

success. Wheat of superior quality has been grown, and every year a larger area of land is sown with this cereal. Spring wheat yields well when sown early, and ripens so that it can be cut and harvested in the month of August. Winter wheat, as elsewhere, is not always a sure crop, but it matures early and yields well. Last year I raised a splendid sample, which would compare favorably with any grown in Canada; it yielded at the rate of 22 bushels per acre. Both spring and winter rye succeed well; of the former I have raised good crops. Barley is a sure and remunerative crop and yields well. Oats are largely raised and grow luxuriantly; last season I had a field where they grew six feet high on the virgin soil. The yield of grain is not generally so good as a first crop, as they run too much to straw; a better yield of oats can be secured by sowing on the first year stubble. Peas grow luxuriantly and yield a good return, though they, too, run very much to straw as a first crop, and do better to follow turnips or potatoes, the land being too rich for them until cropped once or twice. Indian corn succeeds well and has been raised by the Indians since they can remember. Root crops of every description do well. Turnips are one of the staple crops. Potatoes grown here far excel in size and quality those raised in the older settled parts of the Province. Vegetables of all kinds do well, and all fruit-bearing trees seem to thrive. Wild fruits are found in abundance. Clover and the different species of grasses flourish. Hungarian grass produces a large amount of fodder when sown with barley or other late grain, and also tends to prevent it becoming lodged. Owing to the absence of drought the grass is green and fresh from early spring until snow falls, such a thing as burnt up pasture being unknown here. Cattle feed in the bush all summer, as the herbage is plentiful and nourishing, and are quite fat and sleek in the autumn when returned to their winter quarters, having given their owners no trouble whatever during the summer months. Little has yet been done by the settlers regarding a proper rotation of crops, as it has been their aim to get as much land under cultivation as possible. Yet many are now turning their attention to a more rational mode of procedure than heretofore, and, instead of clearing large tracts to run to weeds, are cultivating smaller patches thoroughly, from which they reap larger proportionate profits. In many instances, however, settlers coming in with large families and small capital lack the means of stocking properly the farms they have cleared. This causes a deterioration in the quality of the soil, a misfortune which has, it is to be regretted, befallen many farmers in other sections of the country. It is nevertheless surprising to notice the very large increase in the quantity of stock raised in this section, also the improvements in quality which has taken place during the past three or four years. This will undoubtedly prove a fine country for stock raising, which, in my opinion, will pay well, as any crop needed for this branch of farming industry can be grown in abundance in this well watered district.

JAMES ASPDIN.

(To be Continued.)

Our Winnipeg Correspondence.

SIR,—Parties wishing to settle in Manitoba will get every attention paid them at the Land Office here. I have been in business over forty years in Ontario, the last fifteen travelling in every section, and no part of Canada can compare with Manitoba soil for producing crops. Land here is frozen and covered with snow (no thaws) all winter, and opens out quite mellow in spring. You can rely upon cultivating and seeding without much interruption.

Beets for sugar manufactory could be grown for one-third less than in Ontario. All our farmers are agreed that wheat will pay better here at thirty cents per bushel less. Flax, cheese, cattle and horses—with grass and hay—unlimited. Climate cold, but clear and healthy—no asthma or rheumatism; mostly every one likes this climate better than Ontario. Our drawbacks are American transportation, express and telegraph; they are fleeing the last dollar out of us; 100 lbs. express, \$17.50; 10 words telegraph, \$2.50, and freight in proportion. It is the special benefit of the whole Dominion that we get our own C. P. R. without delay. Hundreds and thousands of Canadians in the Western States are anxious to come here. With our own outlet, this country will show an increase in population and wealth never known before in any part of British America.

JOHN BROWN,
Commission Merchant, Winnipeg.

Poultry Keeping.

