

shows and the premium system.—
London Live Stock Journal.

PACKING AND SHIPPING FRUIT.

By C. C. STYRTSON, in *The Market Gardener*.

The business of raising fruit and vegetables for commercial purposes seems to be constantly changing in some particulars, and the field of operations widening. Increased transportation facilities, lower freight rates and varying competition necessitates adopting the most approved methods in everything pertaining to the business, to secure profitable results. The fittest will survive is the inevitable law, or in other words there is going to be less room for poor and inferior goods, whether fruit or vegetables, and no show at all for those who pack their goods deceitfully, or what is nearly as disastrous, in any but prime condition, proper shape and in good containers. A marked example of successful packing is shown by the California fruit growers. They had to excel in every respect and the goods must be the most attractive offered in order to command a sufficient price to pay them any profit over the high freight rates to eastern markets. When growers and producers of more favored states display the same skill and conscientious pains to excel in their special field, they will secure something like the returns which the business intelligently pursued is capable of yielding. To remain in the business and make it pay, you must follow as closely as possible the example of men who get good prices for their products. If you cannot raise fruit that is so attractive in appearance, you can still exercise the same care in picking, packing and marketing the fruit you have. You can throw out for consumption nearer home every specimen that is faulty and inferior, especially when this poor stuff injures the sale and reduces the price of the best. You can at least use the neatest and most presentable packages.

Mark your packages fully. Probably no one thing works so much difficulty in the handling of goods on commission as the failure on the part of the shipper to have all his packages fully marked. It is scarcely more important to mark each case or barrel with the name of the firm to whom shipped than to mark from whom. Don't be afraid to mark your own name and address on your goods, and above all don't leave the consignee in any uncertainty because you know he may be large enough to have a shipment in the same line from another grower the same day. Many commission merchants are willing and anxious to furnish shippers with serviceable stencils, giving the commission merchant's name and address plainly, and providing simply a number immediately under their name which indicates to them that the goods are from you, each tag thus sent out being recorded with the shipper's respective names and addresses. Notify the firm to whom you ship at once of your shipment, and be sure you give them the important particulars. If you were pleased with their previous sale, give your agent a word of encouragement occasionally. A rubber stamp and pad is a serviceable thing and can be had for five cents, and this form of printing press can be operated by any

body, and all your empty packages plainly marked with your name and address before the rush hour of shipment.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE BEST VARIETIES OF WINTER WHEAT AS DETERMINED AT THE ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Editor of *FARMING* :

One hundred and thirty-eight varieties of winter wheat have been grown in the Experimental Department of the Ontario Agricultural College within the past nine years. Seventy of these have been carefully tested for at least five years. The eight varieties which have given the highest yields of grain per acre in the average of five years' experiments are as follows:

Varieties.	Weight per bu. 5 years.	Yield per acre 5 years.
1. Dawson's Golden Chaff.	59.7	52.6
2. Early Genesee Giant.	59.8	48.7
3. Egyptian.	60.6	48.6
4. Imperial Amber.	59.8	48.6
5. Early Red Clawson.	58.9	48.5
6. Reliable.	61.2	48.0
7. Golden Drop.	61.2	46.9
8. Russian Amber.	60.9	46.7

Of these eight varieties, the following four gave the largest yields in 1898: Dawson's Golden Chaff, 49.2 bus.; Imperial Amber, 47.7 bus.; Reliable, 43.3 bus., and Early Genesee Giant, 43.2 bus.

Among forty-four new varieties grown in 1898, the largest yields of grain were produced by the Golden Coin, White Golden Cross, Silver Dollar, Pedigree Genesee Giant, and Oregon; and the heaviest weights per measured bushel by the Diamond Grit, 65.8 lbs.; McPherson, 65.5 lbs.; Arnold's Hybrid, 65.2 lbs.; Andrew's No. 4, 65 lbs., and Red May, 65 lbs.

