

should take full advantage of the dairy school and get the practical lessons necessary for success. It gave him pleasure to hear Inspector Millar say that he failed to find a student of the dairy school but who was making a first-class article of cheese.

Mr. Derbyshire, in speaking to the same toast, said that all credit was due to both the Ontario and Dominion Governments, which had fostered Canadian dairying until it had reached the high position that it occupies to-day. But great as were the things which dairymen had achieved, they were going right ahead, until they made Canada the greatest food-producing country of any in the whole world.

In response to the toast, "The Press and the Dairy," Mr. Pattullo made an excellent after-dinner speech, in which he mingled wit and wisdom to the enjoyment and profit of the company.

MR. DRYDEN.

Hon. Mr. Dryden, in speaking to the toast of "Our Agricultural Interests," said that he had no higher expectation as a farmer than to occupy the position that he did. He had nothing more to crave than to have it said, when he had finished his career, that he had done something to uplift the farming community, and to give inspiration to it in carrying on its work. Agriculture was the foundation of industry of this country, and if any persons had lost faith in the agriculture of this country, he did not belong to that class. If they were to succeed as farmers, they must be educated along the right lines. The Agricultural College, at Guelph, was the best institution of learning to develop them and fit them for their life work.

Mr. W. B. Lanigan delivered a humorous speech which kept the company in roars of laughter. The remaining toasts were:-

"The Dairy Commission," Prof. Robertson; "Canada Our Home," Mr. S. H. Janes; "The Birthplace of Canadian Co-operative Dairying," Mayor Williams; "The Ladies," Dr. Lucas.

The entertainment was a great success, and the banquet committee, under the able management of the chairman, Mr. J. C. Hegler, deserve the thanks of the dairymen for their endeavors to make their stay in Ingersoll pleasant and agreeable.

Death of Mr. Wm. Russell.

There died at Springbrook Farm, near Richmond Hill, on Tuesday, 13th inst., one of the best known and most highly respected farmers in the County of York, in the person of William Russell, the father of the celebrated live stock breeders, Jas. and Wm. Russell.

The deceased was born in Berwickshire, Scotland, in the year 1801, and was consequently in his 93rd year at the time of his death. Both his parents died when he was quite young. He was married in the year 1835 to Elizabeth Bone, a native of Berwick-on-the-Tweed, and the following year emigrated to Canada, settling in the Township of Vaughan, on lot 8, concession 7, which was at that time in a wilderness. The sturdy Scotchman set to work and cleared the farm, where he lived for twenty-five years; then having accumulated considerable money, and wishing to extend his operations, he sold the farm at Vaughan and purchased the Springbrook Farm of 400 acres, for which he paid \$100 per acre, where he launched out into the improving of stock by breeding Thoroughbreds.

The success with which he met in this line is not only known in Canada but to the world, as the stock from the Springbrook Farm obtained the highest honors both at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia and at the World's Fair, Chicago. The cash prizes carried away from the World's Fair alone amounted to about \$2000. He was one of the first farmer in Canada to see the great possibilities in the improvement of stock, and consequently for many years imported the best animals he could obtain, and made considerable money by his foresight and pluck. He was a firm believer in the value of turnips as a stock food. He grew about fourteen acres a year, and never less than 1100 bushels to the acre, winning the county prize for many years in succession. When his sons began to grow to manhood he gave the active operations and largely left the management in their hands, and their success is world-wide. Almost a year ago his faithful life partner, who had been one of the most affectionate of mothers and had ably seconded her husband and sons in all their good works, died. Since that time Mr. Russell failed rapidly until death terminated his long, honorable and useful life.

The deceased left two daughters and five sons. James and William, the two oldest, are living on the homestead; Andrew being a successful farmer in the third concession of Vaughan, who served eight years in the council, being warden of the county last year; Alexander is another farmer and lives in the fifth of Markham, and follows his early inclinations by dealing extensively in horses; John is a successful barrister in Winnipeg, and also the Northwest manager of the Freehold Loan and Savings Company in that city; Mrs. John Lander, North Toronto, is the eldest daughter; Mrs. John Isaacs, of Markham, is another daughter.

