

Testimony From Farmers.

The following letters cover a very wide range of country, and will give our readers a complete knowledge of the varieties of grain grown in Canada. Many of the letters received had to be greatly abridged and some left out altogether, yet a very full list remains, which will repay careful perusal:—

LAMBTON—EAST RIDING.

Mr. Heber Rawlings, of Ravenswood, has tested several of the English kinds of barley, but finds Carter's Prize Prolific the best. In 1890 he tested seven different varieties of oats. He prefers the Banner. Last year he grew twenty acres of this variety, which yielded seventy bushels per acre. He reports that some of his neighbors have threshed eighty bushels per acre of this variety. Last spring he sowed eight pounds of Golden Giant Side Oats and harvested eleven bushels therefrom. He intends testing these another year. Among the corns he reports that he had last year twenty-five acres of Golden Giant, which yielded seventy-five to one hundred bushels per acre in the ear. Among potatoes he speaks highly of Rural Blush and Beauty of Hebron, but he considers a new seedling which he has produced, known as Heber Rawlings' Seedling, the best potato he has ever cultivated. He reports it very productive and of fine quality. With him the Giant Yellow Intermediate Mangel and Short White Carrots excel all other sorts.

LAMBTON—WEST RIDING.

D. Alexander, Bridgen, reports spring wheat but little grown. Two-rowed barley does fairly well, and is usually a sure crop. The Banner Oat, which has been tested for three years, has proved the best and leads all other varieties. Among the peas the Multiplier is the favorite. Of mangels he prefers the Globe varieties, as being more easily harvested on heavy clay. The Early Rose and Beauty of Hebron potato are still the favorites. Among the corn, after trying Compton's Early, Smut Nose and several other varieties, he has concluded that the White Canadian is to be preferred, both as to quality of grain and yield per acre.

BRUCE—EAST RIDING.

Mr. James Tolton reports Colorado Spring Wheat the favorite variety in this section. He tested Campbell's White Chaff in 1891, and found that it did well, but not any better than Colorado. Barley—Chiefly six-rowed grown, but two-rowed is said to yield well. The Mensury outyielded the common six-rowed, but is only fit for feeding, not being suitable for malting purposes. Oats—The Banner is the leading variety and best grower. The Golden Vine Pea is the favorite here. The Mummy has been sown to a limited extent; they have done well, but he thinks they should be grown on good land to produce the best results. Turnips—Of turnips he prefers the Westbury, Sutton's Champion and East Lothian. Carrots—He prefers the White Half-Long.

HURON—SOUTH RIDING.

Reported by A. P. Kitchen, Brucefield, Ont.:—Among the spring wheats the Colorado has proven itself head and shoulders above all its competitors in this locality for three seasons. It is a bearded variety with a long open head. It is a good yielder, taking one field with another, yielding nearly thirty bushels per acre on an average. The straw, however, has a tendency to be soft and weak. In order to be successful with spring wheat, it must be sown as early as possible on land in good heart; root ground is best, or clover sod plowed in the fall. The best results will be obtained by drilling in the seed. Oats—At the head of the list I place the Rosedale. It is a strong growing side oat, the straw being all that could be desired, and moreover, it is a splendid yielder, seventy bushels per acre being quite common. It has a long kernel, consequently the horses chew them better than the Egyptian. The Black Tartarian did remarkably well this season, but in an unfavorable season it is very liable to rust. The Egyptian is a reliable oat to sow, although not a heavy yielder. The quality of both straw and grain is excellent, although the grain requires to be ground before feeding. Cats are very often sown on sod which should by all means

