

BLACK SEA WHEAT.—Mr. Ira Morgan, Secretary County of Russell Agricultural Society, asks:—"Can you, for the benefit of our Society, give any information through the columns of the next CANADA FARMER as to when and where the most recent importation of Black Sea wheat took place, where most likely to be obtained, or what kind of wheat you think best adapted under present circumstances to the soil and climate of Central Canada?"

[ANS.—We are not aware of any recent importation of Black Sea wheat. Our impression is that it has not given satisfaction to those who have tried it. The Fife wheat is the most suitable, we should think, for the locality you mention. Perhaps some of our readers may be able to send us their experience of Black Sea Wheat.]

GROWING ONIONS.—"A Subscriber" writes us from Stratford, as follows:—"I intend to grow from 400 to 500 bushels of onions next spring. The land is a light clay, or, perhaps, a sandy loam. In the Fall I laid on about 15 loads of old, rotten cow-dung upon one acre, and ploughed it in. I intend to plough it again this spring, and then lay it out in beds. How will leached ashes answer, about one inch thick? What is the best seed for sowing?"

[ANS.—Clayey land is better for onions than sandy loam. Leached ashes will be a very good application, but half the thickness you speak of will be sufficient. For a field crop of onions, the large yellow or large red Wethersfield are the best seeds to sow. In some parts of New England great attention is paid to the raising of onions; 500 bushels per acre is not an uncommon crop and large profits are derived from it. We refer our correspondent to the mode of cultivation as published in another column.]

REGULARITY IN MILKING.—A subscriber at Cobourg writes as follows:—"My farmer insists upon it that my cows suffer no injury when milked at irregular hours, which is contrary to all I have ever heard. Please satisfy me on this point in your next issue, and state the reasons why irregularity in milking injures the cow's powers of production."

[ANSWER.—Your farmer is undoubtedly wrong. All authorities agree that irregularity in milking is injurious to the animal and lessens the yield of milk. The reason for the latter is, that when the udder becomes gorged, as it will do by too long delay in milking, the secretion of milk ceases, and absorption of the thinner and more watery particles of the milk already formed, commences. This absorption takes place more readily in the smaller or more distant lacteal tubes. Milk is constantly forming when they are empty, but if gorged, the secretion ceases and absorption takes place. Nature guards against a recurrence of the mischief, by lessening the secretion. Hence the importance of regular and thorough milking.]

MODEL FARMS.—"A Friend of Canada and a Gloucestershire Land owner," in a letter on Canadian Agriculture, makes a number of judicious suggestions in reference to the establishment of Model Farms. The writer has had the opportunity of observing for twenty years, the effect of such a farm in his own county. He says:—"It has extended its influence far and wide, and led to other establishments and institutions, for the improvement of agriculture, among the rest, an agricultural college for training the sons of gentlemen, and giving them scientific and practical knowledge of farm matters. But the most truly useful for the benefit of practical farmers, has been the Model Farm, the establishment of which, requires a larger capital to undertake and carry out, to give it full efficiency and a fair trial, than falls to the share of Canadian farmers in general, who might gladly avail themselves of its advantages when established. My neighbours who use to think twenty and twenty-five bushels of wheat per acre, a good crop now raise fifty, since they have learned suitable means for the improvement of the land,—and other crops in proportion."

[The Model Farm above alluded to, was established by a wealthy nobleman, a class of agriculturists unknown as yet in Canada. In our circumstances, it is hardly reasonable to expect that private enterprise and liberality will take that direction, but we think this is one of the modes in which the Canadian Government may materially assist the agricultural interests of the country, and we trust the attention of those in power will ere long be turned that way. Well-managed Model Farms would be of the greatest practical service.]

CLUBS!

No subscriptions for THE CANADA FARMER are received for less than one year; and all commence with the first number, and end on the 31st Dec., 1864.

All the subscribers to a club must receive their papers at one Post-office; but each paper will be addressed and mailed separately.

Agricultural Societies are supplied with THE FARMER at club rates, and papers ordered by them are mailed to any Post-office within their respective territorial limits.

When any party has sent \$10 for a club of twelve subscribers, he can add single subscriptions at the rate of 83 cents each until he reaches twenty, when he will be entitled to a return of \$1 60. He may then add additional subscribers at the rate of 75 cents each until he reaches fifty, when he will be entitled to a rebate of \$2 60. He may then add additional names at 70 cents each until he reaches one hundred, when he will receive back \$10. Every name added above one hundred will be at 60 cents per copy.

Finding it more convenient to date THE FARMER on the 1st and 15th of each month than on the 15th and 30th, as originally intended—this number bears date the 1st of February. During the year we shall publish an extra number to make up the 24 issues.

AS THE CANADA FARMER will be printed from Stereotype Plates, back numbers can always be had in any quantity.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, FEBRUARY 1, 1864.

