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Agriculture.

The best Period for Sowing Wheat.

Since the prevalence of the Hessian fly, early sown winter wheat has suffered more severely from the effects of that insect than late sown: hence, many have been induced to sow later than they were formerly in the habit of doing. The loss sustained by this practice has been equal, if not greater, from the influence of rust, and damage by winter frosts, than any advantage that might have been gained by the consequent evasion of the insect. The severity of a Canadian winter, especially when the ground has not been covered by snow, has proved the best preventive against the fly that has yet been discovered. This applies particularly to the Hessian, which deposits its larvæ in the autumn, upon the young wheat plants.—Early sowing is clearly the most judicious course to pursue; and we would recommend, in all cases where it is practicable, that the business of sowing should begin as early as the 25th of August, and not be continued at farthest later than the 15th of September. By sowing in August, some risk may be sustained by the plants throwing out *stov* before the setting in of winter, and also from the smothering influence of heavy falls of snow. But the damage thus sustained, in an average of cases, is trifling, when compared with the advantages attending early sowing, so that no one would be justified in protracting the period of sowing on those accounts beyond the above mentioned.

For a number of autumns past, winter wheat might have been safely sown as early as the 15th of August. In sowing at so early a period, the crop should be fed down with calves, colts, and other stock, that would not eat the plants so close to the ground as

to affect their vitality. Where this practice is observed, the stock must not be allowed to remain on the crop during the period of protracted rains, as there would be a danger of the land becoming poached with the feet of the cattle, whereby the crop would receive greater damage than any benefit that could be produced by early sowing.

It would be well for those who have been unfortunate in cultivating winter wheat to make an experiment in early sowing, and at the same time deposit the seed in rows, from eight to ten inches asunder, either by the ribbing or drilling process. The quantity of seed sown might also, on many soils, be at the rate of two bushels per acre, with advantage, but this can only be decided by actual, practical experiment.

Early sowing, drilling, and thick sowing, after the manner described in the foregoing suggestions, deserve at the hands of every Canadian farmer a fair and impartial trial, especially those whose wheat crops have become more or less affected with rust, that great bane to nearly all American wheat growers.

Selection and Preparation of Seed Wheat.

In examining the growing crops of wheat, about the middle of July, when the plants are in full head, a careful observer must be struck at the vast difference in fields owned by different proprietors, with respect to the purity of the varieties sown; and also as to the presence or absence of chesa, rye, cockle, and other impurities calculated to depreciate the marketable value of the article. If there is one point more than another, in the management of farming, that requires close and vigilant attention, it is that of selecting the best varieties of grain for seed, observing, at the same time, to keep each