



### Wild Oats—Huron Crops.

A subscriber from Huron County sends us the following, which, though bearing date the 1st August, did not reach us till after the publication of our last issue. "How can a person escape having his farm filled with wild oats if they are in the neighbourhood? Is there any possible means of guarding against their introduction by travelling threshing machines, &c.? By indicating the precautions to be used you will greatly benefit many of your subscribers. The crops in this part of the country look very well, considering the terrible drought and heat which we have experienced. We are now, however (Aug. 1), having most refreshing showers. The early sown spring wheat will scarcely be worth cutting, being completely eaten out by the midge; the late sown wheat as yet promises well. I have also been informed that Platt's midge-proof, when sown early, has not proved exactly midge-proof. Fall wheat (midge-proof) has turned out fair; mostly, however, not a first-class sample. We hear great accounts of the Treadwell. Can it be got in any quantity, pure, and at a reasonable figure? Peas are shrivelled up with the heat—will be half a crop—but oats are probably fully average."

**NOTE BY ED. C. F.** The only means we can suggest for guarding against the introduction and spread of wild oats is to keep a strict and diligent watch, and pull them up by the roots in the early stage of their growth. They will make their appearance before any other crop, and can be readily distinguished even in a field of oats, by their colour, their ranker growth, and greater height above the surrounding plants.

**STUMP MACHINE.**—S. G., from Cashmere asks:—"Where can I get a horse-power stump machine, capable of lifting a two foot green oak stump; and what will be the price delivered at Bothwell Station, Great Western Railway? A screw preferred."

**REFUSE FROM FLAX MILLS.**—A subscriber asks, what is the best manner of utilizing the waste from flax mills for agricultural purposes; whether it should be rotted, and if so, what is the readiest and quickest mode of effecting this object. Can any of our readers give any practical directions in the case?

**SEED WHEAT.**—Mr. Isaac O'Neill, of Uxbridge, sends us a sample of wheat, which appears to be of good quality. It is a white wheat resembling Soules wheat. The writer says respecting it:—"I enclose you a sample of fall wheat, a quantity of which I have for sale—200 bushels. It is about ten days earlier than the Soules. It will yield thirty-five bushels to the acre this year. It is a new description, first obtained by finding a few heads in a large field. I have sown it for the last two years, and now have the above quantity. It is a white chaff, white wheat. Labour was very scarce this year, and I had to let it stand too long, otherwise it would have been brighter. The price is \$2 per bushel. I reside one mile from Uxbridge Village, Ontario."

**DECAY IN THE CROTCH.**—BARREN BLOOMING.—A.T.G. writes to enquire "the cause of fruit trees (more particularly apple trees) decaying in the crotch and around the limbs. The trees are from eight to ten years old. Also, why some fruit trees continue blossoming during the summer instead of bearing fruit. I have some dwarf pears that are more ornamental than useful on that account." The decay in the fork of branches may be owing to some splitting of the wood in that situation, or to the wet and dirt that have accumulated there. Cleaning out the part and a coating of lime-wash might be useful in that case.

In regard to the second query, some unhealthy condition of the tree is perhaps present, and possibly the drought and heat of the past summer, unfavourable to the proper development of the fruit, may have stimulated dormant buds into unnatural and premature growth. Without further information and personal inspection, we could not form a more definite opinion.

**QUERIES.**—A correspondent from Wardsville appends to a communication published elsewhere a miscellaneous collection of queries. In answer to some of them, we would inform him that the Secretary of the Provincial Association is Hugh Thomson, Esq., Ontario. Amongst the successful breeders of Galloways in this Province are Messrs. R. L. Denison, Toronto; Wm. Wood, Guelph; Thomas McCrae, Guelph; and D. Youle, Stanley. The ordinary horse bean would furnish the best meal for the purpose alluded to. In reference to the Berkshire hog, it would be impossible to give an account of the numerous crosses from this breed—the principal foreign ones are those with the Chinese and Neapolitan swine, made with a view of decreasing the size of the animal, and improving the flavour of the flesh; and the animals thus obtained are superior to almost any other in their aptitude to fatten, but are very susceptible of cold from being almost entirely without hair. A cross of the Berkshire with the Suffolk and Norfolk pigs is also much approved in some quarters; a hardy kind is thus produced, which yields well when sent to the butcher; but even the advocates of this cross allow that, under most circumstances, the pure Berkshire is the best.

