

Seeds, &c.

Winter Wheat—"Gipsy" Wheat.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER:—Will you, or some of the readers of the FARMER, or both, give the real names of some of the varieties of winter wheat that succeed best in the Dominion or the United States, and would likely to do well in Southern or Central Ohio? The variety that succeeded best with me the present season is that known as the "Gipsy." The name is not very prepossessing, but if the article continues to give satisfaction, we can make due allowance for the name.

Pleasant Plain, Warren Co., O.

WM. FERRIS.

In Canada, the Seneca or Clawson, this year, has succeeded better than any other sort, and it is, without doubt, the coming wheat. The *Diehl* is grown extensively, and is a good variety. Treadwell succeeds well, but is only a No. 2 wheat, grading with Spring Soule's has been good, but is run out. Mediterranean and Turkey, bearded wheats, stand our winter well. Scott and Midgeproof, two amber wheats, closely resembling each other, have also been successfully grown. Our readers would find it to their interest to exchange information on these points through our columns in no freer than they do at present. Now, some of you, just tell us what you have found out this year about both winter and spring wheats.

The Liability of Seedsmen.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER:—There is one evil under the sun to which farmers are often exposed, without being able to help themselves, and that is the failure of seeds to prove true to their name. I am not disposed to join in the complaints so frequently, though not always with sufficient cause, brought against seedsmen because seeds fail to grow, for that is very often the fault of the purchasers, who often neglect to observe the conditions requisite to secure germination, especially of small seeds, most of which can easily be tested before sowing. But when seeds do grow, and grow well, and yet turn out to be a different variety from what they were represented to be, then at least the farmer is not to blame.

I have on two different occasions purchased seed beans from two different seedsmen for Dwarf Beans, on both occasions they came up well, but as the crop advanced, they proved to be about half of them white runners. Certainly, these produce as good crops as the other, but they are too late in ripening, and as we generally have more or less rain early in the fall, part of the crop is pretty sure to be lost.

I have not complained of this before, because I was under the impression that I had no legal remedy. I complain now in hopes that our Ontario Legislators, who are all directly or indirectly dependent on the farmers for their support, will, at the next session of our Ontario Legislature, be induced to pass a law to enable farmers to recover from seedsmen the price of any seed which may grow well but prove untrue to name, and thereby confer a benefit on those who not only work hard to provide the means for their support, but also by their votes return them to Parliament whenever the occurrence of an Election gives them an opportunity of doing so.

SARAWAK.

Hulless Oats.

In answer to our request, last month, for information from uninterested parties, as to how the Hulless oats are turning out, we have received the letters below, and also a good big sheaf of the oats, together with a small sample of the grain. The grain is a nice-looking sample, certainly not inferior to that which was sent to us in the Spring. The straw is about four feet long and stout in appearance, but was decidedly musty either on account of it having been rained on or from it having been out green. Probably, the latter is the case as the "promoters" of the oats claim cutting green to be one of the ways of the oats will not thresh.

If there were not the experience of the preceding generation against them, the experience of this year with the Hulless oats might be taken to demonstrate that they are a valuable acquisition. We have done our duty to our

readers in acquainting them with the historical facts in the case. By printing the letters below, we give the case in favor of the oats, in doing which we are merely carrying out the idea of impartial and fearless justice with which the CANADA FARMER will treat all questions relating to the welfare of its readers.

The oats will stand or fall on their own merits. They are pretty well known now, and, if valuable, will be the better for the attention that we have directed to them. If they fail to come into general use, we shall have saved thousands of dollars to our readers. The correspondence mentioned above, follows.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER:—Being asked, as a disinterested party, to give my opinion as to the Bohemian oats, I would say that, although a mechanic by trade, I was brought up a farmer and have a knowledge of the science of agriculture. I have visited a number of fields of Bohemian oats growing in the vicinity and feel bound by a sense of duty and a desire to benefit my fellow beings to state, as my opinion, that these oats are far superior to any other variety of oats I ever saw, being a finer quality of grain and yielding more pounds to the acre.

WILLIAM WALKER
Carriage Maker

Peruvian Flour Mills, Beamsville.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER:—Having been asked the question by a number of farmers on the propriety of raising "Bohemian oats," not being a farmer, as a disinterested person, having visited many farmers in this locality on which the oats are being raised, I have much pleasure in stating I am fully satisfied that those parties raising them will reap a rich reward, being a very heavy crop on the ground; and as they are about one third heavier than the common varieties, the yield per acre in bushels will far exceed them. I have also tested them for domestic purposes in the manufacture of oat meal which has been pronounced by competent judges to be the best they ever used in their families.

ROBERT HEMPE, J. P.,
Reeve of the Township of Chatham.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER:—Having been invited as disinterested persons—being neither growers or dealers—to inspect a field of Bohemian oats on the farm of Mr. R. S. Merrill, we went there for this purpose on the 24th inst.

The field contains ten acres. The oats were cut and Mr. Merrill with four men were engaged binding and setting up. They had nearly half of the field in shock. There were seven rows of shocks, thirty-five in the row, ten sheaves each. On pacing the remainder of the field, we found it would yield eight rows more, making in all something over 5,000 sheaves. The shape of the field is like a sheet taken up at three corners. At each of these corners about one acre was left, the three acres yielding about 1,000 small sheaves, the other seven acres giving 4,000 large sheaves. Judging from their weight, we think they will yield five H of grain, that is a bushel of fifty from each shock or 500 bushels from the field.