SIR,—I have seen many articles in your columns as well as in other papers respecting poultry, especially the fancy breeds, which are doubtless excellent in their place. To keep fancy fowls with profit requires fancy care and fancy feeding, which many farmers are not disposed to give, neither is it absolutely necessary if eggs and chickens are required mainly for home use. In the summer my poultry have always been allowed the run of the hills near the barn, and the orchard, although if they get into the flower or kitchen garden they are apt to raise everything in a manner more expeditious than profitable. In the winter I have hitherto kept both fowls and turkeys in a loft over the stable, and, although it is a rather cold place, they seem to be free from vermin, and to thrive well. The winter before last was, as your readers will remember, a very severe winter, yet we had eggs from our fowls, off and on, all through the winter. They generally had a feed of warm boiled potatoes every day at noon, with occasionally a sprinkling of cayenne pepper and burnt bones broken into small pieces, together with dry, hard wood ashes to roll in, out of which they could pick charcoal for themselves. They would also get a supply of refuse given once a day, and of course plenty of water. Our geese and ducks have been partitioned off from them on the floor of the stable, and are fed with peas, oats and boiled potatoes, with plenty of water. Last spring we had chickens hatched in April, which commenced to lay at four months old, and they laid larger eggs than the old hens. As for the breed, I commenced with half a dozen Cochins Chinese hens and a Black Spanish cock, though not pure bred, besides a number of common hens. I had a White Dorking cock for a short time, but he was so prone to fight with the other that I gave him away. Of the Cochins we have only two left. They are kept because they are early sitters and good mothers. As for the diseases common amongst poultry, they are unknown to us except by name. We have never even had a single case of gapes amongst our chickens, but if such a case should occur I should try a recipe given by a farmer's wife in the parish in England where I formerly resided, who generally raised about two hundred fowls and fifty ducks every season. It is only soot taken from a chimney where coal is never burnt, made into small pellets with fresh butter, and two or three grains to each chick. A small creek which rises in a limestone cliff at the rear of my farm, runs at a short distance from my house and barn, and furnishes plenty of water for the geese and ducks to swim in, emptying during the summer heats, when the water sinks into the gravel and they have to be supplied with water to drink, which is brought with a team from the bay. We rear most of our ducks under hens, as the old ducks continue laying too long, and besides are very much given to roaming about; in fact, young ducks, if they are well fed, seem to thrive better when they have no water to swim in until they are fully grown, provided they have enough to drink. Some years ago I had a pair of wild geese, but one day the gander flew away and alighted in the bay about a mile off, and came in near the land. A farmer and two of his sons were at work near at hand, and one of the young men, not knowing that the gander belonged to me, unfortunately shot it. The next season the farmer, who was a good neighbor, gave me a gander of the common breed, to mate with the wild goose, but as I had some half Chinese geese, the wild geese preferred their company, and they drove the strange gander away, so the poor fellow was very lonely for a time, until a hen came off her nest with a brood of chickens, when he immediately volunteered to take charge of them, an arrangement which was at first strenuously opposed by the hen, although she soon became reconciled, and the gander continued to care for the chickens as carefully as if they had been a brood of goslings. He would sometimes gather them under his wings, and on one occasion when a hawk pounced down on the hen, he flew at the intruder and drove him off. This continued until the winter, when the gander was shut up with the other geese, and the following spring continued with them without noticing the other poultry. Another year a young duck hatched under a hen was brought up with some young turkeys, and continued to associate with them throughout the season although there were several other young ducks on the place. It was amusing when the young duck and turkeys were pretty well grown to notice the duck always keeping with the turkeys; however fast they might walk he always kept up with them. If they flew over a fence he flew after them. This continued

until late in the fall, when ducks and chickens were sent to market. I have no doubt but that fowls will produce more eggs if they are kept warm and comfortable, provided that strict attention is paid to cleanliness and ventilation, without which they are liable to be pestered with vermin, and troubled with various diseases which poultry flesh is heir to, which often makes poultry keeping anything but profitable.

SARAWAK.

Wild Lands.

SIR,—Noticing in your columns many allusions to the newer parts of our Province and Manitoba, but have been unable to find the proper addresses of those gentlemen who hold the land in their iron grip (for if it's not so why do they not advertise it?) They foster American emigration by doing so. Can you give your reader the Muskoka, Algoma, Manitoba and North-west land offices.

Yours truly,

F. G. T.

Oshawa, Jan. 17th, 1877.
[Perhaps it might be judicious to put a rate or tax on all lands as soon as taken up, said rate to be levied every three months the land was not settled on; in case of non-payment or non-settlement to be free for any one to locate and hold. Perhaps some of those that are here found the land lock detrimental to their settlement, might suggest means to rectify the evil. It is our impression that the land lock will drive more good settlers to the States than the Emigration Agent will bring to our country. Perhaps some of our readers may furnish the information asked for. Mr. Archibald Young, whose present address is Toronto, advertises as land agent for Manitoba. Mr. Levi Jones, of Toronto, advertises to locate for farmers at Thunder Bay. Either of these gentlemen will give you a great deal of information regarding the lands in the localities they advertise about. We cannot tell you the address of any Government land agent. You might obtain their names and addresses by application to the Commissioner of Agriculture at Ottawa. Parties have called at our office that have been to Manitoba with the intention of settling, but found no land available without going fifty or a hundred miles back. One young man has just returned from Battleford and says he would not have a farm within three hundred miles of that capital, as he says the soil and climate are neither good there, but good land was obtainable three hundred miles northwest of Battleford. He said the land was good at Manitoba, unsettled and yet not procurable by settlers. His reports of the land at Battleford differ much from other information we have received.]

SIR,—In the spring of '75 I got 10 lbs. Emporium Wheat from you, which yielded 5½ bushels of clean grain. Last spring we sowed 3½ bushels, from which we got 40 bushels of clean grain. The grain was smaller than last year, but plump.

Fall wheat in this locality was a failure; spring wheat generally very poor—have not heard of any as good as our own. We mean to sow the Emporium again.

Morrisburg, Dec., 1876.

A. LOUCKS.

SIR,—I must say I am much pleased with the ADVOCATE, and hope it will continue to improve in the future as it has done in the past. What is your opinion of refuse salt for spring wheat and barley on clay soil? Would it be dear at \$3 per ton, hauled 12 miles?

H., Underwood.

AN ENQUIRY.—SIR,—I received your letter stating about the price of the sheep. I have given up the notion of getting them this winter, for the snow is so deep I am afraid that the train might be bothered getting down.

I have seen nothing in the ADVOCATE about applying manure to plowed land. Please get some of your practical farmers to give some information on it; which is the best way?

ROBERT PATTERSON.

Roger Hill, Jan. 2nd, 1877.

[In your enquiry about applying manure to plowed land you are not definite enough. Write, stating what is the crop for which you intend to apply it, and the time at which it is to be applied, and also if the manure be decomposed. Your query will then be fully answered.—Ed.]

ASHES.—SIR,—I would strongly advise farmers not to sell their ashes. They are worth from five to ten times as much as the soap men give for them. Mr. Stewart, the editor of the *Live Stock Journal*, said at the Dairymen's Convention, at Ingersoll, that they were worth 50 cents per bushel. Keep them dry, and sow them on your orchards