

water meadows in Europe, have been carefully prepared by art. Much, however, can be done on uneven surfaces by persons skilled in the practice of the art by what is technically called "catch work." We would advise our correspondent in the first instance to overflow his land in as thorough and inexpensive manner as possible, and watch the results, of which we should be happy to be informed in due course. We know of no work embracing irrigation with draining that is readily accessible, but we may shortly turn our attention to the subject in the pages of the *Agriculturist*.

Eds.

### The Grain Aphis.

EDITORS OF THE CANADIAN AGRICULTURIST.—Considering the office of the *Agriculturist* the best repository of facts relating to Agricultural matters in Canada West, I send you the result of my observation and experience of the insect now infesting our grain fields.

I observed it first on a field of oats of my own, last summer. They were early sown, and the damage done to them was small, — the grain was well filled before they appeared, but I had a bushel of Scotch or Fife wheat sown in the same field, late, which was promising well until the oats were cut, and very few insects on it; but immediately after the removal of the oats myriads of these insects attacked the wheat, and when harvested, the wheat only weighed about 45 lbs. per bushel.

They appeared last year to prefer oats to any other kind of grain, my grain bags could scarcely be forced to take in two bushels weight of oats, while the same bags the previous year easily held two and-a-half bushels each. I attributed the loss to the insect. This year it commenced much earlier, attacking the leaves of the oats before the grain appeared, and now it takes wheat, oats or barley indiscriminately. There is also a difference in the insect itself this year—last year very few of them had wings,—this year they appear all to get wings in a few days after their appearance, certainly within one week. Some writers compare them to the common house or bed bug, but I see no resemblance between the two creatures in this part of the country, except the general color. The Aphis divested of its limbs, to the naked eye, resembles more the shape and size though not the color of the small or male Flea, also a bed in'ester.

Yours truly,

A. HAMILTON.

McNab, 16th Aug., 1862.

Fully one-half of the money value of rape and the best cotton seed cakes is obtained back again in the manure.

### Wool and its Prospects.

[The following article we take from the *Michigan Farmer*, and congratulate our contemporary on his re-appearance, after a short cessation, in a much improved form. The two numbers of the new series that have reached us bear evident marks of talent and industry, and the Journal under its improved management, in a splendid agricultural State like Michigan, must or at least ought, to command a large degree of success.—Eds.]

From a survey, somewhat hasty, or the market, the state of public affairs, and of the other interests that have a bearing upon wool and its value, we incline to the opinion that wool is likely to advance in price than to fall below the extreme rates, that were current during the season of the clip. Why we think so, will be easily understood from the following statement of our reasons.

1. The stock of old wool in the hands of manufacturers and dealers, was far more thoroughly used up than we have known before for several years, at the time when the new clip was ready. The action of the new tariff during the past twelve months had a tendency to set the manufacturers all through the country at work under more favourable circumstances than they have had since 1846; then again, the demands of the Government for supplies for the commissariat of so large an army, with all its wear and tear, had a most important bearing on the consumption of the old stock—and this with an active demand for home consumption stimulated by a remarkable plenty of currency—these causes all serve to use up the stock of old wool. It is gone, therefore, and all that manufacturer can depend upon is this year's clip, a large portion of which, they are not likely to have, for the wool clip of Virginia, Kentucky, Missouri, Tennessee, must necessarily be light, that will seek a northern market, and hence a diminished aggregate supply.

2. The high price of cotton, must have a immense tendency to keep up the price of wool. Already cotton is worth nearly as much as wool and the supply of cotton becomes lessened more and more, wool must of necessity, in a greater or lesser degree take its place. The demand for a supply of wool is likely to be very great before the next year's clip is ready, and we should not be surprised to note that it had gone up nearly a dollar a pound before first of next June.

3. If the army called into the field by the government consumed as supposed, nearly two thirds of the wool clip of last year, we certainly have every reason to believe that now the orders have been issued to double its number for the next nine months, the demand for so