

Flax Culture—Oil Cake.

Flax is little grown in this country. The high price of labor and the difficulty of preparing it properly for the market have prevented its more general introduction as a crop, and taking its place in the rotation of the farm. Having grown it for many years, the writer can speak of his own knowledge of the profits of a flax crop, having found it leaving a greater net profit than almost any other farm crop, though the expenses are heavier. We see the average yield returned here is 2½ tons, a very low average. The return of the average of any crop is necessarily low, the very light yield in some instances always reducing the better crops to a low average; but, judging from past experience, we would say that a produce of 2½ tons of flax per acre is to us a surprisingly low average. Even with such a yield a crop of flax will pay a good profit at \$12 per ton, the price for which it is sold. With good tillage, a yield of not less than four tons can be easily raised under ordinary circumstances.

But the great profit for which we would desire to see this crop more generally grown is not that realized from the price received for the fibre. It is the farmer's profit from the oil cake prepared from the seed. Not only is oil cake the best food for fattening stock that is known to stock feeders; the richness of the manure from cattle fed partly on oil cake makes it more valuable and more highly prized than any other farm-yard manure. Flax is, it is true, a scouring crop, but this is more than compensated for by the intrinsic value of the oil cake as a food and as a fertilizer. It should occupy the field at intervals of not less than five years. It requires a fertile soil, well cultivated and free from weeds. Some farmers prefer sowing it succeeding the root crop, when the soil, being in good tilth, fertile and clean, requires less preparation for it; but it is objected to this place in the rotation that the fibre is not so fine as if sowed on oat or barley stubble, fall and spring fallowed. It is a very good crop to sow clover and grass seeds with, as it does not smother their tender plants as other crops may sometimes do, and as the soil is so well prepared for the reception of the seed. The crop being removed from the ground early, the grasses have the whole autumn to have a good hold taken of the soil and be strong before the winter storms.

We see, then, that the profit of the crop itself is to be calculated from three items, to wit, the fibre, the oil prepared from the seed, and the oil cake—the refuse of the flax seed after the oil has been expressed. —S.

New Seeds.

The principal cereals that we have disseminated this year have been the Red Fern or Golden Wheat and the Australian Oats. We call them both Emporium grain, as the Emporium is the establishment through which they are introduced to the public. The same wheat may be found in some other parts of Canada or the States, but as yet we cannot find any that know about it. We never, to our recollection, remember seeing any of the same kind.

One great reason why we should give these cereals a name was because neither the oats nor the wheat were found clean enough or pure enough to send out as seed, and neither had any name by which they were known. It is possible and probable that the oats may not be a new variety, as they appear something like the Poland oats; should they prove to be of that variety, the very change of seed from that country to this would most probably make a marked difference in the yield and quality.

There are some who complain about the price charged. We have expended more than any other person in Canada to try to obtain new varieties of seed. Our trip to France and England, and to the States, cost money; we paid one agent between \$60 and \$70 to select the best oats and wheat for us, but even then we were compelled to condemn one shipment as unfit for seed, it being a foul and dangerous mixture that neither the mill nor even hand picking would render safe to send to you. As it is, your grain has been put through three mills and hand picked—that is, the Emporium stock. The other grain could be sent out at cheaper rates. Even now, in the wheat there are some grains that we think foreign to it.

We have now disseminated both varieties over a very large extent of the Dominion, and feel confident that we have been doing a good service to the country.

Patrons of Husbandry.

In this number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE we give a complete list of the Granges organized since the date of the list we were able to give in a former number. We were not able to give a list in our last number, as we had not received the report in time, but the list now given completes the roll up to the date of our writing. The returns bear unmistakable testimony to the increasing strength of the Order. The reports from all parts of Ontario and Quebec are favorable and encouraging, and in some of the other provinces farmers are, we learn, anxious to unite in the good work.

We hope good will be the result of the organization. To effect this we have ere now thought it well to make remarks such as we thought would lead to an examination of the subject in its different aspects. This journal has been, since first issued, an advocate of the farmer's interests, and in the pursuit of this object we have always courted free discussion on every point bearing upon their welfare; and our course has been independent, a character we are desirous still to maintain. We have repeatedly pointed out the advantages that we expect will be derived from the organization, though on some minor points our opinions may have been different from those of others. Social intercourse and suggestions and plans for general improvement in many things and in various ways we deem will be very beneficial. All that can be accomplished for a thorough agricultural education, and for the happiness of farmers and their families, should be taught and inculcated in the Grange room.

We deem the best way to do good to our Order and to the country is to report the plans and designs of the Order, as well as essays read in the Grange room or Agricultural Club. We shall always have space in our columns for such essays or debates as are really of general good, but we do not wish to publish or copy addresses, essays or doings of Granges which have been furnished to the general political journals of the country.

The Patrons of Husbandry in this neighborhood (we believe of this Division) are to celebrate the anniversary of the organization of the Dominion Order by holding a picnic at Port Stanley. The particular details we have not yet learned. Other picnics will be held, but we cannot give the dates.

