

SEED.

Our readers are well aware that we have often spoken of the great advantages of changing seed, and of the actual necessity of procuring new varieties, as our climate tends to refine grain, and many varieties become unprofitable. We have called your attention to the numerous varieties of wheat that have succeeded best during the past 28 years of Canadian experience, and have shown that many of the most popular and productive kinds, have, in a few years, been necessarily abandoned. We have labored the past five years, to establish a place for importing and testing different varieties, and to furnish the results of such experience to the country. We do not pretend to say that these accounts or even the test have been as complete as they ought to be, but they have been the best that our means, abilities and circumstances would allow. We placed our plans in every conceivable form before the old Board of Agriculture and the public. The results have been to some, highly satisfactory. The different kinds of grain that we have recommended to the public after our own experience, have been disseminated very widely over the country, and the reports are as satisfactory as they can be. Most particularly so is this the case with the fall wheat. There are individual farmers that inform us that one year's crop has been increased to the amount of \$100 by the information furnished from our experience.

In Spring wheat but little good has been done by us for years passed. We introduced the Fife in our section years ago; it answered well for some years, and even now many prefer it to any other kind. We thought but little of it, and disposed of it; but the farmer that bought it has been realizing good crops from it ever since. We have not spoken about it as his farm is foul and we had too many varieties to attend to, and do not like to send out grain if we think the seed may do harm. We are not prepared to commend any particular variety. We can procure some good Club from the North, but when it has been brought into this section of the country it has, so far, been unsatisfactory. If we can procure any kind from any source that we deem superior, we shall let you know about it.

The Chevelier barley is superseding the common varieties in England. We hear several very good accounts of its results here. It requires a more general test and more information about it. Some of our readers would oblige us by giving us their experience. One person we know of, is so well satisfied of its superiority, that he wishes to sow fifty acres next spring if he can procure the seed. He enquires of us for it. If you have it, send accounts and sample of it and state price.

NORWAY OATS.

We gave, in a previous number, some

highly satisfactory accounts in regard to these much-talked-of oats. Since that, we see in the "Country Gentleman," an account of the trials of oats at the Michigan State College, that shows them to be inferior to some other new varieties.

Deitz's "Experimental Farm Journal" commends other new varieties before them. Our experience with them is not sufficient to praise or condemn them. The appearance of the oats themselves or the straw on which they grow, do not look near as well as our Westwell oats, in fact the Westwell are decidedly superior, and all are satisfied with them. The only complaint is from one person in the Northern part of Ontario, and that is, they do not ripen as early as other oats. We are well aware of this fact, and really prefer them on that account, because our wheat and pea harvest are both together, and this season the haying was not completed in many cases before the grain crops were taken off. The Westwell oats being later, they give a longer harvesting time, and that is what we require.

THE SURPRISE OATS.

These oats have been much spoken throughout the country. With us they ripened early, a little before our Emporium oats. They are a good oat, weigh heavy and yield well, but we could discern no difference to speak about, between them, the Emporium, and the Hopetown oat. All are good. We had but little faith in them last year, at least not faith enough to sow a field at \$10 per bush. On their selling price last season. The largest stock of that we have heard of in Canada, is owned by Mr. L. Lipere, of Paris. He sowed seven bushels of them last year and harvested 370. We hear a great talk about the White Prosteir oats, but from the sample sent to us we doubt if they will be equal to some of our varieties.

POTATOES.

The present and past seasons must have convinced every farmer that a change of seed is required. In this valuable tuber, the Pink Eyes, have for years and years been raised on the same land or in the same neighborhood, until our returns are so lamentably diminished that the labor and the land are not paid for by the crop produced. We reluctantly abandon that variety, because it has been a good old favorite, unsurpassed for general table use. We think our yield of that variety would be improved by procuring fresh seed of it from the sea coast, or a long distance west or south of Ontario. But there are new varieties and numerous kinds of potatoes, many of which we have tested, and some we think of little value to the farmer. The varieties that we can suggest as being entirely safe to plant are, the Harrisons, Goodrich, Garnet Chillies, Purple Chillies, Calicos, Peach Blows and Early Rose, as

the principal ones of value. These are within the reach of every farmer. We have spoken before on this subject and intend to do so again, as we believe that by having some new varieties introduced to each farm in the country, a great saving of toil, vexation and loss may be effected. There are some farmers that will not procure them until they may have—as other varieties here have done—DEGENERATED. The Peach Blows, Garnet Chillies and Purple Chillies are all good varieties, but none yield such a crop as the Harrisons.

A RETROSPECTIVE VIEW.

At the commencement of each year it is but right that each one of us should look back and scan our past acts. We will briefly review the career of our journal, its origin and its labors. Every thing must have a beginning. Your editor had, from twenty-two years toil with axe, and plough, and logging chains, become one of the wealthiest farmers in this Western section, owning several farms and cash invested. He saw the desirability of procuring fresh seeds and improved stock, and determined to devote his means to procure the best. He traveled to the various breeders of note, procured some of the best Durham and Ayrshire cattle, Cotswold and Leicester sheep, Improved Berkshire pigs and Poultry to be found in the country. He also purchased the best horse in the country. When in quest of seeds, he found none of any account at the Agricultural Hall, and no satisfactory information about any. He noticed the vast sums of money annually received by the old Board, and the seed business entirely neglected by them. He called their attention to it, pointed out the necessity, informed them of his plans of establishing an Agricultural Emporium, and spoke independently to them and condemned such practices as he deemed to be amiss, and would not alter his expressed sentiments when requested to do so by some of the members of the Board. The consequence was, that the old Board, perhaps from a little jealousy, perhaps from fear, did everything in their power to trample our enterprise under foot. We exposed the nefarious practices in many ways. We tried to use the only agricultural paper then in Canada to bring these things to light. We had paid Geo. Brown \$200 for giving publicity to things for us, and wrote one article he demanded the sum of \$36 to give it one insertion. We then determined to publish a paper under our own control, but the old Board and the CANADA FARMER had been on too good terms; neither of them would countenance us, and further, the office and ex-officio members of the old Board, even in our own county, were our greatest opponents. They had the power and the influence, and no stone has been left unturned by them that