

Mr. C. Harris, had tried many experiments, but was of opinion that seed was as well without any preparation.

Mr. Vanstone took much the same ground as Mr. Harris.

Mr. F. Champion thought that washing seed in a running stream was a good preparation, as all the smut, &c., it might contain would be carried away by the current.

At the close, John Wade, Esq., said that he had been requested to invite the Township of Hope to join Hamilton in getting up a ploughing match, to come off some time in April. No decision was come to upon the matter. Will the young farmers of Hope decline to meet the young men of Hamilton in a friendly strife of this description?

PREPARATION OF SEED, AND TIME OF SOWING.

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN,—The preparation of seed is of vast importance to the farmer; because it is a universal law of nature "*that like begets like*," a law equally as true in the vegetable as the animal kingdom. Such being the case, how essential it is that we select good seed. Every farmer should reserve a part of his wheat, which he intends for seed, and let it fully ripen before he cuts it; by doing so the grain is matured, as nature evidently intended it should be; this is the first important thing in good husbandry, and one, which I think is sadly neglected in the hurry and bustle of our harvests. I would therefore recommend, that, what is designed for sowing the next year remain uncut for a few days later than the rest, or until quite ripe. Great care should be taken that we sow nothing but *wheat* when *that* is the crop we wish to sow. A slovenly farmer will often sow grain which is not properly cleaned from the seeds of the various noxious weeds which infested the crop the previous year; thereby rendering his land a fit nursery for weeds of all descriptions, and the old adage says, "*one year's seedling makes seven year's weeding*," which clearly shows we cannot be too particular in cleaning our seed. We should also endeavor to get the largest and best formed grain for sowing. I know there are a number of farmers who maintain that there is no necessity for doing so; because, say they, "the smaller size will do equally as well, and requires less by measure to the acre." Yet, perhaps those men are very judicious in the selection of cattle to breed from; choosing only those that are perfect in symmetry and of a good size; but if we take a retrospective view of both we shall find there has been more improvement in the vegetable, than the animal kingdom. Great, indeed, has been the improvement in the latter, which our improved breeds will fully testify. But from the most authentic sources our invaluable and staple production, for which our country is celebrated, was once a species of grass—the indigenous production of the shores of the Mediterranean sea, and known by the botanical name *Aegilops ovata*. Now, if by judicious selection of seed, and a proper treatment of the plant, it has been brought to its present state, would it not be wisdom in us to see it does not degenerate; and one preventative of its degeneracy is the selection of the largest and best, and sowing none but what nature has matured. We should change our seed as often as we conveniently could, and always from a light sandy, or gravelly loom, to a heavier one; such a change is generally a remunerative one to the farmer. And experience also demonstrates that every change from a cold climate to a warmer one gives a greater increase in the next crop than seed equally as good raised in the same land: we should therefore import from a higher latitude at least once in seven years, and oftener if convenient. Although it may not be in the power of all to import from a distance, yet all of us may change from a sandy soil to a clayey one.

The principal things with which we have to contend in the cultivation of wheat are smut, rust and midge.

In the preparation of seed we may prevent smut by the application of sulphate of copper. Most varieties of wheat are subject to smut, and I know of but one kind which is entirely free from it—the Fyfe wheat. I cannot speak from a practical knowledge of any other variety.

Almost every farmer has his own specific remedy for smut. Washing the grain previous to sowing, in water, weak ley, brine or urine, and drying it with stacked lime is highly recommended by those who have tried it. I never used any of those solutions, and therefore can speak of their efficacy only from the report of others.

We always use a solution of sulphate of copper, and never knew it to fail in one instance when properly tried.

After thoroughly cleaning the barn floor and the wheat we intend sowing, we wet the wheat on the floor with a solution of sulphate of copper dissolved in urine or brine;