FARM.

Spring Grains, Corn, Potatoes and Roots.

TESTIMONY FROM FARMERS REGARDING THE BEST VARIETIES IN VARIOUS LOCALITIES.

As is our custom, we present to our readers the testimony of farmers from all parts of the Province of Ontario, and also from Manitoba, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. We have gone to a much larger expenditure of time and money in obtaining and compiling this report than we have in any previous year, and feel quite safe in saying that it will be found to be the most valuable collection of articles on the subject ever offered to the farmers of Canada.

A careful study of these letters will give our readers a good idea of the different varieties of grain which will be likely to do well in their particular sections, and in this way will act as a guide and prevent readers of the ADVOCATE expending money for grains which are not likely to be profitable or are useless novelties.

The report of the co-operative tests of new varieties, which were made by farmers in every county in Ontario for the Experimental Union, should be read in connection with the above. A full report of these experiments will be found in our issue of January 15th.

What Our Seedsmen Say.

THE STEELE, BRIGGS, MARCON SEED CO., LTD., TORONTO.

Oats—Early Gothland—This variety, which we introduced two years ago, has given the utmost satisfaction wherever grown, and proved to be a much superior variety. The testimonials speak very strongly in its favor, and we think it is a variety that has come to stay with us. Of course this year's price is very much reduced, yet we look for a continued heavy demand, and have been making preparations accordingly. New Lincoln—This oat was introduced in the United States, and in the hands of reliable growers has outyielded many other varieties, notably Clydesdale, Black Tartarian, Welcome, and Giant Side Oats. One grower reports them as weighing 55 pounds to the measured bushel, with 38 stools to the grain and 520 kernels of oats to the stalk, and not a sign of rust on them. It is a white oat and very early, and stands up better than many other sorts; the hull is exceedingly thin, the meat heavy, nib soft, and it makes the best oatmeal that is produced. We think so much of this oat that we have decided to give \$100 in cash for the largest yields, as follows:—First prize, \$35 for the largest yield grown from five bushels sown; \$25 for second largest yield from five bushels sown; \$20 for third largest yield from one bushel sown, followed by \$12 for second largest yield from one bushel sown, and \$8 for the third largest yield from one bushel sown. These oats must be purchased direct from us or our agents, in bags fastened with a seal. Our catalogue will give all further particulars regarding this contest.

Corn—Rural Thoroughbred White Flint—This corn continues to give the utmost satisfaction, and last season at our trial grounds the ears came fully to the glazing stage. We find continued demand for it, and customers who have once grown it continue to do so, and in letters to us express their utmost satisfaction with it. Some report it as ten days earlier than Mammoth Southern Sweet Red Cob.

Potatoes—We have endeavored to introduce only those that we feel will give complete satisfaction. You will remember that we were the introducers of Rural No. 2, Summit, Empire State, Toronto Queen, Harbinger, and many other varieties which now rank as standards in Canada.

We are now to the front with four new varieties, viz.:—Early Northern, Pride of the Market, Pride of the Table, and Dyer's First of All, while Freeman and Burpee are still holding their own. We have found that the plan introduced by us two years ago, of offering potato eyes by mail, has met with the most unbounded success, and we are now followed in this line by several of our competitors. From the Atlantic to the Pacific we have reports from customers who have received the utmost satisfaction from Potato Eyes. This gets over the difficulty we have had in the past of sending new potatoes by freight or express, which has always been a very great expense. By this new method of supplying eyes the cost is reduced to a minimum, and the purchaser, living no matter how far away, is able to receive them in good condition at his home.

Freemans are much reduced in price this year, while the new varieties are very reasonable, and in the preparation of our catalogue this season we have realized that the times are hard, money scarce, and it behooves us to meet our friends in price as far as is possible to do so consistently with quality.

Turnips, Carrots and Mangolds—These, with us, are very heavy items in our seed importation, and many car loads are required to fill the demand for the varieties that we offer. Our New Short, White Carrot, has given the highest satisfaction, and in spite of the keenest competition kept its place at the head of the list at all Experimental Farms and in the field tests of the Experimental Union.

