

and judiciously applied upon the farm, if not in the first year, is certain, nevertheless, in the next and following years, to insure an ample return. But do what we will in the use of all the skill, capital and industry we possess, "there are times," as my lamented father used to say in my youth, "when the seasons will make fools of us all; this, however, must not deter us in our best endeavours to overcome difficulties, for there is nothing in this world more truly grateful than the soil, for generous and kind treatment!" This admonition I have never lost sight of to this day, and, in some measure, I hope I have profited by it.

I find, Mr. Editor, that I have somewhat wandered, in part, from the point I had in view, when I recommenced this letter—a refutation of two or three statements in the article that has called it forth.

The writer in that article asks "what new productions are being acclimatized and developed; and what old ones are, in any given district, being increased without bringing additional soil under cultivation."

In answer to which, I reply, that within the last two years, in one locality alone that I am acquainted with, upwards of 1500 acres of Flax have been grown, and in other parts of the Province it has also been extensively cultivated, and I doubt not, from information I have received, that the coming summer will produce some hundreds of acres of increase from the last. And all this would have been accomplished much sooner, had the grower known how to treat the crop, and where to find a market when grown. This trouble, however, thanks to your Journal, and to those gentlemen who have taken a great interest in the matter by their individual exertions, is greatly, if not entirely removed. We have much also to thank the Government for, in importing of machinery, and granting the aid it has done in this matter, through Mr. Donaldson, by whose efficiency and persevering exertions, much encouragement has been given to flax growing. The desirability of which, the farmers of this province will, doubtless, soon properly appreciate, especially so, when they have become more familiarized with its proper cultivation and treatment.

Herewith you will find enclosed an article cut from the *Guelph Mercury*, wherein is stated that, the produce of dressed flax, seed, and tow, of six acres, sold by Mr. Hennyberry of Elora, to Mr. John McCrea of Guelph, realized the pretty little sum of \$462.50!

Surely if there should be any farmer at all sceptical as to flax growing *paying well*, the above account will, at once, dissipate any doubt from his mind on the subject. We must too, in this matter, not lose sight of the advantage a change of crop always proves to the soil, more especially where it has been too long under one form of tillage.

Then again, there is winter Barley being introduced in different parts of the Province to which we were perfect strangers only two or three years back. Some farmers, I know, have been very successful with it, though others may not have been, through sowing too late, and from lack of knowledge of the treatment which the plant requires.

Then there is the Alsike clover, being new to the soil, has been very successfully grown in many districts, producing abundant crops where the soil and treatment has suited it. The Millet also has lately been introduced with equal success, and the sorghum, or Chinese Sugar cane is now undergoing a trial in several parts of the province—to say nothing of the many new varieties of Potatoes, which have, of late years, been raised from seedlings, chiefly produced in this country, with great success. And as regards our root crops, the foundation, I maintain, of all good farming, it may be truly said, they are increasing in an extraordinary degree, far indeed beyond the expectation of the most sanguine and energetic amongst us. And root culture, I am glad it is in my power to say, is not confined to one locality only, but, it may be said, is becoming general throughout the province, as our Provincial Shows, *wherever held*, amply testify. And I think I can speak with truth to the fact that, where there was one acre of roots (turnips more particularly) grown, in this neighbourhood when I first arrived here some seventeen years ago, there are twenty now. And I may hope, without taking undue credit to myself, that I was somewhat instrumental in giving an impetus to this branch of agriculture, not only by the example I set for several years in the large yield of turnips that I grew to the acre, but also in setting forth the unmistakable advantage accruing from the root crop, in a lecture at one of our Farmer's Club meetings held in Guelph some years ago. Whether, however, I am right or wrong in this supposition the fact is patent, that in less than five years after that lecture, there were in the neighbourhood ten acres of turnips grown, to one previously. And I think, from a correct recollection of the many inquiries of me, by different individuals almost immediately after, respecting the *modus operandi* in the growth of the crop.—I do not err much in the conclusion I have arrived at.

I have here again introduced this matter more especially to refute the assertion, in the article before alluded to,—“that a prize is given for a sample of wheat, which does not necessarily depend upon good farming at all; it may be, and in this country often is, the result of some lucky accident.”

Now, Sir, from the above extract, the writer evidently intends to imply that the 30 or 40 splendid samples of winter wheat of 23