To Subscribers.

Received, during April, a letter from Belleville, with money in it, but no name and unregistered. Who is the subscriber? Please state date of posting and any other circumstances to point to identity.

Upland Cranberries.

It is not generally known that upland cranberries have been successfully grown on the sandy loam plains of Long Island for several years past. The only cause of failure to produce profitable crops has arisen from the fact that they have attempted to mat the vines the same as on low land. This is all wrong; not because they won't mat, but because they cannot be cultivated when matted. The result is that in a severe drought the ground bakes, and the berry-worm destroys the berries on the same principle that lice get on cattle when they get poor. Cranberries on upland must be set in drills, three to four feet apart one way and one foot the other, and the ground kept clean by cultivators or else mulched with meadow hay, straw, or any other material that is handy. Cut off the runners the same as with strawberries, and let them thicken up in the drills, say a foot wide. They need no manure to produce the best results. Manure will make the vines grow rank, but will not produce so many berries. New land is preferable to old. There is no trouble to make them yield one bushel to a square rod. It has been done often here.

The advantages of upland cranberry culture are: 1. It does not cost one-quarter as much to improve the land as swamp, nor to keep them clean afterwards. 2. The berries being much darker, bring one-quarter more per bushel. 3. The vines not being matted, the berries can be raked instead of picked, thus saving certainly three-quarters in this item.

The time to set is about corn-planting, although they will live and grow set out any time when the ground is not frozen. Vines can be sent by mail or express any distance in cool weather. Cranberries are profitable because they take no manure and always have a sure market. A. J. H.

[The above article by a correspondent of the *German town Telegraph* may lead some of our enterprising farmers to consider the policy of experimenting in cranberry culture. There is nothing to prevent our success in it here more than in the Northern States. They that have engaged in it there have found it one of the most profitable branches of farm husbandry. Marsh cranberry culture is more practised than the growing of them on dry land, but both have proved to be very remunerative. The farmer who diversifies his agriculture, instead of confining himself to the old beaten track, has the best prospects of success in his profession. If one crop give a light yield, or the prices for one or more of his products of the farm be low, as will sometimes occur, he is not dependent on that light crop or those unremunerative products, as in the past season, wheat in some instances did not pay the cost of its cultivation, but the farmer that had a good field of barley or a herd of good milch cows did not feel so much the loss from the low prices in the wheat market. We would wish to see the culture of the cranberry introduced into different parts of the country—on a small scale at first. The shrub is indigenous to the country, so both soil and climate are favorable to its growth. Canadian farmers who have already made a trial of them have found them a profitable crop, though the last season the yield has been light owing to the more than ordinary drought.—S.]

The Silver-Hulled Buckwheat.

We introduced this buckwheat a few years ago, but as we do not raise buckwheat ourselves, we got entirely out of a supply for last season. Enquiries have been coming in for it, and reports of results also. From these reports we find that this buckwheat is preferred by those who have it for the following reasons: It has yielded better, has stood the drouth better, is much cleaner, and makes a better flour.

Daniel Webster says: "Horticulture is one pursuit of natural science in which all sexes and degrees of education and refinement may unite. Nothing is too polished to see the beauty of flowers. Nothing is too rough to be capable of enjoying them. It attracts, delights all. It seems to be a common field, where every degree of taste and refinement may unite and find opportunities for their gratification."

Prize Essay on Quack or

SIR,—Having been an agricultural journal for watched with interest in the ADVOCATE, you should know exactly what they

Among these commu some bearing on the Scotch Grass, one of the worst pests the farmers as it is extending in all a boon to the farming c remedy for its destruction

The plan I have tried

If the piece of land be meadow, it is all right to keep all cattle off, About the 10th of June good plow and man work; plow from five to great object being to br the sod. Let it lie one good iron harrow, and week, always on a dry of July put in the plow and pull, don't give up. days. Plow again ab ridge up for fall wheat, live root of Quack, is done.

The whole mystery is undisturbed until the mer fallow well. I ha stubble land by summer succeeded.

Perth, Lanark Co., A

Prize

By J.

ON THE CULTURE

I will here offer my n the vine from the fall p tion of two-year old w earth till spring. The bed prepared in a good 6 inches apart, with ro small hoe between; pla the eye level with the play upon it until 11 o wards. Transplant i April, or place them w from 5 to 7 feet apart, apart; if there are se the ground. Tie to a shade at noonday till sure of growth remove

One bud only should cutting the first year; shoots, tie them to a should be on a rise of north, well drained, a of broken bricks and mals of any description the grape. The bro be placed in a trench them free from weeds.

In the beginning of eyes, and in a fortnig straw answers splendi leaves are superior, a the winter and make cover them in the mic on a trellis or frame, 12 inches. On each each eye, and as soon enough, tie it and cut summer allow no mor each branch, cutting buds (not counting the new woods). Lay c before.

In the third year shoots, rubbing the o vember cut the bran feeble of the two to the succeeding year, fruit, and cover as be

In the fourth year ber and length of yo on the strength of y than five good eyes w and branches as l