

**On the Wing.**

VISIT TO WESTWELL FARM.

This farm is situated in Delaware Township. It consists of 200 acres, being part of three lots on the banks of the River Thames. The land is of a clayey nature, having sandy loam in some parts. The farm, which is cut by large ravines, was formerly heavily timbered with large black walnut, large white oak, ash, rock elm, beech, maple and basswood, indicating good land.

On this farm much of the wheat that has for years been disseminated throughout the country, has been tested. The Fife or Scott Wheat was first distributed to the Western farmers from this farm, about 30 years ago, and each new variety of value since has been sent from it to the surrounding country. There are many much more extensive farms—farms better located and having less waste land—farms that can show to much better advantage, and many have been better farmed; but few can lay claim to the origination of so much that has tended to the benefit of farmers of this Dominion, at such a small cost and with so much profit to the country.

We have had so much to call us away from this farm that we very seldom visit it, not having time to do so; but thanks for a Dominion Day and holiday, giving us an opportunity.

The wheat crop on the farm never looked more promising. The Fultz appears to be the earliest, but the Democrat appears to outrival it in height and bulk of crop; the Michigan Amber is a very stout crop, in fact, too heavy. The Scott, which was for many years our favorite wheat, appears to be a little later; but the boys have, after repeated trials, and that with numbers of varieties, preferred the four above mentioned wheats for their soil. On one part of this farm is a hard clay knoll, which we had often plowed, but to no profit, because it was always so hard and dry, baked and cracked by the sun; but it was in a good field and had to be worked well. This hard, dry knoll, that we had considered worthless, was now producing a remarkable double crop, namely, a first-class cut of timothy and clover, and a good crop of winter wheat above it. The wheat had laid on the ground without rotting or germinating, and had now grown so as to make a good, fair crop if it were left to ripen. Our son had turned the stubborn hard clay knoll into a fertile spot by giving it a liberal coat of lime.

## PINK EYE.

In the orchard we noticed one of the horses lying stretched out; the legs were greatly swollen. It got up, but walked very stiffly. All the horses on the farm had the disease; none were fit for hard work, although some were just recovering. The principal treatment required is such as would be given in case of a bad cold, namely, rest, opening diet, care and comfort; a little medicine may sometimes be advantageous, but more frequently injury is done by it than good. The cause or spread of this disease is not so easily explained. The conveying of infectious or contagious diseases when once introduced into a country or locality, appears to be almost unnoticeable. The air appears to contain sufficient of the virus at suitable times to infect a large section. This disease and the epizootic should teach us that we cannot exercise too great caution to prevent the introduction of any kind of disease into our country. In Gloucestershire, in England, the Rinderpest spread ruination among the farmers in the whole of that county, in a few weeks.

On the farm is a very fine orchard, one of the best in this part of Canada. Many of the trees had been very full of blossoms and well set for apples, but the last week in June, for some cause

which we are unable to explain, a blight struck through the orchard, the fruit dropped off, and many of the leaves turned brown and some curled up. But what appeared most remarkable was the fact that the blight did not affect any of the trees that had not blossomed, and the leaves of all the trees that had blossomed were affected. We presume the same might have been observed in all the orchards in this part of Canada, as the complaints of blight and consequent scarcity of apples are very general. Perhaps some one versed in pomology might explain the cause to the farmers of Canada. If any of our subscribers have good apple crops in other parts of the Dominion, they ought to realize a good price for them, as they will be scarce enough throughout this western part of Canada, and generally we have a large surplus for shipment.

As the wheat and apple crops are both of great importance, we examined the many apple trees as we went through the country at different points, and in all sections the disease was apparent. In some places the injury done had been greater than in others. For instance, in the cities, villages and towns there were far more apples on the trees than in other orchards near them; also trees or parts of orchards that were protected by wind-breaks were not so much injured. At the Government Farm we enquired the cause, but they could not give us any information on this subject. The nurseryman, orchardist and seedsman have different theories as regards the cause. Some consider the wood was soft last autumn, others that the wet weather at the time the blossoms were out prevented the humble bees and other insects from distributing the pollen at a proper time; some think it the effect of frost; others attribute it to an east wind, others to the work of an aphid or insect, or to a fungus growth. But it is the general impression that no material injury is done to the trees, as new leaves will be formed where they are required for their health. The lightness of the crop is very serious to those depending on fruit, and will be felt by all. As the direct cause of this wide-spread malady is not generally known, we are unable to commend a remedy or preventative. We have heard suggestions of sprinkling the trees with hellebore, lime, sulphur, etc., but are unable to commend any preventative or remedy. We deem this subject of so much importance that we will award our next monthly prize of \$5 to the individual sending us the best essay on "the most correct account of the disease and the best remedy or preventative."