be plowed in the fall, and in the spring give it good surface cultivation until a good, mellow seed-bed is obtained. A spring-toothed cultivator or a disc harrow is excellent for this purpose. Sow with a drill, and roll after sowing. Very little barley was sown around here last year, owing to the heavy tariff discriminating against this cereal. The old six-rowed variety is still the standard, and requires no description. Barley, although not an exhaustive crop, requires to be sown on rich soil. Root ground can be depended on to give good barley, and in our experience it is not wise to plow in the fall, but just simply gang-plow in the spring (not too deep), work down nice and mellow, and drill in the seed. This crop requires to be sown as early as possible to obtain good results, and along with spring wheat should be attended to first in the spring. Among peas the Mummy has done the best with us. The straw is somewhat coarse, although the sheep will eat it as well as any. It is a splendid yielder, although it has a tendency to be wormy, owing to the exposed position of the pods. Unlike any other pea, the pods of this variety are all in a cluster on the end of the stalk, making it an excellent variety to sow among oats, which is a highly commendable practice. Peas are usually sown on sod, as they make an excellent preparation for fall wheat. For this crop the sod is better plowed in the spring, although there will not be much difference in the yield between spring and fall plowing, yet if you plow a piece of your sod in the fall and leave the rest till spring, you will find that you can plow your sod in the spring and it will work up nice and mellow, and you will have your peas sown two or three days before the fall plowed piece will be dry enough to put a team on. Peas should in all cases be drilled in, as it is next to impossible to cover the seed in any other way unless you gang-plow it in, which will do tolerable well, but the drill is preferable.

MIDDLESEX—SOUTH RIDING.

Wm. E. Wright, Glanworth, reports the Colorado the best spring wheat. Prefers the common six-rowed barley. With him the Mummy and Centennial Peas have both done well. He grows Black Tartar and White Cluster Oats; the latter yielded eighty bushels per acre, which weighed 45 lbs. per bushel. In Mangels he prefers Yellow Tankard and Red Globe. Among the potatoes he finds the White Elephant the most profitable.

Mr. R. Gibson writes:—

Of spring wheats, Campbell's White Chaff and Colorado were sown side by side in same field, the White Chaff on root ground, fall plowed, and cultivated in the spring, the Colorado on corn stubble, plowed in spring. The Colorado has outyielded the other, and is also a better sample. I don't consider this, however, a fair test, as these crops suffered so much from the drouth, having only one rain from time of sowing until cut, and the corn stubble being deeper worked in spring (to cover the stubble), retained the moisture better. Of small plots, the Rio Grande is most promising. Of Oats—I grew Black Tartar, Early Blossom and Banner. The Tartar yielded best, but the Banner was very good, weighing 44 lbs. per bushel from the machine. I also tried some of the French varieties from Guelph, but they were received too late to give them a fair test; but my opinion formed from this one year's test is not favorable, the straw being very fine, and is too late in ripening. I can, however, speak most highly of one new variety, and if it only proves satisfactory another season it will undoubtedly prove of great value. I refer to Early Gothland. I don't know anything of the history of this oat, the seed for trial being sent to me by the Steele Bros. Co. Peas—I grew Centennial and Golden Vine; the former were the better. Of the new sorts I got a bag from the Government Experimental Farm, Ottawa, of a new variety that I think they obtained in B. C. I believe it has been named Fixture's Favorite. I feel sure it will prove a great acquisition. Of Turnips—I grew a great variety, having seed from Messrs. Bruce, Rennie, Steele, Pearce. I could Westbury, the old standby, beat all the selected sorts. Rennie's Prize was, perhaps, the next best. Carter's Elephant is too coarse; after two years' trial, I shall discard it. Of the newer varieties, Messrs. Pearce supplied me the following sorts, but owing to the dry season they did not have a fair trial, being sown June 17th; had no rain for weeks, hence this year's test is of little value:—Sutton's, Crimson King I place first. It is very handsome, and of good quality. Next Lord Derby, and then Kennedy's Prize Taker. Of Carrots—I have discarded all for Steele's Short White, and I can most highly recommend this carrot to those of your readers who have not tried it. It has come to stay. Of Mangels—I had seed from all the

