

soil deep ploughing may be injurious, as tending to make it less retentive of the nutritive elements of the manure in the sandy subsoil. If the subsoil be cold and unfit of itself for the nourishment of plants, it would not be well to plough so deep as to bring it to the surface, till, from the action of the atmosphere after having been subsoiled, it has become more mellow and fertile.

But such instances as these should only be regarded as exceptions to the "grand rule of deep ploughing. The highest authorities on agriculture agree with our own experience in the opinion we maintain on this subject.—Ass't Ed.

Reports of the Crops of 1872

ALONG THE LINE OF THE G.W.R.

Through the courtesy of the G. W. R. officers we have received this report. It is very interesting, containing a mine of statistical information. We read it with much interest, and have condensed it so as to bring before our readers, in a very brief space, a synopsis of the returns that this harvest makes to the farmer for his care and labor. From the vicinity of each station, on each branch of the line, there is a return. We so condense these returns as to present the average yield of the country along each of these stations, as returned.

The Main Line embraces 32 stations, with a separate report from each. The Toronto Branch embraces 6 stations; the Sarnia Branch, 4; the W. G. & B. Line, 14; from Brantford there is a separate report.

Fall Wheat.—Main Line, average yield nearly 22 bushels.	
Toronto branch	15
W. G. & B. R.	19½
Sarnia Branch	21
Brantford	10
Spring Wheat, Main Line	21½
Toronto Branch	nearly 17
W. G. & B. R.	yield 20½
Sarnia Branch	nearly 17
Brantford	yield 18
Oats.—Yield along the line averages 30, 35, 40 and 45 bushels per acre; at Alma it is "first class," from 50 to 60 bushels.	
Barley.—From 20 to 40 bushels the general average yield, the latter figure more generally.	
Corn.—"Good," "above an average," "looking well," "extra good."	
Potatoes.—Generally good, though in some parts injured by the potato bug.	
Turnips.—A light crop. Of other root crops, little mention.	

The average here given is greater than that reported in the United States, yet we must confess that we are dissatisfied with the yield of our fields this season. Our farmers can produce much larger crops.—The reports from Michigan show the average yield in that State to be under 15 bushels; but to sit down contented because others have done worse than ourselves is not the way to make the desired progress in any business. The question for us to ask ourselves is, not if others are not astern of us in the great race of national industry and progress, but how shall we come abreast of the foremost? Can we not compete with the good old country? We reproduce the observations of an American on the state of agriculture in England:—

"Some fields that I saw would average 30, some 36, and others 40 bushels per acre; 60 and 65 are often reported. One field that I saw gave an average of 44, and I heard of an average of 63 bushels per acre. I am well satisfied that the yield is from 50 to 100 per cent. beyond our American average." (See FARMER'S ADVOCATE, August, 1872.)

The wheat of Canada is of very fine quality, but very far inferior to the wheat of the old country in yield. The Canadian farmer has, it is true, much to contend with in the climate; but I have not the slightest doubt that our average yield might be very much increased. Our Fall Wheat of this season has been in some

places badly winter-killed; but might not this winter-killing be at least in part avoided? I believe it might, and I believe the extra labor bestowed on the preparation of the soil in Britain would prove here at least a partial remedy. Were the soil brought into better tilt by deep plowing and sub-soiling, the wheat plant would acquire a greater mass of roots; and were a deeper covering added to this more thorough culture, much would be done towards guarding against the injury too often done to our fall crops by the severe frosts. The method I pursued for years in broadcast sowing winter or early spring wheat is as follows: I had the ground ploughed into ridges or beds of say seven feet, slightly rounded that the water might not lie stagnant on the ground.—Then, having sowed and harrowed, I had the earth in the furrow cast even over the ridges; then, having taken the mould-board off the plough, I ran it in the furrow so deep as to nearly cover the beam. This earth I cast also evenly over the ridges, leaving a furrow often twelve inches deep. From this culture I had always a heavy crop.

Another method I sometimes pursued was ploughing the seed under. This would do well when the soil was perfectly clean and in good tilth, after being fallowed or after a root crop.

The trenching entailed, of course, additional expense, but this was amply repaid. My maxim in farming has always been:—"A poor crop never pays."—Ass't Ed.

