

Seven Eared Wheat.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—I have received through Stewart Campbell, Esq., Secretary of the County of Perth Agricultural Society, some specimens of a new kind of wheat grown by Mr. Forman, of Stratford, accompanied with the following statement, which will be interesting to your numerous readers. These specimens—which are badly affected by rust—may be seen at this office. Mr. Forman's future experiments will be looked forward to with much interest. Yours truly,

GEO. BUCKLAND.

Board of Agriculture,
Toronto, Dec., 1866.

I brought the seed, from which these plants were grown, last fall, from near Salt Lake City, Utah Territory, U. S. It is a spring grain, and there known as "Seven Eared Wheat" from the small side ears, usually three or four on each side of the main head. With their system of irrigation, alkaline soil and dry climate, it yields from 60 to 100 bushels per acre, of a very large white plump grain, larger, and nearly equal in quality to our winter wheat.

I think the Mormons obtained the original seed from Toros, New Mexico.

This spring I sowed the seed in drills two feet apart, in a rather poor, stiff clay soil. It was sown too early and covered too deep, and only about half the seed grew, leaving the plants too much space, in consequence of which, and the wet summer, it suffered considerably from rust, and the grain is badly shrunk, as most of the spring wheat is here this year. Owing to the depredations of my neighbour's bees, I lost the best and largest heads. In a few cases twenty stalks grew from a single seed, and some large heads contained 160 grains. Nearly all the heads had 10 and 12 side ears.

I intend giving it a thorough trial, and have hopes, when the plant becomes acclimated, in three or four seasons it will prove more productive, earlier, and of a better quality than any of our present varieties. When, if found adapted to this country, it will be distributed. In the meantime the public will be kept informed of its progress.

I have also a new and distinct variety of Rye, from California, originally from the Amoor River, Siberia, called "Russian Rye," believed to be very productive, and of superior quality—both berry and head of peculiar form and very large. It was sown here this spring and grew vigorously; but owing to an accident, the few plants growing were destroyed.

As I have still some grains of the original seed left, I will try again next season.

GEORGE NORMAN.

Stratford, County of Perth, Sept. 10th, 1866.

AN INCREDIBLE HAY CROP.—The *New England Farmer* is responsible for the report that an acre and a half of poor land in St. Johnsbury, Vt., produced thirteen and a half tons of fine timothy hay this season. The land was ploughed in August, 1865, top-dressed with forty-five loads of yard manure, well harrowed and sown with three pecks of timothy seed, and fifteen pounds of clover seed, and again harrowed and rolled, it yielded eight tons of timothy the last week in June, and five and a half tons more the first week in September. As much Italian rye grass has been grown to the acre in England by the aid of weekly libations of sewage or liquid manure. But any thing like such a crop of timothy has never before been reported by the agricultural press.

THE GARNET CHILI POTATOES.—"R. W. S." of East Zorra, writes:—"In your issue Nov. 1st., there appears a paragraph from the *Mount Forest Examiner*, in reference to the 'Garnet Chili', stating that Mr. A. T. Gregory, nurseryman of that village, had showed him a 'specimen brick' of that variety, which weighed two pounds six ounces, and that it is a new variety introduced by Mr. Gregory.

I wish to state that the Garnet Chili is a comparatively old variety in some parts of Canada, and has been exhibited at the Provincial Exhibitions for the last seven or eight years at least. Last spring I planted in hills a little less than two pecks, cut fine on six square rods, from which I took twenty-five bushels of very large potatoes, not one diseased in the lot. There were a great many which weighed two pounds each, and one that weighed just three pounds and one ounce (49 ounces). But there is one drawback which resulted from over growth: all the large ones are hollow at the heart."

SPONTANEOUS GROWTH OF WHITE CLOVER.—"J. L. B." of Harvey Hill Mines, says:—"Permit me to inquire through your columns the reason why white clover invariably grows up where ashes have been spread, though there be not a vestige of it there before?"

Ans.—Because the soil is so full of the seed of white clover, that the plant springs up whenever and wherever circumstances are favourable to its germination; and because ashes have a peculiar tendency to stimulate the growth of this particular plant. The fact enquired about by our correspondent has often been noticed. It has been found that, on strewing ashes upon an old meadow, thousands of clover plants will make their appearance, though none were to be seen before.

GOODRICH'S SEEDLING POTATOES.—"E. McArdle," of St. Catharines, writes:—"I this spring obtained six barrels Goodrich's Seedling Potatoes, two barrels Early Goodrich, two of Gleason, and two of Garnet Chili; of that quantity I planted three bushels, Gleason and three bushels Early Goodrich on three quarters of an acre of ground, from which I obtained at digging time three hundred and twenty five bushels of good sound potatoes. My experience with the Garnet Chili is that it does not compare favourably either in quality or yield with the Gleason or Early Goodrich. The above mentioned potatoes were raised with ordinary tillage without the use of any artificial manure."

