

next May, or on your meadows, or put them in your potato drills. I once sold some at 8 cents per bushel, in cash (I did not need soft soap at the time), but when they came to be measured I found it took five pecks of ashes to make a bushel. Since that time, when an ash-man calls on me, I propose to buy his load, and of course have it measured with his own measure. To one I proposed to give a load of ashes if he would bring me a load of hen manure. He said, "I see you value your ashes," and went off to the next house. Innerkip, Jan. 12, 1877. F. MALCOLM.

Danger Ahead—Spring Wheat.

SIR,—As the time is near at hand when our farmers will be on the look-out for spring seed grain, I would like to offer a few remarks in regard to the choosing of spring wheat. Until the past few years our Excelsior spring wheat has enjoyed an enviable reputation, both at home and abroad, and our millers were able to make from it a flour which commanded for itself a position in the market it had to compete in, as well as a price remunerative to the manufacturer; but I am very sorry such is not now the case. Instead of our spring wheat flours being eagerly sought after in Montreal, Halifax, St. John, and other markets, by the bakers, for sponging, we find it crowded to the wall and taking a "back seat," while American flours made in the great mills of Minnesota and Wisconsin from Northwestern wheat are fairly occupying the proud position our flours once held. You will naturally ask, why is this? I think the answer can be found in the fact that our farmers have of late been growing very inferior kinds of spring wheat, which do not contain the necessary gluten and absorbents to commend them to our bakers. This fact has been very forcibly impressed upon me during the past two years, and especially so during last fall. In previous years, our crops being ample, I found little difficulty in choosing enough Scotch Fife from among the other kinds offered to supply my mill; but last fall, our crops being meagre, I was forced to grind other kinds, among which was that thoroughly deceptive, and worthless of all worthless wheats, the "Red Chaff" or farrow. No sooner had I commenced to grind this miserable grain (it is not worthy the name of wheat) than complaints began to pour in on every side; from the bakers first, and then from private families; the former complained that it was weak, would not take up the water, and did not make as many loaves to the barrel as it should, and was dark and heavy in appearance; the latter, that it was hard to make rise, and when baked was dry, harsh and crumbly. These complaints led me to thoroughly examine and test the matter. I found that it yields about four pounds per bushel less of flour than Scotch or Fife, and that it made five loaves (two pounds each) less of bread per hundred pounds than flour made from Scotch or Fife wheat; this latter fact I have from more than one baker whom I supplied, a fact which could be easily arrived at by them. If we reduce the above facts to figures, we find that the loss to the miller is equal to 12 cts. per bushel, taking flour at \$3 per 100 lbs., and to the baker, of 30 cts. per 100 lbs., taking 6 cts. per loaf as the selling price of a two-pound loaf, representing a difference of nearly twenty-five cents per bushel as compared with Fife wheat. This may seem almost incredible, but the facts are incontrovertible, and forced me to look elsewhere for my wheat, and since early in November I have been grinding Minnesota Hard Wheat. This, I find, admirably supplies the place of the old Scotch Fife, and, indeed, I think even surpasses it in some respects, being thinner skinned and brighter, produces more flour and of a better color. I would most earnestly recommend our farmers to use every exertion to possess themselves of some of the Northwestern spring wheat for seed; in sowing a little they can be running but little risk, at any rate, almost any risk is preferable to the loss and disappointment which awaits our farmers if they continue to sow the Red Chaff, for our millers will be forced in self-defence to leave it mercifully alone, and the consequence will be that it will go into the hands of shippers, as it has done this year, and will go forward to the British markets unmixed, and by its utter poverty of everything good teach the British corn factor and miller to beware of Canada Club, by which name our spring wheat is known abroad. I read with much interest the article in your October number on "Manitoba Wheat for Seed," by H. W. Burrows, of Winnipeg, and bearing as it does so directly on the matter which I have attempted to consider in this letter. I would urge upon our

farmers to again peruse it, for it demands their gravest thought and consideration. In conclusion, let me hope that pride, if not self-interest, will lead the agriculturists of Ontario to avert while they can a calamity which is sure to come if the barrier be not at once raised.

J. D. SAUNBY.

North Branch Mills, London, Ont.

Orchard Grass and White Clover.

SIR,—Please inform me through the columns of your paper if orchard grass would do by sowing the seed in the spring with wheat or oats, as we do with timothy seed here; also, if white clover does well with it, and how much seed to sow to the acre.

MALCOLM MCLEOD, JR.,

New Glasgow Road, P. E. I.

[It will answer to sow as other grass with grain in the spring. Twenty pounds of orchard grass and four pounds of white clover is sufficient for one acre.—Ed.]

Reputation of Canadian Implements.