DISTRIBUTION OF SEED FOR TESTING PURPOSES.

The following three sets of winter wheat varieties will be sent free by mail, in one-half pound lots of each variety, to farmers applying for them, who will carefully test the three kinds in the set which they choose, and will report the results after harvest next year. The seed will be sent out in the order in which the applications are received as long as the supply lasts.

Set 1.

Dawson's Golden Chaff.
Early Genesee Giant.
Early Red Clawson.

Set 2.

Dawson's Golden Chaff.
Imperial Amber.
Golden Drop.

Set 3.

Dawson's Golden Chaff.
Bearded Winter Fife.
Stewart's Champion.

Each person wishing one of these sets should apply as early as possible mentioning which set he desires; and the grain, with instructions for testing, and the blank form on which to report, will be furnished free of cost to his address, until the supply of grain for distribution is exhausted.

All communications should be addressed to
C. A. ZAVITZ,
Experimentalist.
Agricultural College, Guelph, Aug. 5th, 1898.

RESTORING LOST FERTILITY AND PROFITABLE FARMING.

MORE LIGHT ON MESSRS. WALLACE AND MACPHERSON'S METHODS NEEDED. THEIR STATEMENTS ARE ASTOUNDING.

Editor of *FARMING* :

There are two articles on page 419 of your paper of this week—one by T. C. Wallace, of Toronto, and the other by the well known and successful agriculturist, D. M. MacPherson, of Lancaster, Ont. which must appear so astounding to the ordinary farmer (I use the

word astounding advisedly) that we may well ask for further information. Both writers deal with the very important question of the best way of restoring and increasing the fertility of the soil, Mr. Wallace having been asked by a reader of *FARMING*, "for a plan to restore fertility to a farm run down by cropping and cattle-raising, and also how to most economically keep it in condition." The inquirer goes on to say "that his grain is about as poor as any he knows of, and the roots the same."

The plan which Mr. Wallace advises the inquirer to follow, and he states in doing so "that he can only undertake to advise in a general way, and he must use discretion in the matter of detail procedure"—is, where he has a fair amount of clover in any meadow or pasture, to plow the sward as early as practicable this season, and seeding with clover, applying a liberal dressing of Thomas-Phosphate powder and plowing down the clover for his 1899 fall crops, or, in case of a good fall growth, for the spring crops, or seeding with fall wheat and clover, with Thomas-Phosphate manure.

Further on the writer goes on to say: "On the grass lands showing no clover he should immediately apply a liberal dressing of the same manure, and next summer they will develop richly in clovers, probably red and white." (The italics are mine.) I will not follow the article any further.

What strikes me as strange advice to give is to plow up grass land at this season of the year, re-seeding with clover, and then expecting to have, from poor, worn-out land, a crop sufficiently good to be worth plowing under for next spring or fall's crops. To bring about such results, what, speaking in a general way, would be the quantity required, and the cost?

Then again there must be marvellous efficacy in the use of this manure if, on grass lands on which there is no clover, a rich development of this valuable plant can be brought about without even the cost of seeding. Again, I would ask what is the quantity required, and the cost? A satisfactory answer would mean that it would add millions annually to the agricultural wealth of the land, and it would certainly revolutionize farming. I have a hundred and fifty acres in permanent pasture which I would like very much to be able to cover with rich clovers in such a simple way.

Coming down to the article by D. M. MacPherson, I would say that I know of my own knowledge that Mr. MacPherson is one of the very best farmers on this continent, and that very valuable object lessons can be seen on his farm at any time during the growing season; and I am quite ready to admit that I have acquired knowledge when visiting his farm which to me has been very valuable. Further, to my mind, he has unmistakably proved that he can take a comparatively worn-out farm, and by judicious and wise management bring it up to a very high state of fertility, and at the same time show a clear cash profit every year during the time this change has been going on. I have been on his farm more than once, have studied out closely his system of farming, and have carefully noted the practical results. The figures gone minutely into have been published at different times and have become public property, and as such we can discuss them, and if not clear to us can ask for more information. That is what I wish to do now. In the article referred to Mr. MacPherson states "we will undertake to show a daily average cash product for five months from six acres of pasture of over \$12 per acre at a cost of \$5 purchased food and less than 50 cents per day of labor, and also added fertility to the land of over \$4 per day during the entire 150 days."

