

### Agriculture.

#### The Wheat Crop.

The price of all commodities is and must be regulated by the unalterable law of supply and demand, and to this there is no exception in favor of breadstuffs. When the supply fully equals the demand the producer cannot expect very high prices. The demand for breadstuffs and the quantity available to meet this demand is therefore one of great importance to the farmer.

In Great Britain, the great market for our agricultural produce, there has been an increase in 1878 of the area under wheat, making the total area under wheat 3,400,000 acres. The yield is fully an average—about 30 bushels to the acre. We set down the aggregate, after deducting for casualties, 100,000,000, and there will be required not less than 100,000 bushels of imported wheat. From France we do not expect a demand. She will about supply from her own resources the demands of her people. Other estimates are that she may need breadstuffs more than the produce of the country—perhaps 40,000,000 bushels.

We learn from a U. S. department of agriculture and from the agricultural press that there will be for export from the United States upwards of 200,000,000 bushels, so that the supply of 1878 is much more than sufficient to meet all the demands that will be for American breadstuffs. The area of wheat in the United States was unprecedentedly large—greater by 17 per cent. in 1878 than in 1877, winter wheat having increased 12 per cent. and spring wheat 23 per cent., the area under wheat being computed at 31,000,000 of acres. It is estimated the average yield will be about 13½ per cent., making the aggregate of 430,900,000 bushels. Deducting from this aggregate 220,000,000, the estimated requirements for home consumption and seed, there will remain for export upwards of 200,000,000.

Of the wheat crop in England the *Agricultural Gazette* says: "The agricultural returns show that the acreage of wheat is over 17 per cent. more than last year, while as to the yield, although there will not be the grand crop at one time anticipated, owing to deficiencies in the filling of the ears, it will no doubt prove an average one of 30 bushels to the acre, calculated to yield 12,000,000 quarters, or 2½ millions more than the crop of last year."

From the statistics given farmers may see that the prospect is not one of high prices. However, the good yield of fall wheat will more than compensate for the lower prices.

#### Fultz Wheat.

The Fultz wheat is the best variety now in the market, and if properly farmed will yield on an average equal to any wheat in the country. Many farmers claim 40 bushels per acre this season. It has a stiff straw, and does not lose any grain in handling, and when it is cut will lie compact and take up less barn room than any other variety of wheat. It will weigh 64 lbs. per bushel if clean; it always sells readily for the highest price, and the flour manufactured from it has no superior. The farmers have it in their power to have the best wheat in the country, and always find a ready sale; and why will they persist in spreading a worthless variety that will not benefit them in the least. Farmers, take warning. — *American Miller*.

A correspondent writes to the *Germtown Telegraph* from East Tennessee:—"The most peculiar and the strangest of all seasons' accidents

happened to our wheat crop this year. The varieties most successfully raised here were the most badly damaged by fly and rust, while the Clawson and Fultz—so liable to rust in this climate—escaped almost entirely both the rust and fly. The Fultz in some localities, and in the same field, made as high as thirty-two bushels per acre, while the white native wheat made but four to six bushels. The same field and the same lay of land, the same seed and the same cultivation, time of sowing and treatment, presented irregularities before unknown and unheard of."

The wheat returns of Australia for the year 1877, as compiled by the registrar-general, show that there has been an increase of 3,514 acres in the quantity of land sown with wheat during the year. The area reaped of grain shows an increase of 2,220 acres as compared with that of the year 1876; but the yield of grain has fallen short of that of the previous year by 7,870 bushels. The decrease is attributed chiefly to the severe drought which was experienced throughout the country during several months of the year, causing in some instances a total failure of the crop. The yield of grain unaffected by rust in 1877 was only 12 bushels 40½ pounds per acre, as against 20 bushels 28 pounds in 1876. The average yield of wheat grain free from rust in the eight years from 1870 to 1877 inclusive, is a little under 20 bushels to the acre.

It is with pleasure I enclose my subscription for the year, as I think your paper just the thing for the farmers of the Dominion.

T. H. BARRET, Port Royal.

cut. The stable is in three parts: 1st—25 ft. is taken from one end and divided in three parts; the centre is the feed room, 25 x 20; stables 18 ft. deep, with five stalls in each part. 2nd—a yard 56 x 30, for young stock. There is a trap door at the side of drive floor to drop down straw. If water can be had, a well is preferable in this yard. There is a large door on each side to drive in and take out the manure. 3rd—The cow stable is directly under the straw house, 56 x 25 ft., divided into three parts; centre is feed room, 25 x 26, with trap door above to let down chaff. Stables are 15 ft. deep, and six stalls on each side. All stables well lighted, as well as feed room and yard. There are outer doors for stables and inner doors leading into the centre yards. The stables are 8½ and 9 ft. high. The advantages over other stables are:—Lighter and shorter timbers. There are two rows of central posts run up to top of building, forming the purline work, and the whole building being framed into these posts, makes a much stronger frame. It is handier for storing, for forks working and for threshing; is better ventilated; all straw inside, all stock inside; manure all under cover. When a farmer has one of these barns he has all the outbuildings he requires.

