

they labored under another difficulty, their wheat sown in autumn being in three seasons out of four smothered by the snow coming early in winter before the ground was frozen, and lying on the ground until late in the Spring, consequently Spring wheat under those circumstances, if a valuable variety could be introduced, was what they would be most anxious to obtain. The first variety of Spring wheat of any value introduced into our country was the Siberian, and shows what momentous results may proceed from small beginnings. I was engaged in the seed business in the year 1840, more however in the horticultural than in the agricultural department, and at that time was a subscriber to the *Genesee Farmer*, in which paper two varieties of Spring wheat were advertised for sale, and very highly spoken of; the one was Italian and the other Siberian. I requested one of the houses with whom I had dealings at that time to send me a bushel for trial. The year before a farmer in Otanabee had a small quantity of the same wheat sent as a present from a friend; it was sown, and succeeded so well that in two or three years there was quite a rage for it; and although I had grown it for two years or more,—as fall wheat could be grown on the front,—I had not noticed its value, and was quite astonished when I found the demand for it from the back townships, and as a proof of its value to those townships, I will state that what was told me at that time by a gentleman, one of the most extensive wheat buyers, at that time, in Port Hope, and who had for years bought the crops from the best farmers in Cavan and Monaghan: that when those farmers depended only on fall wheat, they might get from 200 to 300 bushels as their yearly produce; but after this description of spring wheat was introduced, he got from the same farms from 800 to 1,000 bushels annually. This variety, so excellent at first, after a few years degenerated, and is now hardly known; but several new kinds have been since introduced with more or less success. The variety mostly grown at present, is called Fife wheat, from the name of the person who introduced it,—and our sister township Otanabee, is also entitled to the credit of introducing it as well as the Siberian. Much of our rich lands undrained, which cannot be at all depended upon for fall wheat, will produce from 25 to 35 bushels of this variety of spring wheat to the acre, with only ordinary cultivation. (and mangle all the gumbings of the millers who like fall wheat best. Such crops, even at 6d. the bushel less than fall wheat are not to be sneered at, and until some system of thorough draining is established on all our flat farms, spring wheat will be the main dependence. Before I conclude I will state another circumstance which has come under my own observation, and has been the result of a judicious changing of seeds; in fact, as well as the encouragement given by the Township Agricultural Society giving premiums for crops judged in the field. In our sister County of Durham particularly in Darlington and Clarke townships, they have for several years given premiums for the best crops of fall and spring wheat judged in the field. The conditions were that

the premium crops should be threshed and sown for seed to the members of the Society at a small advance on the market price. This system induced them to import from the States and elsewhere the best varieties that could be procured, and in conjunction with the premium system had the effect of getting them into a quality of wheat which is worth more in the market by 6 per bushel than can be realised in Cobourg, Port Hope; and I am credibly informed that the reason why lower prices are obtained in our town of Cobourg and Port Hope than Toronto and elsewhere is from the inferior quality.

Mr. WRIGHT said,—He was extremely sorry that Mr. Black was called away from the meeting on important private business; we had the benefit of his great experience on the subject of changing seeds, but at another time he had promised to address us. He had farther to say the Directors of the Society intended purchasing a quantity of bone manure, and at their request he had communicated with Mr. Lamb in Toronto. The manure can be had in quantity at 1s 6 per bushel, and would be given to members of the Society at that price adding charges.

GUELPH FARMER'S CLUB.

A meeting of this Club was held on the 1st of May. There was a good attendance of members, the President, Col. Saunders, in the chair. The subject for consideration was—"The importance of Root Crops to Farmers and the best mode of their cultivation." Mr. Parsons made the following remarks:—

"The benefits arising from a good root crop are so multifarious, and at the same time so certain, that I trust the discussion of its merits this evening will lead many here present, as well as others who are absent, to think as highly of its worth as I do, and that the cultivation of roots in future may be far more widely practised in this country than it has hitherto been.

I am well aware, sir, that there are some individuals who assert that it is too expensive to grow a crop of roots in this country. To such I would say, only give it a fair trial, and I dare hazard a trifle that, at the end of three years, or in less time, you will think as I do on the subject. Besides, I would ask such individuals if answered their purpose to bestow expensive labor upon a wheat or any other grain crop, why the necessary outlay should not answer upon a root crop, that will ultimately pay the farmer in a variety of ways, so much better. And now, Sir, I will endeavour to show, by asking a few questions, how and in what manner, the cultivation of roots will be beneficial.

Is it, then, of no consideration or profit to the farmer, to have a foul sterile piece of land brought into a good and profitable state of cultivation that will ensure him three or four successive crops, if judiciously selected, each of double the