

vation of barley. For this reason every farmer should use his utmost endeavors to have his barley land for the succeeding year fall plowed, as our Canadian frost is the most thorough disintegrator that we can employ. It is well to sow barley early, but at the same time it were better to be too late than to sow before the land be thoroughly warmed, for no crop succeeds well that is checked in its earliest growth.

Barley does not require a deep seed-bed, but that seed-bed must be thoroughly worked. If we cross-plow, let us do it shallow. I believe the gang-plow to be the best implement for the plowing of land in spring. One of the crops of barley that I have seen in Canada was sown upon the bare winter fallow, covered with the gang plow, and crossed with the harrows. A most important point, too often overlooked, is the use of the roller. It should be used *after* the plants are well through the ground; it presses the soil round the roots, and destroys many insects. I have often seen fields of young barley which looked yellow and sickly, restored to perfect greenness by the pressure of the roller.

From two to three bushels to the acre is the usual allowance of seed.—*Cor. Globe.*

RAVAGES ON THE WHEAT MIDGE IN 1870.

On a former occasion we took the trouble to compile from the crop returns, contained in the Annual Report of the Commissioners of Agriculture, a table of the ravages of the wheat midge during the previous year, in the various counties of Ontario. We have now done the same for the year 1870, and we have much gratification in stating that this pestilent insect has now almost ceased to be a terror in the land, and that its ravages are no longer, as we stated in 1869, "something frightful to contemplate."

In the following countries it is stated that there has been no midge during the past year, viz., Lincoln, Stormont, North and South Victoria, and Welland.

No reference at all is made to the midge in the returns from the following Electoral Divisions, and, therefore, we may infer that it has either inflicted no damage, or that the injury has been inappreciable in those parts of the country, viz., South Brant, East and West Hastings, East and West Middlesex, Niagara, North Norfolk, South Ontario, North Simcoe, West Wellington, and North York.

In the following divisions it is stated that "but little damage has been done by the midge":—Bothwell, East and West Durham, Dundas, East Elgin, Essex, Haldimand, North Hastings, South Huron, Kent, Lambton, South Lanark, South Leeds, North Oxford, Peel, South Renfrew, South Waterloo, North and South Wentworth, South Wellington and East York.

We now come to a few Electoral Divisions where some little damage is reported.

In North Bruce "the midge caused some injury, but very little." In South Bruce "the midge affected a few places, but, on the whole, not seriously." In Cardwell "the midge damaged but little, except late-sown spring varieties." In Glengarry "the midge has been disappearing for the last few years." In West Northumberland "the damage by midge was very partial."

In only five divisions do we find that any serious loss has been occasioned by this insect. In Addington "perhaps a fourth of the wheat crop was effected by the midge." In Cornwall "the midge may have injured the wheat crop one third." In Frontenac "the damage by the midge was considerable." In South Grey "the early spring wheat was greatly damaged by the midge." In Halton "the Deihl and Soules", and some spring wheat are damaged by the midge."

To recapitulate, we find that in *thirty-seven* Electoral divisions there has either been no wheat midge during the season of 1870, or, what probably amounts to the same thing, the returns make mention of none. In *five* some little damage has been done; and in *five* the injury has been considerable, amounting in one instance to, it is thought, as much as a third of the crop.

On the whole, the Report is most cheering, and we feel sure that every farmer in the land, every one, in fact, who cares at all for the welfare of his country, will join with us in the acknowledgment of our most humble and heartfelt thankfulness to the Almighty Giver of all good gifts, for the mercy which He has shown us in sparing to us the fruits of our increase, and ridding us, to so great an extent, of this most destructive insect.—*Globe.*

PERUVIAN GUANO.

In the opinion of a large majority of farmers, this is the most valuable of all manures available in a portable form. We all know that the views held by many excellent farmers when guano was first introduced in this country, was not favourable to its merits. Repeated trials, however, proved that its fertilizing qualities were greatly superior to anything that had been seen in the same compass before; and year by year Peruvian guano grew in reputation. Scientific men noticed that by the chemical moisture of certain ingredients, as good results might flow at a cost as cheap to the farmer, and many manufactures succeeding in producing fertilizers that in experiments and general practice proves as satisfactory. Still we believe we are correct in saying that Peruvian guano held its own against all other commodities designed to produce great crops for the tillers of the soil, and that others manufactured at home were not held in the same repute.

Of late it has been frequently declared, on the strength of the chemical analysis, that Peruvian guano was decreasing in its manurial value, that the percentage of ammonia and its freedom from extraneous substances, was not so great as in former years. Better material, it is alleged, can be produced in our own country, so that no fear need be apprehended—even if the Chincha Islands should become exhausted—that the earth shall not have sufficient food put into her to cause her to yield her increase. These are the sentiments of those who think that Peruvian guano has attained too high a price; and from the analyses of late years we cannot say that we disagree with them. But the question is this, Is the inferiority of Peruvian guano due to falling off in quality at the Chinchas, or the adulteration after it is imported from thence? We cannot answer, but perhaps some of our correspondents can. We shall be glad, as this is one of the most