seedsmen named before. I could see but little difference, except that of the Golden Tankard. Some were much purer than others. This is a splendid variety, but does not grow quite heavy enough crops. The quality, however, makes up for it. The New Intermediate grows large enough, it is now nearly as long as the Long Reds and Yellows. I don't think the shape as good as the Old Intermediate, and unless my next crop more nearly approaches the shape, I shall discard it for the Globe. Potatoes—I grew the following varieties, placed in order of merit:—Early—Early Ohio, Rosy Morn, Puritan, Early Sunrise. Late—Rural New Yorker, Monroe Co. Seedling, Empire State, Hampton Beauty, Brownell's Winner and Lee's Favorite; also three seedlings from Ottawa—May Queen and Harbinger. These, owing to the season, had not such a good chance; but I think the latter will be quite an addition to the already long list. Corn—Twelve years ago I commenced selecting corn, and I now think I have a variety that cannot be excelled for this locality. Originally, the Early Compton, finding the 12-rowed too thick at butt, and hard to husk, 8-rowed sorts were selected. These were planted in alternate rows with Longfellow, the seed being selected from the original stock. Four years ago the Angel of Midnight was again selected for a cross, and planted similarly, the result was an early ripening corn and a great yielder. The pedigreed Rural Flint, although producing an enormous quantity of very long, broad leaves, is too late ripening to be of use in this locality. I fully ripened Mastodon and Capital, two southern varieties, with stalks 14 to 16 feet long, and the ears 6 to 7 feet high on stalks, while the Rural was only glazed. The Excelsior is a small 8-rowed corn, fully ten days earlier than anything tested. I have no doubt but that this corn would ripen in many parts of Manitoba. It will also be useful in Northern and Eastern Ontario. This variety is worthy of trial in parts where this crop is uncertain.

MIDDLESEX—EAST RIDING.

Reported by H. H. Harding, Thorndale:—Spring Wheat is looked upon as a very uncertain crop in this section, only the following varieties in limited quantities being sown, Colorado, White Russian and Wild Goose. Of these the first named has given best results as a milling variety; the Wild Goose gives largest returns but makes inferior flour. In barley the two-rowed is fast taking the place of other varieties, Carter's Prize Prolific grown from imported seed giving the best results, but is too late ripening to be of use in this section. The seed sown: the greater portion of it is used for feeding purposes. The Egyptian Mummy is decidedly the leading variety of peas in this section, although the best sample I have seen this season were the Centennial; the Crown is sown mostly on new land as it has the shortest straw. Oats being the largest sown spring crop here, more can be said about them. In speaking of the kinds more generally sown, the White Bonanza is probably the earliest oat in cultivation and combines general good qualities, weight 40 to 45 lbs. per bushel, but being a very plump oat they are better feed when crushed; the American Banner and Black Tartarian are giving good returns, but they are ten days to two weeks later than the Bonanza, weight 34 to 38 lbs. per bushel; the Egyptian and Welcome are very little sown now owing to their hard thick hull, and the Amsterdam owing to its lateness. In speaking of new oats just being introduced this season for the first time in large quantities, which I have tested the past season, I can recommend the following varieties as well worthy of a trial by every farmer: The Early White Gothland, being introduced by Steele Bros., Toronto—these oats have a thick clustered head on strong straw of good length, and ripen early; weight about 43 lbs. per bushel. The American Beauty and White Tartarian, being introduced by John S. Pearce & Co., London—the American Beauty is a very fine white oat, has a sprangled head on straw of average length; weight about 38 lbs. per bushel; medium early. These oats have probably as thin a hull as any other variety. The White Tartarian is also a promising oat, but owing to a severe storm knocking mine down before they were ripe, caused them to be lighter in weight than they would have been under favorable circumstances. The White Champion or Mesopotamia are also very fine oats, with large sprangled heads on straw of good length; this is one of the earliest varieties in cultivation, and although they weigh about 45 lbs. per bushel they have a comparatively thin hull. Any person preferring to sow black oats should try the Black Etampes, a French variety which has a fine appearance; out of 92 varieties grown at the Model Farm, Guelph this variety was one of the best. Also of the 92 samples tested the nine leading varieties were from foreign countries; this being the case, surely we as Canadian farmers, with a soil and climate such as we have, will not be satisfied with second place in this particular, but will strive to improve our condition until we will equal if not excel any other country in the quality of grain, which also will mean improvement in all other branches of farming. In concluding this part of my paper I must say, Mr. Editor, I think farmers would gain more practical knowledge at a very small cost if they tested more new varieties of grain each year, and did not rely wholly on the reports from the departments of agriculture and seedmen's catalogues, as experience teaches us that the kind of grain most suited to one section will not do in another.

A few lines on the mode of cultivation. The first thing necessary is a thorough plowing in the fall six to eight inches deep, followed by spring cultivation deeper enough for a seedbed and thoroughly pulverized avoiding spring plowing as much as possible, because in favorable seasons it