

The Canadian Velvet Chaff Wheat.

Several years ago the editor of this paper offered \$125 as prizes for new varieties of wheat or other cereals, vegetables or fruits, that on testing proved to be better than the standard kinds now in cultivation. The money was to be divided as follows:—\$50 for four ozs. of spring or fall wheat; \$25 for the best new variety of potatoes or other vegetables, or fruits. The varieties sent for trial must have been previously tested and proved worthy of a trial, and must be a variety heretofore unknown in Canada. The editor promised that none of the varieties sent would be disseminated without the permission of the sender. Full information to be given concerning the winning varieties.

In response we received a number of varieties, among which were two new fall wheats—one a white, the other a red—both of which are new and very promising; but the white, which has been named the "Canadian Velvet Chaff," has proved itself worthy of the \$50 prize. We have had it widely tested in many of the States of the American Union, and in every section of the Province of Ontario, and wherever grown it has excelled all other varieties for the last three years. Last year it yielded more than double as much as the old reliable Clawson in those sections where the Clawson has been heretofore by far the best variety. Where sown together, this new kind has far outstripped the most reliable of the new or old kinds. One of our staff has just visited fields of it in the various parts of the Province of Ontario. He reports that it has wintered better than any other sort. The severe tests we have put it to goes to show that it stands the winter well, even on the most exposed hills, while the freezing and thawing of last winter has not effected it to any extent. The only places that we have found it killed out is where considerable water has lain on the surface for some time, which was at intervals frozen solid. Where winter wheat can be grown we believe this is destined to be of great value. It is a beautiful white wheat, rounder, plumper and whiter than the Clawson. The head is long and close, and the straw stiff and bright, and almost entirely free from rust, even under the most trying circumstances. Last year we saw a field—one half was Clawson the other half this new sort—the Clawson, though a fine looking crop, was badly rusted, and yielded seventeen bushels per acre; the Canadian Velvet Chaff was scarcely rusted at all, and yielded over thirty bushels per acre, and this under most unfavorable circumstances. On the farm belonging to the proprietor of this paper it yielded thirty bushels per acre, double that of any other sort except our new red wheat, not yet introduced. This was in ordinary field cultivation. It is a very heavy yielding wheat in proportion to its straw, and tillers much. As high as twenty-five heads have been counted from a single root. The chaff is mottled brown and white, and has a handsome velvety appearance.

That each one of our readers may fully judge of the values of this new wheat, we attach below copies of private letters received by us from the originator, Mr. John Stone, Norham P. O., Ont., who has spent over forty years in the careful study of our cereal crops. It must be borne in mind too that this is a Canadian variety, originated in Durham county, about thirty miles north of the north shores of Lake Ontario. This is a cold section, in many cases the land is very rolling, but it produces grand samples of grain. We would advise all to read these letters closely:—

Norham, Aug. 15th, 1887.

Dear Sir,—I see by the ADVOCATE that you have offered a prize for the best wheat grown from four ounces of any new wheat after you test it on your own ground. I have sent you four ounces of what is a new wheat. I noticed one stool of very nice looking wheat growing in the Martin's Amber I bought from you. I have sown it twice, and find it

was not given what I thought a first-class chance, and it gave me thirteen bushels from the machine. It was hardly three feet in height, yet every farmer who saw it said it was the finest looking wheat they ever saw. Now, I will give you the history of this wheat: I got one-half bushel of splendid Martin's Amber; I had from that just ten bushels; I sowed it the next season, and in this second crop, though it was not heavy, I found one beautiful stool of wheat, I thought the finest I ever saw, and in sowing the produce of that one stool three times I got thirteen bushels the second time. I sowed a piece 14 by 18 feet, and had 19 lbs. 4 oz., on one-quarter of an acre and had 13 bushels. Who ever beat that with one grain of wheat to start with? I have sown about all of the hardy varieties introduced within the past forty years and have never found one more hardy than this. I have eight varieties testing.

J. B. STONE.

Norham, July 27th, 1889.

Dear Sir,—I have just shelled and weighed the wheat tested by me, and I send you the result of five varieties tested. I sowed on the 18th September, and all were struck with rust more or less; the kind I originated and the Manchester came off best; the Clawson, Garfield and Advocate suffered about alike. I sowed 90 grains of each variety, all treated alike, in drills side by side. I sowed the Garfield on one side and the Advocate on the other of the variety I sent you, as I thought this would be a fair test. The ice laid on the bed quite late in the spring, and this kept it back. I cut it on the 23rd, I do not consider the yield large, but all had the same treatment, and the result was as follows:—The Canadian Velvet Chaff, 90 grains produced 3 oz.; the Garfield, scarcely 2 oz.; the Manchester, 2½ oz.; the Advocate, 2 oz.; Clawson, 1½ oz. I have sown nearly all the standard varieties introduced for the past 43 years, and I am certain that there has not been one single variety more hardy than this new sort. My sample this year will be nice. We have suffered badly with rust on all low and late fields; some pieces of Clawson almost ruined, but early, high land all right. I have no hesitation in saying that this new wheat is more hardy than the Clawson. Yours respectfully,

J. B. STONE.

Norham, Aug. 26th, 1889.

