

### Liability of Seedsmen.

The "Dutch Cabbage" case, an account of which appeared in our volume for 1875, page 210, wherein the plaintiff, having purchased inferior seed and lost his time and crop, had prosecuted for and obtained heavy damages, is supplemented by another decision recently rendered by Chief Justice Beasley, of the Court of Error and Appeal, the highest tribunal in the State of New Jersey. The case, which has occupied the New Jersey Courts for the past six years, originated in a dispute about twenty-five cents worth of turnip seed, and has involved an expense of over ten thousand dollars. The seed was purchased and paid for on the representation of the seedsman that it was a variety which would produce early turnips. The turnips, however, proved to be late, and of poor quality. Mount, the plaintiff, based his claim on the ground that he lost a valuable crop through false representations, and recovered \$25 damages in the Justice's Court, although the defendants succeeded in showing that they believed their seed to be of the quality they represented, and that no fraud was intended. The case was then appealed to the Court of Common Pleas, and there the first decision was confirmed. Still dissatisfied, the defendants took it to the Supreme Court, which, two years ago, gave a further decision sustaining the first. And finally, as a last resort, the case was heard in the first court mentioned, where all former decisions were ratified. From this last there is no appeal within the State, and the probability is that its decision, viz., that the seedsmen were bound to furnish such seed as was ordered, and that filling the order was equivalent to an endorsement of the quality, will operate beneficially in leading to the exercise of more care in the selection of seed by those who keep it for sale. At the same time, if every man who fails to get a crop from his planting can recover from the seedsman damages to the full amount of his failure, few will be willing to engage in the business of selling seed. The class of delinquents who specially needed the caution, peripatetic scamps who have no concern but to filch and pocket the money, will not be much benefited by it, for they can rarely be found or reached by a legal process to procure redress.

### Farmers' Boys and the Farm.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER: Please allow me space to make a few remarks with reference to the above subject, and more particularly as it bears upon the present generation of Canadian farmers' sons who, having received a tolerable education, may also be blessed with parents who are able to assist them to small farms. How long will some of these half-educated young men remain upon their land ere it is offered for sale? They desire to get into business that pays better and that will enable them to play the gentleman, without hard work and without running the risks of bad crops, bad seasons and other drawbacks. The young lad determines to sell out, but cannot always find a purchaser who is willing to give a fair price. He cannot content himself to wait, however, and, sooner than plod on as before, rents the place, raises funds by a mortgage on it, and then seeks the post of telegraph operator, store clerk, or any other kind of "gent," hoping and longing for the time when he can sell, redeem his mortgage, and go into business for himself. But as time goes on, and his own rents, taxes and family expenses become due, together with the interest on his mortgage at the rate of 10 per cent. or more, he finds his capital is on the whole reduced, and regrets that he did not sell for one-third less for cash, and lay out his money at the interest he has to pay. The farm rent, he discovers, does not pay interest and taxes, and at the end of a few years he is poorer than when he began. This is the position of many at the present date, especially farmers' sons, who think that if they can only get into some office as an agent, a clerk, a section boss on the railway, anything in fact to obviate farm work, they would be much better off. If furnished with a horse and sulky, they will even travel an entire horse rather than put out their hands to honest labor, so that if you desire to hire help, you must look beyond them for some old-country men who have been trained to work all their lives, and who have perhaps expended the savings of years at home in paying their way out here. These men are, however, honest, faithful and reliable, and, however poor they may be on arrival, they generally reach a position of independ-

ence and even wealth in this country. I will give one instance which came within my own observation. An Englishman, a shoemaker, came to this country with barely his clothes, and military clothes at that. He began his trade in a small shop, working late and early for a few years, and then married a girl who was able to add to his little capital. Soon afterwards he purchased an acre of ground in town on which he built himself a comfortable house, and was able to pay for both. Accumulating more means by his honest industry he next had a neat barn erected and also started an ashery, to which latter, along with his trade, he gave his attention until he raised a family of seven children; and as soon as the eldest could hold a plough, he bought a hundred acres of land, which he also paid for. Next followed an excellent frame house with cellar kitchen, fine out-buildings fitted up with steaming apparatus for stock, a thrifty and profitable orchard, and in brief, every comfort and convenience one could wish for. Several of his sons he has now established in places for themselves. He has given them all a good education, and one or two of them are learning trades. Hoping they will follow the example not of the general run of Canadian farmers' sons but of their father, I am,

PETER SHISLER.

Bertie.