## The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, CANADA, SEPTEMBER 1, 1868.

### The Season and Crops.

ALTHOUGH the persistency of the wide-spread drought from which the whole continent has so long suffered is at length broken, still comparatively dry weather continues to prevail in most parts of the Province. Occasional showers have visited every locality, but we do not hear of heavy or long continued falls of rain. Root crops, especially potatoes, are nearly everywhere needing moisture, and under any circumstances we must now look for a yield of those products below the average. The temperature has very greatly moderated, and the weather has been mostly fine and delightfully cool. Indeed it would scarcely be possible to have a pleasanter season than has prevailed during the greater part of the month of August. The returns of the harvested crops, so far as we can learn from local papers, are less unfavorable than the severe drought would have led us to anticipate. The results of threshing operations, which have been actively going forward, do not disappoint expectations, and in the case of fall wheat especially show a yield in excess of the returns of any recent year. We hear of crops that have turned out over forty bushels to the acre. The Soules wheat has suffered most from the midge, while the Treadwell and Diehl are both spoken of as having comparatively escaped the scourge, and yielding remarkably well. We expect that a large breadth of land will be sown with these varieties during the present month.

The importance of correct statistical returns in regard to our crops is becoming every year more apparent. We are glad to learn that the Minister of Agriculture for this Province, with a view of eliciting the desirable information, is issuing a circular and list of enquiries to the various agricultural societies of Ontario. If these enquiries are carefully answered by the parties addressed the department will be in possession of very valuable reports, the

substance of which will, no doubt, in due time be given to the public. As this is the first year that any attempt of the kind has issued from this official quarter we cannot expect the returns to be so complete as they should be; but the effort is in the right direction, and will eventually secure, we trust, a yearly statistical report, complete and accurate, of the agriculture of the country.

The crop reports from the adjacent States, which appear to have suffered less from the drought than ourselves, are very encouraging; and if the published estimates are correct, the total yield of wheat will be considerably above that of 1867—indeed, some accounts say of any previous year. An Iowa Editor speaking of the harvest in that State, calls this the "golden year," and pictures the agricultural prosperity of the State in glowing terms. Perhaps some of this congratulatory tone of language and feeling may be the reaction from the fear and despondency which the severe and protracted drought had induced, and the test of the threshing machine may yet correct expectations that have been as much too sanguine as they were previously too doleful. There can be no doubt, however, that we have much cause for thankfulness in regard to the general character of the present harvest, and the result should rebuke the spirit of apprehension and discontent which farmers perhaps more than others are apt to indulge.

### Seed Wheat Experimental Farm.

Mr. George A. Deitz, of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, is engaged in the important work of acclimating and testing foreign seed wheats. Since the appearance of his brief advertisement in our last issue, we have sent for and read with much interest his circular, which describes with considerable minuteness a number of varieties of seed wheat with which he has experimented successfully. We have always felt that this is a department of usefulness which properly belongs to Ministers and Boards of Agriculture, and we thoroughly believe that judiciously managed, as it might be under the supervision of a good practical farmer, the testing of foreign seeds might be made immensely beneficial to the agricultural interests of our own and other countries. In the absence of any such arrangement, it is gratifying to find that private enterprise is doing something in this direction. Mr. Deitz's circular contains details and illustrations of the heads of twenty-one varieties of wheat, that have been tested for from two to ten years, with mention of eight varieties only imported the present year, and therefore not yet tested on American soil. The account given of the several varieties appears candid and straightforward. We know nothing of Mr. Deitz beyond his advertisement and circular, but the importance of obtaining new and good seed wheat is so great, that we do not hesitate to recommend trial of the more promising sorts. It is not yet too late for any who are enterprising enough to experiment, to do so. We have sent for three varieties which, judging from the circular, we think most likely to give satisfaction in our soil and climate. They are the Boughton White, \$5 per bushel; the Weeks' White Bearded, \$6 per bushel; and the French White Chaff Mediterranean, \$7.50 per bushel, American money. The prices are high, but there is much outlay and loss connected with the importing and trial of foreign seeds. In due time we shall give our readers the benefit of our opinion of these wheats.

**PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION PRIZE LIST.—CORRECTION.**—An error occurs in the above prize list which we are requested to notice and correct. In class 29, section 32, in the "General List" of Fruits, &c., for—"Best collection, not more than six varieties, Pears, correctly named, three of each," read—"not more than twenty varieties," &c.