Underneath is the G. T. Railway report of the crops of the London district, abridged for the ADVOCATE:—

FALL WHEAT.—Large breadth sown; yield below the average—15 bushels per acre.	
SPRING WHEAT.—Large crop—samples good—yield 25 bushels per acre.	
OATS.—Fair average crop; average about same as last year—35 bushels per acre.	
BARLEY.—Samples light and inferior—25 bushels per acre.	
RYE.—But little grown; crops and samples good.	
PEAS.—Small crop; injured by bugs—15 bushels per acre.	
FLAX.—Average crop—average sown larger than usual.	
POTATOES.—Fair crop; partially injured by bugs.	
APPLES AND FRUIT CROPS.—Generally good.	
HAY.—Fair crop; excellent quality.	

We also give below the crop report of the T. G. and Bruce Railway for the county of Wellington:—

MOUNT FOREST.—Fall wheat, 30 bushels per acre, good, not much sown; spring wheat 25, large quantities sown; barley 40, not much sown; oats, 50, good, large quantities sown; peas, 40, good, largely sown; turnips, 100, poor, large quantities sown; potatoes, 20, good, largely sown.	
KENILWORTH.—Fall wheat 35 to 40 bushels to the acre, good yield; spring wheat above the average; coarse grains unusually promising; potatoes, good crop; turnips, failure generally.	
ARTHUR.—Crops have not looked as well for years back. Fall wheat, very little grown, spring wheat better than it has been for years; coarse grain and green crops very good and above the average.	
AMARANTH, WALDEMAR AND LUTHER.—Fall wheat, very little sown, but what there is of it is good; spring wheat, 20 bushels to the acre, looks well, and will average this at least; barley, good crop, rather better than average; oats 40, large quantities sown, very fair prospects; peas look well; hay, good crop, well saved; roots, good crops.	
ORANGEVILLE.—Fall wheat, 15 bushels per acre; poor crop, more than half of it having been winter-killed; spring wheat, 20, fair crop; oats, 30, promise well; peas, 15; turnips almost a total failure; potatoes, very fair crop.	

In speaking of the crops in the Northwest Province, one of our Manitoba exchanges of the 31st ult., says:—"From all quarters we hear the most favorable accounts of the crops of all kinds this season. The growth has been luxuriant in

the extreme, and the grain has all been secured in good shape. Several gentlemen from Canada, who made a tour of the Province for the express purpose of examining the growing crops, have returned, and express themselves as delighted beyond measure with the magnificent aspect they present, and say it far exceeds anything they had thought possible. As figures tell best in all matters of this kind, and give strangers a better idea of what the capacities of the country are than any amount of generalities, we should be glad if some of our enterprising farmers would send us for publication a notice of the quantity sown, and the return yielded, together with the time of sowing and reaping, and such other information as they would be anxious to procure for themselves in respect of any new country they thought of going to.

Farmers' Club.

The Farmers' Club met at the Wellington Hotel, Markham, on Saturday, the 7th inst. A goodly number of members and several visitors were present. The President, Capt. T. A. Milne, occupied the chair, and opened his meeting by stating that the subjects for discussion were:—"Seed Wheat, and the Cultivation of Alsike Clover and Grasses; and the Answering of Government Questions relative to putting a Duty on Grain."

Mr. Gibson said as the government questions did not at present require pressing answers, in consequence of parliament not meeting until February, and it being too late to take up the seed wheat question to be of practical benefit this season, he would propose that the club do now discuss the question of the advisability of the Ontario Government establishing a government farm in connection with the agricultural college. The question had been proposed at the July meeting, and the president had been requested to read a paper at the next meeting thereon—the meeting concurring. Mr. Gibson said that the subject might appear political, and as the club was strictly non-political, some might think it was not a proper subject for discussion, but if they looked at it in a proper light, it was a matter that would effect the farming interest very materially and solely, and its discussion here was not only proper, but very important. He hoped it would be discussed fearlessly and on its agricultural merits only. He was sorry that Mr. Crosby, the local member, was not present to take part in the discussion, and note the views expressed by the several members of the club. Mr. C. had generally attended the club, and was a useful and efficient member. He (Mr. G.) did not know whether the government had made a proper selection of location or not, nor did he feel sure that a government farm would add to the prosperity of the agricultural interest of the province.