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—The late Rev. Chauncey Goodrich, of Utica, N. Y., spent much of his time during the last few years of his life in experimenting upon and originating varieties of the potato. He propagated directly from the seed-ball about 16,000 plants no two of them being exactly alike. After much patient attention some twenty varieties were obtained that were considered acquisitions. Of these the Garnet Chili, Cuzco, Copper Mine, Pink Eye, Rusty Coat, Early Goodrich, and Gleason, have proved the most desirable, and it is considered by intelligent agriculturists that from their healthfulness during seasons of potato disease they have saved the farmers of the United States millions of money. Some of the above named varieties of potatoes have found their way into Canada, and we have every reason to believe that they deserve to be more widely known and more generally cultivated.

Poultry Yard.

Canada West Poultry Association.

A MEETING of the above Association was held in the rooms of the Board of Agriculture on Thursday evening the 6th inst., Allan McLean Howard, Esq., in the chair. The meeting was well attended, and a good deal of interest was manifested in the particular section of the feathered tribe, to which attention was specially directed. Messrs. P. Armstrong, President of the York Agricultural Society, John McDonald, M.P.P., Hon. Geo. Brown, M.P.P., W. McGrath, John Johnson, G.W.R., London, Myles Rawkins, Belleville; Dr. Buchan, Messrs. Scadding, E. J. Jarvis, David Buchan, and Geo. Z. Rykert, St. Catharines, were added to the list of members at this meeting. Mr. McLean Howard, the President, delivered a lecture on the Golden Spangled Poland, which caused a lively discussion among the members, especially in regard to the points of excellence laid down by authorities. The feasibility of holding an exhibition in connection with the Society was afterwards proposed and received with satisfaction. It was resolved to discuss this and the Brama Pootra breed of fowl at next meeting. Specimens of the Golden Spangled Poland and two young white game cocks bred from stock imported last season, were shown by the President, to illustrate his remarks. Some much admired specimens of Carrier and Pouter Pigeons were also shown by the Secretary of the Association, Lieut. Col. Hassard. A very convenient coop for exhibition purposes, the invention of the gentleman just named, was also shown. It is very portable, and capable of a variety of adjustments, as occasion may require.

Entomology.

The Chinch Bug.

THE "Subscriber" at Grimsby, who kindly sent us some specimens of this destructive insect, and upon whose communication we made some remarks in our last issue, has also sent some specimens to the Editor of the *Practical Entomologist*, who makes the following interesting observations upon them:—

"The bugs which you found under the bark of an old log are undoubtedly, as you suppose, the true Chinch-bug of the States, (*Micropus (lygaeus) leucop-terus* Say). But they differ remarkably from our specimens, by the wings being only half as long as the abdomen, instead of fully as long. All the eleven specimens that you send are precisely alike in this respect, and they are all perfect insects and not pupæ. Hence I infer that your short-winged form is a geographical variety of ours. Many cases have been noted by Westwood, where different species of insects, and especially of bugs, in one and the same locality and year, sometimes occur with quite short wings, sometimes with quite long ones, without any intermediate gradations between the two forms; and I have noted more than a dozen such cases in this country. The occurrence of the Chinch Bug in Canada is a new fact, and economically a very interesting and important one. As the insect, however, is more peculiarly a southern species, I do not apprehend that it is likely ever to swarm with you, as it often does in the West; and at all events, having such short wings, it will not be able in Canada to fly in swarms from one locality to another, as our little pest occasionally does."

Destroying Insects by Machinery.

THE Western States have lately been grievously afflicted by a new and most destructive insect upon their potato crops. It was first observed in the Rocky Mountain region, and has since gradually migrated eastward into Iowa and Illinois. It appears in such vast numbers that hand-picking—the best known remedy in this and almost every other case—cannot be employed to a sufficient extent where potatoes are grown on a large scale. A horse-machine has, therefore been invented by a person in Iowa, which appears to be tolerably effectual; no doubt improvements will in time be made upon it that will enable farmers to keep this new pest within proper bounds. We subjoin a description of this ingenious invention, quoted in the *Practical Entomologist*:—

"The machine was invented by Mr. Denson, of Muscatine, Iowa, and he intends manufacturing it for next season's use. The cost will be about thirty dollars. It consists of a frame-work, which moves astride the row of potatoes, on which is mounted longitudinally a reel somewhat like the one on McCormick's old Reaper, which knocks the bugs off the plants into a box on one side. This box is of course open on the side next the row nearly down to the ground, but is some two feet high on the outside and at the ends. The reel works over the inner edge of the box, and the bugs are whipped off the vines pretty clean; and the most of them are thrown against the higher side of the box, which converges like a hopper over two four-inch longitudinal rollers at the bottom, between which the bugs are passed and crushed. These rollers are some three or four feet long.

Those insects which are perched low down on the plants are frequently knocked on to the ground; but I think they would soon crawl up again; and repeating the operation at intervals would very greatly reduce their numbers, and lessen very much the labour of hand-picking, which I think would be advisable in conjunction with the use of the machine, in order to destroy the eggs and diminish the young brood, which is most destructive to the foliage of the plant."

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA.—We are requested to mention, for the information of the members of this Society, that the Secretary, the Rev. C. J. S. Bethune, has changed his address from Cobourg to CREDIT, C. W.