

*A few Seasonable Hints.*

By the period that this paper gets into the hands of most of its readers, the usual season for fall ploughing will be nearly drawn to a close; therefore, it would be rather out of place, to make any extended remarks touching upon this branch of farm labor. We might, however, state, that on strong clay lands, cheap and profitable husbandry can scarcely be carried on without autumn ploughing, and on such soils, at least, the plough should be kept in full operation until the frost sets in so severely, that this necessary branch of labor becomes suspended. At no season of the year can deep ploughing be executed so cheaply and with so much advantage to both man and horse as this; and those farmers who have not fully satisfied themselves as to the profits that may be derived from this mode of improving the quantity and consistency of their soil, should by all means avail themselves of the present opportunity for doing so. On many soils deep ploughing is not applicable, but those cases must be viewed strictly in the light of an exception to a general rule. Hundreds of farmers in Canada have tested deep ploughing, upon suggestions made by ourselves, and have reaped a golden harvest, ranging from twenty to twenty-five per cent. of an increase, greater than they would have done, had they simply ploughed the ordinary depth. A much greater increase than the foregoing, has been produced on our own farm, by ploughing from 10 to 12 inches in depth. The greatest product of which we have any knowledge being effected by deep ploughing, was the result of an experiment made by ourselves three autumns since, which gave the extraordinary yield of 45 bushels of spring wheat per acre, being 15 bushels per acre more than was produced in the same field, and upon soil in every respect in equal condition, except, that where the experiment was made, the land was ploughed 12 inches in depth. We have frequently found much advantage from harrowing autumn ploughed land, a short time before the winter sets in, by which process the wild grasses and noxious root-weeds during the winter and spring months, will undergo a greater degree of fermentation, than if the interspaces or furrow-laps had not been closed with the harrow. This practice is principally applicable, as already stated in those cases where the land is in a foul condition, and it should not on any account be adopted on clean stubble or sward land, for the very obvious reason, that the frost will act much

more efficiently upon a deep open furrow, those that are close and laid perfectly flat.

In many portions of the country, the wheat plants have suffered very severely from attack made upon them by the grub of the Hessian Fly. By this time the grub will have into its flax-seed state; and hence, no further need be apprehended from that source the present season. Those who find that this natural enemy to the wheat plant, has visited them in great numbers, would probably act wisely in ploughing a portion of their crop this autumn, with a view to re-sowing it about the 20th of May next, the far famed black sea wheat. We by no means confidently advise this course for general adoption, but simply suggest it as a matter of experiment, in those portions of the country where the Hessian Fly prevails to an alarming extent.

Every sensible Canadian wheat grower views with alarm the rapid strides in which two species of wheat flies have spread over their land, and if the damage done the crops this and the past season, be a criterion to base an opinion as to the probable ravages these insects in future years, then the conclusion may be fairly made, that in less than five years, the great staple crop of Canada will be gone out of cultivation for a few seasons, unless some preventive be introduced, which would merit of universal adoption.

Both the Hessian and wheat flies are means strangers to this continent; and from their well known habits, and their exceedingly destructive character, the only certain means of preventing their ravages, is to evade the sowing an early variety of spring wheat, as the 20th of May, up to the first week in June. Such a variety may be had in the neighborhood of Quebec, which has been grown by the Canadian farmers during the past half century, but the one most easily had, and which has found proof against the fly in thousands of instances where late sowing was practiced, is the well known variety, known by the name of the Black Sea wheat. It would be well for those farmers who have any considerable quantity of this variety of wheat in their possession, to retain it for sowing, as it must be in great demand next spring for seed.

It is the opinion of many that we shall have a pretty severe winter the approaching season.