You ask if we are introducing any new sorts. Really, as far as these are concerned, we find it impossible to improve on our seed of Our Selected Swede, Mammoth Long Red Mangold, and new Short White Carrot. They are prize takers everywhere and cannot be beaten.

Fuller particulars than we have here given you are in our spring catalogue, which will be sent free to all who apply. JOHN S. PEARCE & CO., SEEDSMEN, LONDON, ONT., WRITE:

"The various varieties of seeds as catalogued by us have, as a whole, proved very satisfactory to our customers. Barley—Our Canadian Thorpe barley (two-rowed) has given the best possible satisfaction to all who have sown it. Those who have not yet tried it should do so this spring.

Oats—White Monarch oats. We have been most fortunate in securing a very fine and superior variety of oats—White Monarch. It is very early, surpassing all others, a good strong straw of splendid quality. This oat has a wonderfully thin skin, and will be one of the best for milling. The Goanette (black) oat is another good oat, but should only be sown on good, rich land, as the straw is short and they shell somewhat readily; otherwise they are a good oat.

Corn—We have our usual stock and variety of ensilage and other seed corns, all of which are carefully selected and good vitality. John Gould, of Ohio, one of the speakers at the dairy convention held in Ingersoll, said that he had tried all the various varieties of ensilage corn, and that he had gone back to his former choice of many years ago, viz.: the genuine Southern White corn, one that comes from the south. He asserted that there was 4,000 pounds of sugar in an acre of this corn to some 500 pounds in our common or native corns. This has been our contention for years. Our M. S. S. corn is the genuine Southern corn, but will not mature in some sections of the country; but when it does there is nothing to equal it. Northern Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and the Maritime Provinces should grow earlier varieties. A very fine and early Dent corn that we are introducing for the first time this year is the "Gold Medal." Every reader of the ADVOCATE should try this sort.

Potatoes—In potatoes we have some new, rare and very choice sorts. The Irish Cobler, the Black Knees will, we know, please every one who tries them. Send for our catalogue; it is brim full and flowing over with good things.

Essex, E. R.

W. G. BALDWIN, COLCHESTER.

Oats—Russian variety has done the best here, and next to them the Old Canadian Black Mare or Silke oat.

Barley—The two-rowed varieties imported by the government have not paid the rent of the ground that they were sown upon, and I sold all the Mensury seed I had to spare last spring for seed.

Spring Wheat—There is very little sown. Campbell's White Chaff is promising well.

Buckwheat—The common Black Hull. The variety known as the Silverhull shells too much in handling, although the Japanese is a promising variety, but the bees do not seem to take to it as well as the common varieties, and as that is the principal use for which it is sown, it is not looked upon with favor.

Corn—The largest yields have been from High Mixed, as it is a good fodder plant and yields a large ear, and many times two ears.

Potatoes—I raise Clark's No. 1 and Rural No. 2. My neighbors each grow their favorite variety, but the largest yields have been White Star and Northern Sky. A neighbor of mine has a seedling grown from the balls of a potato brought from Scotland, which for a table potato has more friends than all the others put together, being a dry, rich-fleshed tuber of medium size and good yield.

Turnips are null. Mangolds—The large varieties of Gate Post are being grown, but a great many grow White French Sugar Beet in preference to Mangolds. The Steele's Short Whitelead in the carrot line, being the heaviest cropper, easier harvested than any.

Lambton, E. R.

HIRAM RAWLINGS, RAVENSWOOD.

Oats—The Banner Oat is principally raised here, but they are about done. We need a new variety. I like the Black Tartarian.

Seed Barley is wanted, clean and clear, of the two-rowed. Spring Wheat was nearly a failure. New varieties wanted.

Buckwheat not used.

Corn—Used the Michigan Dent, and find it answers well.

In Swedes the Purple-top is used.

Carrots—White Horn. The Large Red Mangold is the best for crop here.

Middlesex, S.

W. E. WRIGHT, GLANWORTH.

Oats—Black Tartar and American Banner.

Barley—The six-rowed variety.

Spring Wheat—Colorado.

Corn—Longfellow.

