquired about the new shears of which we gave an illustration in our January number. They are an English invention not yet introduced here. We should judge that the demand for them will be great when they become known on this continent.

BEST DURHAM BULL CALF AT ONTARIO PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.—Reader, Mariposa, Ont.—The first prize of \$20 for the best bull under one year old at the last Provincial Exhibition, was awarded to Burrell and Johnston for Doctor Mara, red and a little white, born March 27 days old, bred by exhibitors; sire Doctor (633), dam Mara by the Priest (743).

BLACK SPANISH AND DARK BRAHMS.—Durham, Ont.—We have an inquiry from a Toronto reader for the address of some brooder of Black Spanish and Dark Brahma for improving farm poultry, not for exhibition. Our advertising columns are open to those who have the fowls inquired for. The same correspondent wants to know where he can get a Berkshire sow. The same answer is applicable.

BREEDING MINKS.—A. M. D., Larknow, Ont.—The WEEKLY GLOBE of Feb. 12 had a long article on breeding minks. We understand that the experience of those who have bred minks demonstrates that the animals cannot profitably be bred for their fur alone. The instances where they are bred to be sold alive as curiosities, or for the starting of other minkeries.

HOPS.—SETS WANTED.—We have lost nearly half of our plantation of hops through rust and lice and cannot get any roots in this Province, as the plantations from which we got our roots have entirely died out, and our own do not produce runners to any extent. Will some one who has them for sale in Ontario advertise the fact through the CANADA FARMER?—E. E., Cumberland Bay, Queen's Co., N. B.

APPLYING SALT.—J. G. R., West Zorra, Ontario.—For winter-wheat, sow salt broadcast on the soil, just before the wheat; for spring crops, either very early in the spring as soon as the land is ploughed, or late in the fall on newly ploughed land. The quantity that will be most beneficial depends so much on the quality of the land that it cannot be answered, and must be discovered by experience. A barrel to the acre we should reckon on.

CATTLE IN BARN BASEMENT.—I contemplate turning my cattle loose into the base next story of my barn, which is at present 30x50 feet. This story is at present taken up by the manure from the stables in second story. I also propose feeding them and watering them in said enclosure, as I have a never failing spring of water near at hand, which I intend conveying in pipes so that the stock can have constant access thereto. 1st. Will the place be too damp? 2nd. Would it be better to let them out to the open air in winter season? 3rd. Shall I require to have it ventilated?—Thos. A. McDonald, Durham, N. S.

1. If the basement is damp it will be objectionable. If well drained, it will not. 2. The cattle will be better for being let out in the day time in mild weather. 3. The place must be ventilated or the cattle will not thrive.