## WINTER WHEAT.

On the 13th of July we took a drive through part of London and Westminster Townships, in company with Mr. William H. Brown, of Columbus, Ont., and Mr. Jno. Plummer, the President of the Western Fair Association. In passing through the country we paid particular attention to the wheat fields, nearly all of which showed a very strong attack of rust on the leaf. This was the first we had seen or heard of rust this year. We computed the damage to the different fields as we passed, and estimated it would vary from 25 to 75 per cent. in the various fields. The late sown fields, or those on low, damp, undrained ground, were placed at the latter figure. But, to our surprise, the rust has not spread to the stem of the wheat, as it generally does; perhaps this was on account of a few cooler days that followed. Consequently the damage computed was totally incorrect, as the wheat has generally filled well, far better than it usually does when smitten by the rust, and very little injury has been done by it, except on very late pieces and on spring wheat.

This raises the question, why does rust do so little injury some years and so much in others after

the blade is similarly effected? Who will explain?

To enable us to form an opinion of the best varieties of wheat, we took a trip of enquiry on the 18th of July. We called at the Government Farm at Guelph. Mr. Mills, the Principal of the College, and Prof. Brown, who were busy, introduced and gave us in charge of a careful, painstaking young man who had but recently graduated, Mr. Nichol, the former Manager of the Experimental Department, having left the institution for a very responsible position in China. We found the experimental plot of wheat looking better than usual, but there is a lack of order to facilitate the comparisons. They claim to have between 60 and 70 varieties, which, with a little judicious management, we think could be reduced to one-quarter the number. They may be placed in alphabetical order, and the plots may be distinctly marked; but it is our opinion that if the varieties that are similar were placed near each other, one could compare the merits and qualities of the different varieties much better than by the present system. As now arranged, it is quite puzzling to find out the different plots of the various kinds, even with the aid of the book, the plan and best guide on the farm. We would suggest an immediate re-arrangement of this department, as good can be done by this experimental plot. For instance, we noticed the old wheat known to every farmer under the name of the Soules wheat; here it appeared to us scattered among the different plots under six different names, and perhaps by closer inspection, it might be found in many more. The first wheat seen is the Finlay; this is nearest the road. It is the earliest kind on the ground, excepting the Fultz and Fluke wheats. These three plots, which we consider one variety, are all fortunately in a row, all by the fence, and cannot be mistaken. These varieties have a white chaff and a peculiar purplish tinge on the stem, not noticeable in any other wheat, except another variety called the Russian Fultz. This wheat has every appearance of being the same as the three former varieties, except this feature—it is a bearded kind. The form of the grains and heads is similar in all, and we are unable to ascertain any difference in them except on the highest ground one is a little more lodged than the other. On enquiry we are unable to ascertain who imported these different varieties, or where they originated.

We noticed several varieties marked plainly rust-proof, but it required but the common eye of any farmer to see plenty of rust on the leaves, and a close observer could detect a little on the stem as well. The principal crop of wheat we saw on the farm was a fine field of Clawson or Seneca. This wheat is called by both these names; in one section it is called by the one, in others by the other. Question—which is right, and why called by both names? The Smash-up wheat, the Treadwell and the Democrat resemble each other. The Michigan Amber and the Turkey wheats also resemble each other.

A rain storm drove us from the field, and the length of thistles on the roads through the plots prevented as close an inspection as we would have liked; as it was, we got a wetting for our pairs.

On Wednesday we went over

MR. F. W. STONE'S FARM,

as he has some wheat also.

Mr. Stone's farms consist of 800 acres, one of which adjoins the Government Farm, and are within a radius of five miles from Guelph. Mr. Stone is a genuine specimen of John Bull.

The first field we entered contained his herd of Hereford cows. There were 93 in this field; most of them were lying down on an undulating slope, a few were grazing, and some standing near the shade trees by the fence. There were passing