The Hon. D. Ressor agreed with the remarks made by Mr. Gibson, that the question was a very important one, and one that could be discussed without involving party politics. The members of the club were a very intelligent type of the agricultural class, and could, and doubtless would, discuss the question without reference to party. It was of great importance to the farmers of Ontario, and affected them most materially. The question of establishing an agricultural college with farm attached, had long been discussed, and finally decided upon by parliament, and the only thing to be discussed was the proper method of conducting it to make it beneficial or to add to its usefulness. There were so few of the members of parliament practical farmers, and it was so difficult to get practical farmers appointed, or who would accept government appointments, that there was a danger that impractical theories proposed by scientific men in the legislature, might prove detrimental to the management of the farm. It could be conducted in a manner to make it very advantageous to the public. The present locality he thought was a central one, and as good as could be made if the soil was only of the proper kind. He thought the government would be pleased to have the members of the Farmers' Club, and any other practical farmers visit the farm and give their opinions respecting it. He would like the club to appoint a committee to go and examine it. If its soil was such as was by some represented—a hard pan with a few inches of sand on the surface—the government would make a mistake in putting on buildings and otherwise fitting it up for a model farm, as it would not be a fair

representation of the average quality of the soil in the province, which it should be, as it would be visited by a great number of old country farmers. It was only right that there should be a model farm in connection with the agricultural college. The professors should be scientific and practical farmers, men of keen, perceptive faculties and sound judgment, who would introduce the best stock, and understand the best methods of stock-raising and latest improved systems of stock-farming; then it would be of great advantage to the province, and should be sustained by the government, even though it were not self-sustaining. The government was establishing a Technological School, for the education of mechanics, which was also commendable, and the colleges, high schools and common schools were all government schools, and he thought the agricultural college, with the model farm, would be of the greatest importance in educating farmers' sons. It required as good an education, as good practical knowledge of science, as good judgment and as much study to manage a farm profitably as it did to succeed in any branch of industry or art. Good agriculturists were good men of business and sound judgment, and the more you can get farmers' sons to make farming a study, the better it would be for themselves and the country. Give them a good practical agricultural college education; it will be the means of inducing them to stick to farming instead of leaving home, and enable them to make farming the most profitable and honorable calling. He would be glad if the club would visit the model farm, and he thought arrangements could be made to do so. The Hon. A. McKellar, Commissioner of Agriculture and Public Works, would, he thought, be well pleased to have such interest shown by the intelligent farmers of Ontario.

Capt. Milne thought it difficult to discuss the question fully and intelligently without having visited the model farm. He thought the location should be central and the soil good. There were many important matters to be considered in selecting the location and soil of a test farm. He had never seen the farm selected, and could not give an opinion.

Mr. Gibson said he was hardly prepared to go into the merits of the question. He had doubts as to the advisability of the government establishing a model farm. He thought the money required to establish and maintain it could be more beneficially expended in other ways. He thought private individuals had, and would take hold of these enterprises, such as the importation and raising of stock and scientific farming, and it was hardly fair to them to have the government competing with them. If the government would loan the funds required to purchase and carry on the farm, to farmers with small means to enable them to drain and otherwise improve their farms, it would be more beneficial to the country. He did not believe in government monopolies. He thought the agricultural college a necessity, but doubted whether the men of science, who would have its control, would be the men with fists fit to undertake the practical illustrations of husbandry. Better let the farmers do the farming.

Hon. D. Ressor said that he did not understand the question to mean whether we were to have a model farm or not, as an act of parliament had declared that we should. He did not believe the government intended to go into extensive farming, but should have a chair in the college and a model farm to exemplify farming simply. It would not be managed by government officials, but only sustained by government as other schools. It was not intended and could not be made a political engine, by which either party could be manipulated into or out of power. It was only intended for a school for young men to attain a high position in agriculture, the same as schools of technology, law and other professions; he thought such a school very desirable for agriculturists to fully elevate their sons to as high a position as in commerce, law, or any other profession. Agricultural fairs, and reading agricultural works, were schools of benefit, but the agricultural college was intended to give the highest education attainable in agriculture, and confer degrees as in all other professions. Mistakes might be made in appointing professors, but they could and would be corrected. He could not see that the importation and breeding of a few choice animals by the government for this model farm, was likely to effect the business of enterprising stock importers and breeders injuriously; on the other hand, he thought it would give an impetus to the trade by educating the young farmers to know the value and