Potatoes—The Early Ohio and White Elephant.

Turnips—Westbury Improved, Purple-top.

Mangolds—Mammoth Long Red and Yellow Tankard.

Carrots—White Vosses, Half Long.

Middlesex, N. R.

J. W. JOHNSON, SYLVAN.

Oats—The American Banner did the best in this locality. Very early and a stiff growing straw, free from rust. Early varieties are giving the best results, as they are in advance of the grasshopper.

Barley and Spring Wheat are very little grown, as other kinds of grain are more profitable.

The common grey Buckwheat appears to be well adapted to this locality and yields well.

Corn—The One Hundred Day or Angel of Midnight is as safe a variety of corn as a farmer can grow. Corn requires a loamy soil, well manured, and well worked before planting, and then it requires good cultivation until it is as high as a horse's back; it must be kept clean, and good results will follow. King Philip is very early and has given good satisfaction with the same treatment as above-mentioned. It is a waste of time to plant corn and not give it good attention.

Potatoes—There is a number of varieties of Potatoes grown in this locality, but none have given better satisfaction than our old variety, such as the Early Rose and the Beauty of Hebron.

Turnips—Skirving's Improved Purple-top Swede is a very reliable Turnip, giving as good results as any grown in this locality.

Mangolds—The Giant Yellow Intermediate; with us it has proved itself to be the finest Mangold grown, flesh white, firm and sweet, and a very heavy yielder.

Carrots—The large white Belgian is the principal kind grown here, and is giving good satisfaction.

Middlesex, E. R.

A. B. SCOTT, VANSECK.

A good many people in this neighborhood still grow the Black Tartar Oat, as they think it the heaviest yielder, but I think both straw and grain are coarse. We have grown the Goanette the last two years, and it yielded very well. The straw of this oat is short and fine, and the grain very thin in the shell, and it is best adapted to rather low land. In white oats the Banner seems to be the favorite around here. It grows rather a long, stiff straw and yields well. These, I think, are the best varieties grown in this vicinity.

The common six-rowed barley is about the only variety grown here, and there is scarcely any spring wheat or buckwheat grown in this neighborhood.

Corn—I consider the Leaming one of the best for fodder and for the silo, but some favor the Long Yellow on account of its being so early.

Potatoes—The Empire State is one of the best varieties. It is a good yielder and splendid quality. I think the Rural New Yorker the best among the new varieties that I am acquainted with.

Turnips—The Purple-top Swede is the turnip that is grown by most of the people here.

Carrots—The Long Red and Yellow Globe are the principal sorts grown.

Mangolds—The Improved Half Long White Carrot is the universal favorite here for a field crop. One gentleman near here had an immense crop of that variety this year. They had been left rather thick in the rows, and in some places were crowded one against another, but seemed just as good as where they had been thinned out more. I believe they will yield more bushels to the acre than any other root crop.

R. H. HARDING, THORNDALE.

Owing to the low prices of grains for the past two or three years (and the fact staring the farmers in the face that they must walk more of this grain to market in the shape of beef, pork, etc.), they have largely lost sight of the importance of changing seed grain. As this is the case here, I do not know of anything especially worthy of mention.

Spring wheat is, I might say, a very uncertain and unprofitable crop for Middlesex County.

Oats—I will name a few of the leading varieties in this section: the Golden Giant, White Champion Rosedale, American Banner, Gothland, American Beauty, Tartar (black), and Goanette (black). The last-named variety is perhaps the most valuable of the above-mentioned varieties for new or very rich land, as they are not at all liable to lodge, and even on older soils I believe they will yield more grain in proportion to the straw than most other varieties, but the straw will be short. A very small acreage of barley is sown, mostly of the two-rowed variety.

Peas—The Egyptian Mummy, Crown and Golden Vine are the commonest here, and each variety is slightly infested with bugs. As to potatoes and roots, they might both be classed as failures here last year.

Elgin, W. R.

CHAS. C. FORD, WALLACETOWN.

Oats—The varieties that have given the most satisfaction are, in order of merit, Black Tartarian and Banner oats.

Spring Wheat—Very little grown in this locality. It is not adapted to soil.