### The Crops—Country Stores, &c.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER:—Not much fall wheat is raised in the N. riding of Grey, except on the Indian Peninsula. Wherever the ground is dry, the wheat looks well, but where the land is level and wet, most of it has to be ploughed up and resown with some other crop. Clover has been very generally winter-killed, so that the ground must either be ploughed up and sown with some other crop, or harrowed over, resown with clover seed and rolled. I find the practice of rolling the grass land early in the spring has an excellent effect. The weather has, on the whole, been favorable for spring operations. The land ploughed last fall was more friable and in better condition for spring work than I have known it for some years, as we generally have plenty of snow in this part of the Province. We have had some warm thunder storms which have brought on the spring grain well, and also the grass seeds which promise to be a better catch this year than since 1866, which proved a showery season, so that, although the grass seeds took well, the fall wheat was badly affected with rust. The solar influences which are said to have occasioned the changeable weather which has so generally prevailed everywhere during the last twelve months, appear to be still in force, and sudden atmospheric changes are still the rule. The thermometer has ranged from 82° to 47° these last few days, 89° to-day, 1st June. Some of the farmers around here are through seeding grain, potatoes and roots, except turnips. In 1874 I seeded down a few acres of wheat with alsike clover and timothy; the clover took well but the timothy failed, so that immediately after harvest I reseeded the stubble with timothy and allowed it to take its chance. The seed was good and came up well; we had plenty of snow that winter, but last spring, which with the heavy rains in May, the cold weather and drought in June, I gave up for lost. But this spring it is coming up thick and promises to be an abundant crop. This township (Sarawak) had less rain in June last than most other places, and which with the drought and severe June frost the hay crops proved a failure. In fact it was generally admitted, that last year, owing to the cold backward season, the heavy rains in May, and severe drought in the first half of June, appearances indicated a generally deficient harvest, and the country was on the verge of a panic. Providentially the rain was sent in time, and a generally abundant harvest was the result. The country is, however, not out of danger yet. The towns and villages are overcrowded with petty stores, many of them, I am sorry to say, started by farmers who, in their haste to make money, have sold or leased their farms and gone into business, for which neither by previous training nor business education they are at all qualified, and the first generally deficient harvest will send probably three-fourths of them into the hands of official assignees, and the panic that would follow would be more than that in 1866, because there are so many more petty stores now than there were then. If the wholesale merchants generally would gradually contract their credit

system as regards these country stores, the weaker ones will fail first, but the evil effects would not be so sudden. The farmers, however, are the main stay of the country, and to them I would suggest that instead of spending their money on expensive pianos, and allowing their wives and daughters to ape the fine city fashions, they would act wiser if they began in time to prepare for a rainy day, which must come sooner or later. Country stores may go down by the score, wholesale merchants may fail, banks may come down with a crash, but so long as the majority of our farmers are able to pay their way, the commercial storm, come when it may, will blow over, and the country again will recover, to pursue a new and, I trust, safer path to prosperity. The Mark Lane reports indicate that the superior quality of the wheat from India, which the low price of labor in the country allows to be laid down in London at 40 shillings per quarter, will tend, unless interrupted by a general war, to drive Canadian and American wheat out of English and Continental markets. In view of this probable danger, would it not be wise for our Canadian farmers to turn their attention to raising more live stock for the purpose of supplying the English markets with beef and mutton. Horses would prove a profitable class of stock for the English market, if due care were taken in the selection of breeding animals. The advice given by the Roman poet, Virgil, to the young farmers of his day is not inapplicable now.

"The generous youth who, studious of the prize,  
The race of running coursers multiplies,  
Or to the plough the sturdy bullock breeds,  
May know that from the dam the worth of each proceeds."

Increased stock means more manure, better crops, so that even if prices continue low, the increase of acreable produce may make amends for it. I look to the order of patrons of husbandry to promote these objects, which they will do, if they only adhere faithfully to their avowed principles of action. I am not sorry to find that the Granges are increasing so rapidly, and hope their members will adhere to their determination to adopt the cash system as much as possible, as that is the only sound basis for farmers to act upon; and when it is generally adopted, the too numerous loan companies now existing will soon find their present profitable dividends grow "small by degrees and beautifully less"—"so mote it be."

SARAWAK.

### Farmers' Accounts.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER:—Notwithstanding all that has already appeared on this subject in the CANADA FARMER and elsewhere, there is not at present, I verily believe, one farmer in five hundred throughout the country who can say to a nicety how he stands from year to year, what such and such crop cost him to raise, or how much profit he gained from it. At a rough guess, and in a sort of general way, he may be able to tell that his wheat paid better than his potatoes, his oats than his turnips or vice versa, but that is all. How much better any one paid than another he is unable to say, nor can he give figures or statements to show cause why any more importance is to be attached to the cultivation of special crops, etc. Now I can fancy nothing more interesting to the country at large, as well as to the individual, than just such knowledge as this, for, until it is put in a practical shape, it will be simply impossible to arrive at full and reliable statistics of our agricultural standing. I had for several years been engaged in farming 100 acres of land in this country, but some years ago, led away by the generally received impression that it was hard work with poor pay, I quit it and accepted a salary of \$450 per annum in another less laborious situation, fondly deluding myself with the belief that I was bettering my condition in every way by the change. And the delusion grew upon me for upwards of four years ere I got my eyes opened by just such a system of accounts as I have above foreshadowed. I could not help observing from year to year that, with the most rigid economy, after paying house rent, taxes, household and other incidental expenses of myself and family, it took almost the last cent of my salary to make ends meet. Add to this also that I had to work or at least to "be on hand" every work day of the year, in other other words, I was never my own master except on Sundays and perhaps two or three holidays which were allowed me in the twelvemonth. Now on the farm I was, to a large extent, director of my own affairs all through and had besides more to lay by for a