ALEX. THOMPSON.

Uxbridge, August, 1878.

#### Value of Flax.

Mr. Watson, of New York, in presenting a table of statistics from the U. S. Agricultural Report, says:—

Flax is the best crop in Morrow Co., Ohio, giving \$27.08, or thrice above the acreage of \$8.10 per acre. This, with the fact that the United States yearly imports about \$25,000,000 in flax and its manufactures, or, in fifty years, \$441,000,000, should cause a large production of flax; showing the policy of manufacturing near the flax fields, rather than shipping its products over continents and oceans for this purpose, marking an important era in our textile history.

The facts (official) that last year England made on manufacturing are: Cottons, \$228,082,050; linens, \$71,366,540; silks, \$71,805,380; and woollens, \$100,217,395; total, \$471,461,365, or \$1,250,000 per day. With Illinois' vast means of raising and manufacturing textiles; with State bounties for fostering said industries, it would employ and enrich labor, and return in taxes a thousand fold interest.

Were you to get your Governor or Legislature to grapple with this vastly important subject, I could give ample precedents and invaluable facts regarding American flax, hemp, jute and ramie, on which, in fifty years, the United States spent \$915,000,000. Would we attain the wealth of England and France, even with our superior resources, must we not use the same or better means?

How applicable this reasoning of the New York statistician is to our Dominion! We have but to change the name of the State, substituting Canada for Illinois, and all that he says of the vast means of raising and manufacturing textile fabrics seems written especially for us Canadians. Are we to sit with hands folded when we might, by due efforts as a nation, employ and enrich labor that would return in revenue a thousand fold?

Dear Sir, — I am in receipt of some of the leading Yankee agricultural papers, but I prefer the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* to any of them.

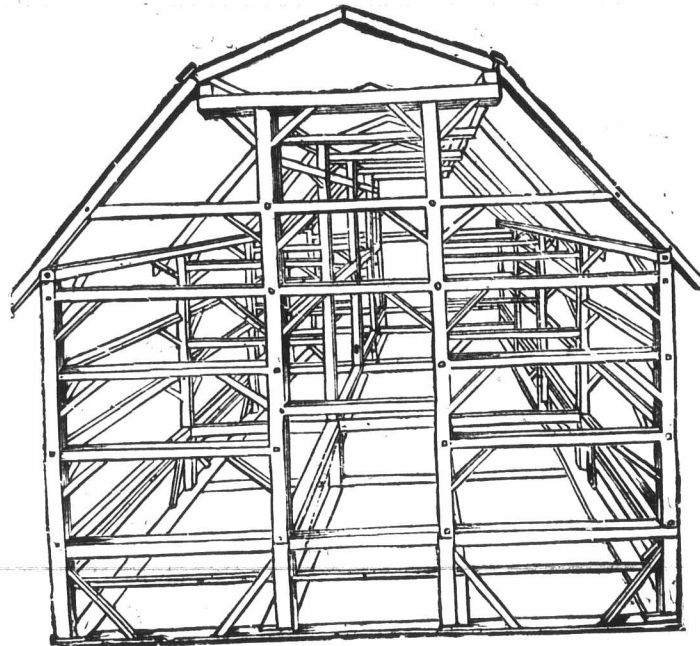
ALEX. DUNN.

Chatsworth, Ont., July 29, 1878.

I think the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* a boon to the country. I wish you success in your labors in promoting the welfare of the farmers of this country.

THOMAS JOHNSTON.

Peterboro P. O., May 10, 1878.



#### An Improved Barn and Stabling.

SIR,—In the August number of the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* you give an account of "Barns without Beams," but believing the plan of the following is far superior to it or any I have seen or heard of, I thought it would interest the thousands of readers of your extra Show number, and therefore send you a description of it and a cut of its "frame," which can be seen above.

The barn is 56 x 80; outside posts 20 ft. high; purline posts 33 ft.; 5 bents, 20 ft. spans, framed according to cut. Timber used is from 6 to 8 in.; sills 3 x 12 in.; plank bedded on stone wall. Barn proper is 56 x 60, leaving 20 x 56 ft. for straw house. Driving floor 16 ft. wide. Bays on each side floored with double inch boards. Double doors work on rollers. There is a ventilating door in each gable end, working with a small pulley from the floor; and one on the roof, which are very useful in time of threshing to allow dust to escape. On each side of the driving floor is a ladder reaching to the top of barn. Granary is 20 ft. square and bins 6 ft. deep on each side, leaving 8 x 20 ft. to keep the mill in for clearing up. Barn is well lighted. Should stone be scarce, the wall need be no higher than to clear the ground as shown in