We extract the following from the Boston Journal of Commerce:—

L. D. SAWYER & CO.—HAMILTON AGRICULTURAL WORKS.

The Canadians are certainly entitled to the credit of having sent several most interesting exhibits to the Centennial Exhibition. And not only were they interesting, but also in their mechanical parts highly ingenious, showing that our cousins across the line have imbibed largely of the ingenuity that seems to be inherent to the American soil. The Agricultural Department was quite rich in improved machinery, the most conspicuous and representative exhibit being that of L. D. Sawyer & Co., of Hamilton, Ontario. These parties displayed a mower and a reaper which attracted a great deal of attention and admiration from all the farmers and other interested parties who had opportunities of seeing them. They were closely examined by the International Jury of Award, which made upon them a report in the following words, recommending an award for the ensuing reasons:—

- 1st. Excellent material and ingenious arrangement of parts.
- 2nd. Clutch gear replaced by eccentric shaft.
- 3rd. Ratchet self-adjusting without spring.
- 4th. Inside wheel one inch larger to counteract side draft.
- 5th. Finger bar and shoe suspended on drag bar, which can be secured up to the frame so as to secure the position of the bar always at right angles.
- 6th. As a reaper, the platform hinged so it can be swung back behind the main frame so as to facilitate its passage through narrow gateways; an excellent arrangement, which deserves special commendation.

The above report, which concedes to these machinists every essential merit that goes to make up a perfect machine, was signed unanimously by all the judges. These concessions to the great merit of these machines, made by such an impartial and well-qualified committee of experts, should convince everyone of the great merits of these machines, and I am sure that those who see them in operation or use them will need no further testimony. The address is L. D. Sawyer & Co., Hamilton, Ont.

Agriculture in the Eastern Townships—Sore Shoulders on Horses.

SIR,—We have two and half feet of snow now and more coming. Winter set in without the usual fall rains, and the wells and streams are very low, and in many places entirely dry.

July and August were very dry, injuring the grain crops badly, but hay was a very good crop, and a large amount is shipped to New York and Boston from this section.

Our county is about half French. Their exports are chiefly hay, oats and horses. Ours are butter, cheese, beef, pork and store cattle.

We have some good cattle here, but not so good as you have in Ontario as a general thing, but our best farmers are trying to improve their herds.

In the January ADVOCATE I saw an article on

"Sore Shoulders on Horses." I can give you a recipe worth two of that, as it is always at hand. Keep your collars clean and smooth, and if you find a wet spot on the shoulder, or if the skin is puckered after using your horse, it is the beginning of the trouble, and bathe the shoulder well with cold water every time the harness is removed, which will reduce the inflammation, harden the skin and prevent a sore. Should a sore come before it is discovered, pound a little cavity in the collar to fit it, but do not put anything under, as that bears upon it, and makes it worse, but apply a little dry white lead to the sore, and bathe freely with cold water, and you can never have a very sore shoulder. You are at liberty to use anything in this letter which may be of use to you.

Very respectfully,
A. J. STEVENS.

Bedford, January 8th, 1877.

[The marked difference between the systems of agriculture of the French, or rather French Canadians, and the Anglo Canadians, as shown by their exports, is well pointed out in A. J. S.'s communication, and well worthy it is of observation. Another cure for shoulders is deserving of a trial. More than one remedy may sometimes effect a cure.]

A Query for Our Correspondents.

SIR,—I am a young man, about to begin on a new farm. The land I am commencing to clear is covered with young wood, chiefly hardwood, and there are some kinds very hard to kill, especially Alders. Can you tell me if there is any particular time in the year to cut them, to prevent them from sprouting? If you can give me the desired information you will greatly oblige a subscriber for the ADVOCATE.

Can you inform me what will prevent or cure the dog disease? I have a valuable dog at present, and would be extremely sorry to lose him as I lost one before by said disease. Inform me if you can through your columns, and oblige.

G. B., West New Annan, N. S.

Superphosphate of Lime.

SIR,—I have seen in your paper the last few months letters from farmers writing on the subject of artificial manure. I will give you my experience: I bought half a ton of superphosphate of lime in the spring of 1874 at the rate of \$45 per ton, to try on my turnips, as I had not barn yard manure enough. I gave the ground a half manuring on the flat, ploughed it once, cultivated it three times, harrowed it well; when I got the ground in good order on the 10th of June, I commenced to drill and sow superphosphate. The first four drills got no superphosphate; the next half acre got at the rate of 200 lbs. per acre, then I skipped one drill; the next acre got at the rate of 130 lbs. per acre; the last half acre got none. The first sowing of turnips was on the 11th of June, the last a few days later, but the last was up first. The weather was very dry when the first was sown; the last was sown just before rain, which gave them the start, but the first sown went by them and kept ahead all summer. When I took up my turnips the first half acre had at the rate of 800 bushels to the acre, the next acre 650 bushels, the last half-acre at the rate of 400 bushels. Last year I used 250 lbs. to the acre with good results. I had a very good crop for the season. I had about 500 bushels of mangold, and carrots a great success. It gave them a good start and they were a long way ahead of those which got none. I tried it on barley very successfully; it gave five bushels more per acre, and of better sample than that which got none, but I could see no difference in the straw. The ground which I had my turnips on in 1875 was very poor soil. For three years previous it was not fit for cultivation. I had barley on the same ground last year, and any person could pick the ground that had no superphosphate. It was quite green when the other was ripe; I would think it was ten days later, if not more. The one drill which got no superphosphate was quite visible when I cut my barley.

A TENANT FARMER.

West Zorra, Jan. 9th, 1877.

[The remark of "Tenant Farmer" that the barley that had the benefit of the application of superphosphate matured ten days earlier than that to which none had been applied, agrees with that of many others who have made a trial of superphosphate of lime. It is the means of communicating a warmth to the soil that stimulates early growth and maturity—this of itself is of service to the growing and maturing crop.]