OUR RECEPTION!

WE hardly know how to express fittingly our deep sense of the generous reception THE CANADA FARMER has received. Not only have strong expressions of satisfaction with our first attempt poured in upon us from all sections of the country, but in almost every case they have been accompanied by the most cordial assurances of active support. Not only have the office-bearers of the Agricultural Societies very generally brought their great influence promptly and heartily to our aid, but scores of kind friends have gone vigorously and voluntarily to work to extend the circulation of THE FARMER among their neighbours. Before a copy of the paper had issued from the press, many hundreds of persons had recorded their names in our subscription books, and by every mail we have continued to receive large and increasing additions to the list.

And what shall we say as to the welcome given to us by our cotemporaries of the public press? They have received our little sheet with a degree of hearty kindness, for which we have no words to express our gratitude. Their commendations are all the more valuable that they have not been unaccompanied by frank criticisms,—and by which assuredly we mean to profit. To set up a fine modern printing machine, distribute new type, put in operation a stereotyping establishment, organize an editorial staff, and secure competent draftsmen and engravers, was not an easy task when crowded into four short weeks. Scant time was there for reconsidering matters of detail; but having passed muster respectably under such circumstances, we look forward with hope and confidence that our improvements in the future will satisfy the most fastidious.

References have been made to Agricultural Journals that have preceded us in Upper Canada, which we ought not, in justice, to let pass in silence. It may be that the Agricultural publications of past years have not been all that could have been desired;

but with a knowledge of the many difficulties against which their conductors had to contend—the limited resources, the apathy of the public, the small subscription-lists, and a hundred other drawbacks,—we can only wonder that they were maintained so efficiently. They contained a vast amount of practical instruction; they contributed largely to the improved state of agriculture in the Province; and we shall always feel that a deep debt of gratitude is due to those early pioneers who, to advance the cause of agricultural improvement, spent their time and their labour without pecuniary reward—nay, too often, with actual money loss. If THE CANADA FARMER comes to-day before the public under far more favourable circumstances than our predecessors enjoyed, we are indebted in no small measure for it to those who preceded us in the work. They prepared the way; they created the desire for improvement; and our anxious hope is, that we may only be able to discharge the trust they have transmitted to us with a degree of improved efficiency equal to the material progress of the Province, and the advanced state of agricultural science.

References have also been made to American Agricultural papers largely circulating in Canada, as to which we have one word to say. To these publications, the farmers of Canada have been long indebted for much valuable information and advice. Many of them, such as the *Country Gentleman*, the *Genesee Farmer*, the *Rural New Yorker*, &c., are admirable publications. We shall strive to cultivate the most friendly relations with our American co-labourers. We mean to copy largely from their columns, as they, perhaps, will sometimes do from ours; and we shall strive to keep pace with them in the march of improvement. We would not wish one copy less than now of these valuable papers circulated in Canada. But what we do say is this: We propose to do for Canada what these papers so well do for their own country; our matter will be entirely for Canadian readers; we have not, like our neighbours, a population of thirty millions to appeal to, and the united support of our whole farming population is necessary to our complete success. The moral, therefore, is—take as many American publications as you can, but first and foremost, take THE CANADA FARMER!

Destruction of Sheep by Dogs. EXTRAORDINARY DECISION!

THE following detailed account of a recent sheep case has been sent us by Mr. William Gordon, of Burnbrae, Township of Whitby, a gentleman on whose statement the utmost reliance can be placed:—

"On the night of the 24th November last, I got 28 sheep mangled by four dogs, and 24 of them died from the injuries received. The same night a neighbour, Mr. John Willis, had 11 sheep torn by the same dogs, of which six died. The night being soft, there was no difficulty in tracing whence the dogs came and whither they went; but redress for the loss caused by the dogs having been refused by their owners, I had them cited before Wm. Laing, Esq., Mayor of Whitby, James Rowe, Esq., Deputy Reeve of Whitby, and Dr. Gunn, all Magistrates of the county of Ontario. Before these gentlemen I adduced evidence tracing the dogs to the premises of their owners, and finding the dogs next morning bespattered with blood, and lolling in a gorged, exhausted condition. I also proved that the very next night, being the 25th November, one of said dogs made an attempt to destroy the residue of Mr. Willis's sheep, but he being on watch, allowed the dog to spring in among his sheep, and then halloed him away, closely following the animal up to his master's dwelling-house. The counsel employed for defendants objected to the relevancy of this evidence, as it had reference to another person's sheep, and not to mine. This objection I was enabled to overrule, by proving that part of my sheep had been chased in among Mr. Willis's, and were there at the time the dog made his attack. Again, I proved that on the second night after the wholesale slaughter of the sheep, another of said dogs was scared away when he was withi-