

Toronto, Nov. 13, 1855.

Report of the committee appointed to decide the sweepstakes for the best two acres of turnips among the undermentioned competitors:—

E. Musson, Esq.: President, Etobicoke, Agricultural Society,—

Sir,—We the undersigned, Judges of the Sweepstakes for the best two acres of Swedish Turnips, beg respectfully to report as follows:

On Tuesday November 6th, we commenced a tour of inspection, calling on the different competitors in the following order:

1. Mr. W. R. Scott, of Mimico; but as he declined competing, and being anxious to proceed with as little delay as possible, we did not see his turnips.

2. Mr. Richard Withers also declined competing. We saw his turnips, which in some places were good, but as a whole very uneven; they were sown too late and had not received the cultivation necessary for procuring a large crop.

3. Mr. Wm. Duck, near Port Credit. A pretty piece of turnips, but few vacant places, bulbs of medium size, of good quality well adapted for the table, rather too thick and in a growing state; sown broadcast July 9th, manured with barn yard dung, of about 15 wagon loads to the acre; soil, a pretty loamy clay; cropped the previous year with oats; well cultivated and quite clean. Measured off a square of 25 feet, or 625 square feet, being within a fraction of the 70th part of an acre, as a fair average of the two acres; topped and rooted them in the ordinary way, and found the yield to be 5 bushels, or at the rate of about 350 bushels per acre. Mr. Duck's crop would evidently have been much larger in weight if he had sown earlier and in drills. The variety was the Purple top, and pretty pure.

4. Mr. Donald McFarlane, Etobicoke. As Mr. McFarlane declined competing we took only a general view of his turnips, a large portion of which, under ordinary circumstances, would be pronounced good. It was a heavier crop than Mr. Duck's but not near so even nor so well cultivated. Weeding and hoeing had not been sufficiently attended to during the harvest. Notwithstanding it will be a prying crop. Purple top, a portion quite pure—sown in drills from 10th to 13th of June. Soil fresh and rich but rather heavy and wet.

5. Mr. John Clayton, Mimico. A beautiful looking piece of Purple-top, sown broadcast June 13th, after a good dressing of barn yard manure; well cultivated and set out, but the plants generally were too thin. Fair sized bulbs of excellent quality. A square of 25 feet, taken as an average of the whole, yielded 10 bushels, being at the rate of very nearly 700 bushels, per acre.

It is proper to remark that Mr. Clayton's soil is a light sand, which in its natural state produced nothing but pine and inferior brushwood, and was considered a few years since quite worthless for cultivation. The present result cannot be otherwise regarded than as highly creditable.

6. Mr. Wm. Gamble, Milton Mills. We found here about six acres of turnips in a field of very uneven surface, which must have required no small amount of skill and capital to have brought it into its present highly productive condition, from a recent state of comparative worthlessness. The soil like the former case, is a light sand, forming a part of the Hamber plains, Purple-top and Laing's improved, sown in drills about 30 inches apart, after a liberal dressing

of manure, consisting, we understand, of farm yard dung and a slight dressing of Guano.

The bulbs on the top and drier part of the field were of great size and pretty uniform, but there were many blank places. Laing's improved, although not so large as the Purple-top, looked beautifully, so true and even. This was a specimen of turnip-culture, which would be rarely exceeded in the finest parts of Britain. A piece of 26 feet, taken as an average of the upper portion of the field, including both Purple top and Laing's improved, yielded 12 bushels; or at the rate of 875 bushels per acre. Night coming on we had to postpone examining the remainder to another day.

In consequence of the extremely wetness of Wednesday, we did not resume our task till Thursday morning, November 9th, when we visited—

7. Mr. E. W. Thompson, of Akenshaw, township of York. The soil, like that of the two preceding cases, is a loose sand, formerly thought little of and neglected, but by judicious manuring and proper treatment, it is capable, as is apparent on Mr. Thompson's farm, of producing remunerating crops. The turnips consisted of Purple-top and Laing's improved, drilled in rows about 27 inches asunder. The whole of the ground had been manured with farm yard dung—about 40 cart loads to the acre, with about 250 lbs. of Guano in one part, and 8 bushels of fire Bone-dust in another. The difference was not very perceptible but the bones seemed to have increased the growth of the tops. From some cause or other the plants did not come up thick enough, consequently there were numerous blanks—so much so as to diminish the crop—probably 25 per cent.; 25 feet square yielded 10 bushels, being at the rate of 700 bushels per acre. The crop proved much better than mere appearance indicated. The seed was sown too thin, only 1 lb. to the acre. We would generally recommend 2 lbs. per acre, at the least.

8. Captain Shaw, Toronto. The field lies near Trinity College, consisting of a rich, sandy loam, the lower part rather wet. It was manured with farm yard dung, about 35 cart loads per acre, and sown in drills 24 inches apart on June 7th, with the Purple-top kind. The whole appeared all but perfectly uniform, with scarcely a blank worth mentioning. Every thing evincing the most skillful and attentive management.

The first average taken, yielding only a peck over that of Mr. Gamble's, we were induced to try two others with the following results:—

1. 25 feet square—12 bushels; at rate of 892 bushels per acre.

2. 25 feet square—14 bushels at rate of 1015 bushels per acre.

3. 25 feet square—13 bushels; at a rate of 945 bushels per acre.

9. R. A. Goodenough, Toronto. Soil a strong loam resting on clay, highly manured the previous year, and cultivated in the most thorough and perfect manner. Purple-top and a few of Laing's improved sown in rows 33 inches apart the last week in June, and nicely set out in the drills at wide and uniform distances. Everything denoted that no labor or expense had been spared, and to appearance the crop looked remarkably luxuriant.—the tops being green, juicy and growing. It was a pattern of neat and exact cultivation. There were no blanks worth noticing, and the whole crop was evidently so uniform as to render a choice for an average a matter of indifference. We selected two, which yielded as follows:—