Mr. Merrill informed us he sowed twelve bushels of seed on the field, and that he has fifteen acres more as good as this, but we did not go to them. The twenty-five acres got thirty bushels seed at \$10 per bushel, \$2500. He says he was a little scared at the investment, but with the prospect of getting fifty bushels an acre in return he is very well satisfied, as the cost of the seed is only twenty-four cents per bushel.

We heartily congratulate Mr. Merrill on his magnificent crop.

J. B. OSBORNE,
CARRS HILLTON, J. P.

Beamsville

Australian Wheat.

Mr. Meeh says, in the *Agricultural Gazette* Australian wheat—which is, I presume, only English wheat Australianized (for the aborigines never grew any wheat)—sown on November 30, was ready for harvest fully 14 days before the English red wheat sown the same day beside it. It appears to me to bring with it the climatic characteristic of a hot, ripening season, with very little straw and flag, but a kernel well filled with flour, and less watery than ours. Still it does not look like a yielding crop as compared with our own, either in corn or straw, but that I shall test, and report upon hereafter. It looks as though it would "stand" high farming, and not be laid like our home-grown sorts. At present it is estimated to yield only half as much grain as its neighbor. This wheat was steeped in a solution of sulphate of copper (blue stone), and is the first I have succeeded in getting perfect, having previously omitted to steep the samples sent. A neighbor who sowed some this season and omitted to steep it, told me it was an entire failure, just as mine used to be. There is a tendency to beardness and irregularity of sort, as though there had been neglect and crossings in the seed. The sample sent was of very fine quality, and I have to-

day received two additional samples from Tasmania. It becomes a question whether, in late districts, growing corn from hot, early ripening countries might not be advantageous. Trials on a small scale can do no harm.

BRITISH QUEEN STRAWBERRY.—Among all the strawberry berries, writes *The Gardener*, that come to Covent Garden Market, Myatt's British Queen still retains the first position, both as to flavor, price, and the quantity sold. This fact is, of course, well known to most London strawberry growers; but in many country gardens this fine variety is so often discarded for newer and less meritorious ones that the above facts may be worth bearing in mind.

CANADIAN BARLEY is in some danger of falling from the high estimation in which it is now held in the United States. Objections are made that the two-rowed and six-rowed varieties are mixed together and their value thus destroyed for malting purposes. Barley is so risky a grain to hold that farmers cannot be too careful in cleaning and giving it the best appearance. No, 1 barley is always marketable at the highest price, while common grades may go a-begging when there is the least sign of a glut.

NEW POTATOES.—A market gardener writes to the *American Farm Journal*: "Of potatoes it is nearly impossible to take any stock in new kinds at all. The Early Rose is all right, and the peerless is all right in some places, in others it is worthless. The Early Vermont is certainly the Early Rose, or all the potato growers here are mistaken, as well as ourselves. The great Compton's Surprise turns out to be the old Jersey Blue-Nose that was discarded years since. Brownell's Beauty seems worthy of further trial; possibly some good thing may come of that. So in the whole list of garden vegetables, there are lots of humbugs. They would not amount to much if all the gardeners would write accounts of their failures, but the trouble is the most of them do their "cussing" to themselves, and let the rest learn by experience, and all the seedsmen rejoice therewith." The CANADA FARMER has also good reports about Brownell's Beauty. We give the remainder of the above information for what it is worth.

Correspondence.

LUCERNE.—Will our Brantford subscriber, with whom we had some conversation last spring about Lucerne when he was about to sow, give us some particulars of his success or non-success?

POTATO-DIGGER WANTED.—W. C. D., wants to know where he can obtain McCallum's Potato-Digger and Picker combined. The makers of the implement should make their whereabouts known through our advertising columns.

SPIDER GRASS. Subscriber, Munroe.—The beautiful grass growing in swampy places, and known familiarly as "Spider grass," is the *Agrostis capillaris*. Michx. calls it *Poa hirsuta*. Lamour, *Poa capillaris* and *Panicum capillare*.

SALT CRACK MUCK.—W. H. M., Upper Woods Harbor, N. S., writes us: "Would you be kind enough to inform me of the best way to apply salt crack muck to the land, or if it is any good as a fertilizing agent. This salt crack muck, so called, consists of a deposit of decayed eel grass, marsh mud, and other marine matter lying in the bottom of creeks or small inlets opening into the harbor. As many more readers of the CANADA FARMER may be interested in this subject, I should like to see it treated from experiments already tried."—We have had no experience with salt crack muck, but should say that in conjunction with farmyard manure it might be valuable. Will some of our readers who are better posted oblige us and the enquirer by telling what they know?

PLANT AND MOTH FOR NAME.—C. J., Presque, Ont.—The plant sent is Early Cress, *Arabis hirsuta*, a cruciferous plant. The moth is the *Arctia Americana*, the largest of the *Arctide* family and closely resembling the English Tiger-moth, *Arctia carya*. It is rare in this neighborhood, but is common in new countries. The larva feed on the *Chenopodium*, Lamb's-quarter, and on lettuce and several other plants. They hatch out and when winter comes are about three-quarters of an inch long, in which condition they hibernates. Your second letter, two moths one having plain ash-gray wings marked underneath with bands of bright rose pink and black. It is the *Catocala ulmona*. The larva feed on willow and poplar and sometimes on wild plums. The other moth was so damaged in transit that the only thing determinable about it is that it is an *Agrotis*, the larva of which is injurious to cultivated crops.