Dear Sir,—You will please receive my thanks for the gentlemanly manner in which you have awarded me the prize of \$50 for four ounces of wheat to be tested in 1888. I have finished threshing this morning, and, although the yield was not as good as I expected, the victory for it over all other varieties in this section is even greater than I expected. I sowed five acres and had 170 bushels of what is now called Canadian Velvet Chaff. I sowed seven acres of Clawson in the same field and had only 120 bushels very bad sample, while a good share of the other is most beautiful. Two of my neighbors have threshed; one sowed 35 bushels of Clawson and had only 190 bushels; the other sowed 30 bushels and had only 150 bushels, much of which was chicken feed. Clawson in this section is only turning out about 10 bushels per acre. There is greater excitement here over my wheat now than before it was threshed. The thresher, who is a farmer, said he would rather pay \$2 per bushel for it than to sow any other variety. Mr. Thomas Carlow, our Reeve, and one of the first farmers in the township, offered me, since we threshed and he saw the wheat, \$5 per bushel, which I refused.

J. B. STONE.

Norham, April 21st, 1890.

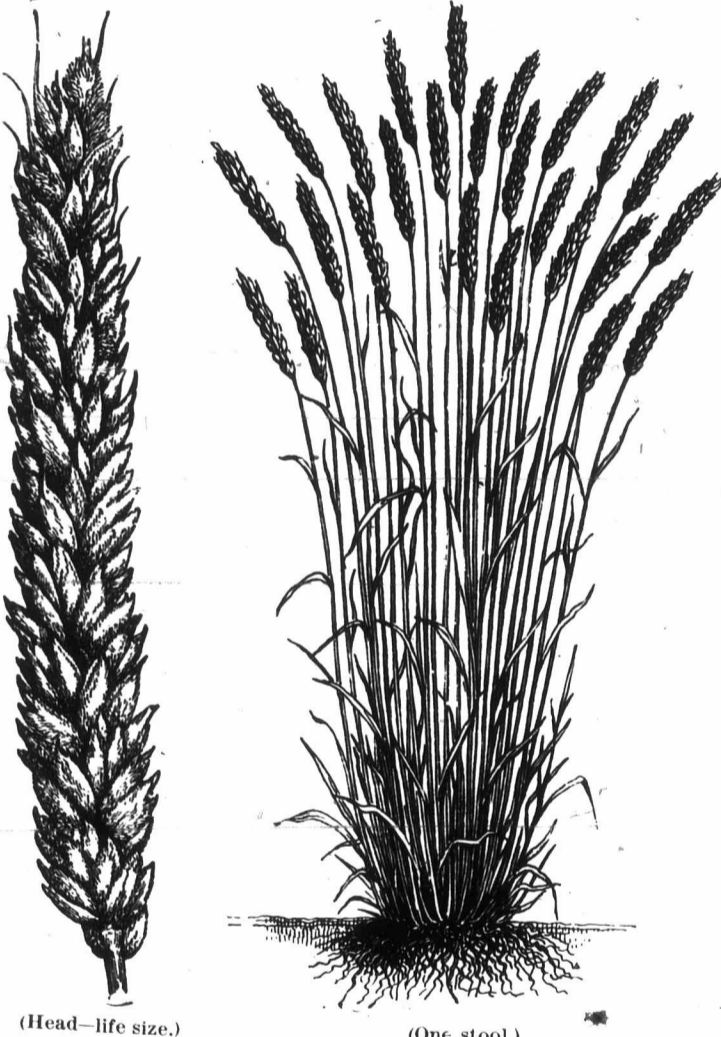
Dear Sir,—I am pleased to state that the winter wheat in this part has come out well. The winter seemed to be very bad for it as we had very little snow and the spring has been wet, but it is generally looking well. Some few very low fields were injured by the water laying on them too long in the spring. This new wheat has again proved to be one of the most hardy, equal to the hardy Clawson if not the most hardy. All I have sown in this part is looking fine. This wheat the first year gave from one grain 570 grains; the 570 grains the second year gave enough to sow a piece 14 by 18 feet, which gave 19 lbs. 4 oz. I sent 8 oz. of this to Mr. Weld and sowed the rest, 18 lbs. 12 oz., on one-fourth of an acre and had 12 bushels and 40 lbs. clean wheat; 10 bushels of this I again sowed on five acres and had 170 bushels.

J. B. STONE.

The following is what Mr. Stone's neighbors say of the Canadian Velvet Chaff Wheat:—

Codrington, Sept. 14th, 1889.

Dear Sir,—I have been in the best wheat section in California and York State and have seen many very fine fields of wheat, but I never saw anything in the shape of wheat as beautiful as a small piece of the wheat now called the Canadian Velvet Chaff growing on the farm of J. B. Stone, in the Town-



(Head—life size.)

(One stool.)

THE CANADIAN VELVET CHAFF WHEAT.

very hardy, and has given great satisfaction as to yield. I have now 18 lbs. 14 oz. from a piece of ground 14 by 18 feet; I had it in fine order. If it proves satisfactory to you I will let you name it, and have the first I have for sale to distribute. The Clawson wheat does the best in this section of all the winter wheats we have in this part. The wheat I sent you is very early, ripening four or five days before the Clawson. Yours respectfully,

JOHN B. STONE.

Norham, July 10th, 1888.

Dear Sir,—I sowed 18 lbs. 12 oz. of wheat last fall the same as I sent to you. I have just one-quarter of an acre, and I am certain that you never saw anything to beat it. It looks good enough to give fifteen bushels to the quarter acre. There is one stool with twenty-five heads, and I have some of the most beautiful heads you ever saw, and will send some to you in a box so that they will not get broken. It will be fit to harvest about Monday next. It is the handsomest grain I ever saw.

J. B. STONE.

Norham, April 23rd, 1889.

Dear Sir,—The winter wheat is looking better now than I have seen it for several years past. I think this new variety I have stood the winter best of all. It is equally as hardy as the Clawson, and far tougher than the Manchester. I have one piece of four acres on summer-fallow. If nothing happens it probably will not be beaten in bushels per acre in Ontario. The one-quarter acre I had last year