

SIBERIAN SPRING WHEAT.

It gives us great pleasure in being able to announce to the friends of Agricultural improvement, that the above justly celebrated variety of wheat may be had in almost any desirable quantity for the purpose of seed, in the town of Peterborough and vicinity. We are also happy to notice that it may be had on very reasonable terms, considering that it has been so recently introduced in the country, and that no two opinions exist in regard to its superiority over the common varieties generally sown. If the difference between the Siberian, and the common varieties, be as great as that which very competent judges have asserted, we shall consider that if we be the means, through our Journal, of generally introducing it throughout the entire breadth of the populated portions of the country, that a lasting benefit will thus be conferred upon the cultivators whose interests we ostensibly advocate and promote. Indeed, we are so sanguine on this point that we entertain the opinion, that from this one benefit alone will the country be amply remunerated, for all the exertions which have been put forth, by the few patriotic individuals who have so nobly came forward to advance Agricultural improvements in this Province.

The writer of the following letter has sent us a sample of the wheat in question, which is equal, if not superior, to that owned by the "King Farmer,"—we have exhibited it in this market to the largest wheat buyers in the District, all of whom have declared that it would command as high a price as the very best quality of winter wheat, and would answer well to mix with it for flowering purpose, to ship to England. Let this be as it may, one thing is certain, that if thirty bushels of Spring wheat can be grown per acre for years in succession, it will very shortly diminish the growing of winter wheat. The accompanying testimony is conclusive proof of its adaptation to the climate and soil of the country.

We have frequently known forty bushels of spring wheat grown per acre, in peculiarly favourable circumstances, but we have never seen a sample so bright and so bold as the two which we have inspected of this variety. Agricultural Societies from one end of the Province to the other, would do wisely to purchase a number of bushels of the Siberian Spring wheat from our respected correspondent and appoint an agent to sell it out to the farmers in their respective Districts, at a price that would barely secure the return of the amount expended, to the Treasurer of the Society. If one individual could furnish five hundred bushels for a price less than a dollar per bushel, we should think that by a little extra exertion on his part, double this quantity might be had to supply the demand for the article. The officers of Agricultural Societies will, we trust, act upon the principle of adopting some expeditious and effective method of spreading this valuable wheat throughout their several fields of operation. A correspondence might be entered into at once with Mr. Knowlson, who would no doubt inform them to the extent, that orders might be supplied, and other facts connected with the crops of the Siberian, grown in that neighbourhood. In due time we shall give our opinions on the mode of managing land, to ensure a good crop of Spring Wheat, but in the mean time we would say that some of the essential features of the plan which we would propose will be found to accord with the practice of our esteemed correspondent. We have written for forty bushels of the Siberian, which we will require for our own particular use. If we could form an opinion from the many

letters and enquires that we have received from various parts of the Province in relation to this variety we would judge that the whole 500 bushels would be disposed of in the course of two months.

N. B. As we frequently receive letters, the writers of which forget to pay the postage, we would take this opportunity to state that those who write to Mr. Knowlson on the subject of his Wheat, would do wisely to pay their own postage; and if they neglect to perform this piece of good breeding, Mr. K. would also do wisely to return their letters under cover, though subjecting them to double postage.

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CAVANILLE, 27th Dec., 1843.

Sir,—Having observed in the *Cultivator* for the current month, that you are desirous of obtaining the names of persons who are in possession of a quantity of the *Siberian Spring Wheat*, I take the liberty to say that I would furnish five hundred bushels of it, which I could engage to be pure. I could deliver it at Port Hope at any time during the present winter, and at a price something lower than what you seem to think it is worth.

I have grown no other kind of Wheat the two last seasons. I have found it to suit every kind of soil, and from the crop reaped the past season, I became so convinced of its superiority over any other kind of Spring Wheat that I have seen, that I determined upon sowing no winter Wheat the past autumn, although I had several acres on my farm, which I had summer fallowed and prepared for that purpose. I have reserved it all for the Siberian, with which I intend sowing it in the spring. I have had thirty bushels to the acre on a light soil, that I should have considered too poor for almost any other crop. It is remarkable generally for plumpness, and is always heavy and thin in the skin. The land for its reception should be prepared in the autumn, and as far as my experience teaches me, it appears that it is a matter of little consequence whether the land is ploughed in the spring before sowing or not—it cannot be sown too early, and should never be allowed to get fully ripe before it is cut. The only objection that I know of that can be urged against the Siberian Wheat is that of the straw being less nutritious for fodder than that of other W heats.

I remain, dear Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. KNOWLSON.

ST. CLAIR AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

A letter under date 2nd January, from the corresponding Secretary of the above Society, came duly to hand, the purport of which we beg to offer a few remarks. It appears that this Society has been established and mainly supported by gentlemen who are not really Agriculturists, and that the farmers themselves, as a community, feel little or no interest as yet, in the prosperity and movements of the Society. It is a lamentable fact, that the same influence which operates so prejudicially against the prosperity of the "St. Clair" Society is very prevalent throughout our land. There is scarcely a Society established for the promotion of Agricultural improvement, but what mainly owes its existence and support to the exertions and influence of merchants, gentry, and others, who are not directly connected with Agricultural pursuits. If the Canadian farmers are behind the age in their mode of farm management, and their noble calling is productive of less

profits than other less honourable pursuits,—the cause must be attributed solely to negligence and the want of enterprise so notoriously manifested by the practical farmers. The Canadian husbandmen are only just opening their eyes to their true interests, and as there is a fair prospect of almost immediate improvement in Agricultural matters, we shall not chide our brother farmers for their past errors, but would rather praise them for every act worthy of eulogy, and point out ways and means for further amendment. The "St. Clair" Agricultural Society, as well as many others, have adopted the proper course to induce the farmers from the highest to the lowest in their circles of influence, to not only become Members, but active Members of their Society. They have placed the annual subscription so low, that none could possibly urge the scarcity of money as an excuse for not subscribing—and have also adopted the plan of subscribing for as many copies of *The British American Cultivator*, as their are Members to the Society. The information that this medium of communication will convey to the individual Members of the Society, and the several Members of their respective families, will be far more lastingly valuable than any premiums they may receive at the exhibitions. The information communicated through the journal, and the Agricultural premiums awarded at the periodical Shows, should go hand in hand in creating and advancing a stimulus for Agricultural improvement. In conclusion, the "St. Clair" Agricultural Society, have our warmest wishes for their future prosperity, and we would only add, by way of suggestion, that if the officers would purchase as many bushels of Siberian Spring Wheat, from the parties mentioned on another page of this Number, as there are Members to the Society, and sell a bushel to each, at a price that would ensure the return of the money to the treasurer, before the next exhibition, they would thus give conclusive evidence of the great importance of Agriculturists becoming Members of such Associations.

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MARKHAM VILLAGE.—While in the act of recording the sentiments of our esteemed friend of Port Sarnia, our Agent, Mr. Wm. Ketchum of Markham, called at our private residence, and informed us that the inhabitants of the above village had clubbed together and subscribed through him for forty copies of the *Cultivator*. The citizens of Toronto have already done more to support our efforts than the farmers in any individual District in the Province—and there are but few Townships that have exceeded the number subscribed by the villagers of Markham. We should think that the farmers who have not yet subscribed for an Agricultural paper would question their own judgment, and enquire the cause of so much interest being felt in the prosperity of Agricultural pursuits, by professional men, merchants, and mechanics, when, at the same time, so much indifference is manifested by themselves in the prosperity of their own exalted and noble calling.