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## Editorial, &c.

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### HINTS FOR THE MONTH.

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The early part of September, as every farmer knows, is the season specially devoted in Upper Canada to the sowing of fall wheat. Experience has proved that wheat sown either during the last days of August, or from the 1st to the 15th of September, stands a better chance, in an average of seasons, of escaping from winter killing, rust, &c., and of producing a better crop, in our climate, than that sown at a later period. In certain seasons wheat has succeeded equally well sown from the 15th to the 25th of September, but after the last mentioned date, the operation becomes a hazardous one, and all observation goes to show that the earlier mentioned date is the safer. All practical farmers are so well acquainted with the usual modes of putting in this grain, that to enter minutely into details would be superfluous. We may, however, give a few practical hints for the guidance of the inexperienced, of whom there is always a greater or less number conducting farming operations in this country.

We will suppose that the fallow has already received the final seed furrow, or that it is prepared, by having been thoroughly ploughed and cultivated to a good depth, during summer, for that operation. In the latter case, on clays or strong loams, and if undrained, as of course, all land with very trifling exceptions still is in Canada, the next required process is to turn up the soil, with a moderately light furrow, in ridges of not more than three or four yards in breadth, tolerably well rounded in the centre, and with the open furrows between the ridges cleanly cut out. The plough should be so held that each furrow will fall somewhat upon its edge, leaving the surface of the ridge well ribbed, so that the wheat may fall into the seams, and come up in drills, somewhat as if sown by a grain drill. This is of course in case the latter named implement is not intended to be used, in which case the nicety of the ribbing is not of consequence. On light or sandy soils the ridges may be of a

greater breadth than that above named, and on thorough drained land, where such improvement has been effected, the ridging may be dispensed with altogether, and the whole surface ploughed flat.

The next matter of importance, although it should of course have been attended to before the moment at which it is required for actual use, is the selection of the seed. None but the purest and of the best variety and quality should be used. Amongst the varieties in most popular use at present, we may mention the Hutchison, the Blue-stem, Soule's, the Mediterranean, Whiteflint, and a Red Chaff, white wheat, of which we do not recollect the precise designation. The two first named are productive, ripen in good time, yield a plump berry, and weigh well in the half bushel, but are not favorites with some of the millers as to their grinding qualities. Soule's is a favorite variety with those who have tried it, early ripening and productive. The "Mediterranean" is a red wheat, hardy, and may be recommended for the poorer class of lands. The "Whiteflint" is a good variety, and of excellent flouring qualities, but requires to be sown in good time to avoid rust. The "Red Chaff" has taken several of the large prizes for 25 bushels at the Provincial Shows, and generally produces a good sample.

If the seed is perfectly pure and free from smut, it may be sown in its natural condition, without any preparation. If otherwise, the seed should first be thoroughly cleaned and sifted, and then, if smutty, treated with a dilution of sulphuric acid, blue stone, arsenic, urine, common ley or other material of the sort. Such operations should be carefully performed, lest the vitality of the grain be destroyed. A common and efficacious preparation is to soak the seed in strong brine made from common salt for 12 or 24 hours, and then after draining, dry it well in plaster of Paris.

Everything being prepared, the wheat may be sown at the rate of one to one and a half bushels per acre on new or fresh land, and one and a half to two bushels, on older fields. That is, if sown broadcast by hand. If sown by the grain drill, which is every year coming into