If such marvellous results can be brought about by one man, we are safe in presuming that others, following out the same system and paying the same close attention to matters of detail, might be equally successful. It thus becomes a matter not only of individual, but of national, importance. Presuming, however, that this immense cash profit of \$975 and increased fertility of \$600 has been the outcome of raising and fattening hogs, is it proper to credit the land in a speculative business of that sort with more than the largest possible production of grass. Say, the equivalent of four tons of hay to the acre. And there is certainly room to question the value placed on increased fertility. That six acres was very rich to begin with—that is certain. Supposing it to be used for the same purpose next year, with the same results, would another \$100 an acre be credited to the land for increased fertility, or where does that sort of thing stop? Or, putting it in another way, there is a limit to which adding increased fertility can be carried out profitably. Judging from the crops to be seen

growing on Mr. McPherson's farm, he seems to have about reached that limit. What, then, becomes of these very large amounts credited in that way?

JOHN I. HOBSON,

Aug. 4th, 1898.

Guelph.

AUGUST CROP REPORTS.

According to the August crop report recently issued by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, the big harvest forecasted some time ago is likely to become a fact, so far as this province is concerned. With the exception, perhaps, of peas, all the staple grains will give an average crop, and the majority an extra large yield. The fall wheat crop is one of the best ever harvested in the province. The yields have been large, and the crop was got in in splendid condition. The grain is plump, and in many instances over weight.

As a rule spring grains have been more or less affected by the dry weather, and in many instances by the frost. There is an increased acreage of spring wheat in the eastern part of the province. Though this crop ripened early the yield will be considerably above the average. The barley crop is generally good, and, with few exceptions, the grain is bright and in fine condition. Oats, which suffered considerably from the drouth and frost in many sections, are short in the straw, but there will be an average yield, taking the province as a whole. The yield of peas will vary greatly. Owing to the drouth and frost the straw is short, and the yield will not be up to the average.

The hay crop is a large one, and will average about two tons to the acre, which is fully fifty per cent. above the average. Corn promises a fair crop in the Lake Erie districts, but in other parts of the provinces the outlook is not so bright, owing to the ravages of the frost and the dry weather. The potato crop will be considerably below the average in most places. A good yield is expected in the St. Lawrence counties. The reports regarding the root crop are very encouraging, but the yield will depend upon the conditions from this out.

The apple harvest will be a small one this year. There are several causes for this, among them being heavy rainstorms when the trees were in bloom, and the prevalence of the tent caterpillar and other destructive insects, which did much damage where spraying was neglected. Much of the fruit is small and hard owing to the drouth. Winter apples will be very scarce. Plums and peaches will yield below the average, though pears are likely to be abundant.

LIST OF PRINCIPAL CANADIAN FAIRS FOR 1898

Industrial Fair, Toronto . . . August 29th to Sept. 10th
Stanstead Live Stock Assn, Stanstead, P.Q.
Eastern Exhibition, Sherbrooke, P.Q. Sept. 5th to 10th
Western Fair, London, Ont. Sept. 8th to 17th
Quebec Exposition Co., Quebec, P.Q. Sept. 12th to 21st
New Brunswick Exhibition Co., St. John, N.B.
Bay of Quinte District Fair, Belleville, Ont. Sept. 13th to 23rd
Central Canada Fair, Ottawa Sept. 14th and 15th
Southern Fair, Brantford Sept. 17th to 22nd
Provincial Exhibition, Halifax, N.S. Sept. 22nd to 29th
Markham Fair October 5th to 7th