

J. Kennedy

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SEED GRAIN.

There is no part of our general prosperity more shamefully neglected than this subject. We as farmers pay a heavy tax for the support of highly paid officers for an Agricultural Hall; for Lecturers, Professors, Secretaries; for Provincial and County Exhibitions; for an expensive library costing us \$60 for a single volume; for establishing of What-Nots for sending a disgraceful lot of old stuffed hawks, and a lot of cumbrous rubbish to Paris to pay all these high salaries. Yes salaries from \$1000 to \$5000, in every County, besides the whole machinery of Government. It is the farmers that have to suffer the loss of all the money squandered on the G. T. R. R., and all that will be required for the Intercolonial Railroad. Many of you think these losses fall on foreign capitalists. Be not deceived. We give you such facts as you cannot deny, if you look to the foundation. Those living in the most remote spot in the Dominion are taxed to support the *Canada Farmer*, issued in Toronto. It is the duty of the manager of that paper, and the Board of Agriculture there to watch and look out for seeds, and let us know about them. Have they done so?

We know that we cannot continue to grow the same varieties of wheat in Canada, year after year as they do in Europe. The climate appears to affect peculiarly our wheat plant. It generally takes a few years to become acclimated, remains in perfection a few years, then gradually decreases in value. If you look through the country you can easily detect the

farmer that changes his seed from the one who does not. The former will be found with money to spare, while the latter that keeps to old varieties, and takes no agricultural paper will be found poorer, more ignorant, and more prejudiced.

From experience we find it absolutely necessary to import fresh seed from other countries. It is not necessary to bring large quantities but varieties, and to give them a fair trial. We have tried some kinds and condemn them, other varieties we have found worthy of cultivation. We have written and sent to various places for information about wheat, and paid particular attention to crops raised in various parts of the country, and from the observations we have made, we find that in some parts of the country wheat can be raised profitably, while in other parts the same grain would be ruinous to the persons raising it. For instance about the Georgian Bay, the Morden, Siberian, Club, and Golden Drop are raised, and yield good crops, and are excellent samples, while in this vicinity we have not been able to raise them with profit. For the past two years the Chilian and Rio Grande are the only varieties that have yielded paying crops.

THE CHILIAN WHEAT,

Is found in various parts of Canada, but passing under different names, such as the Barley wheat, because it has a very heavy beard and resembles that crop when growing. In some localities it is called Platt's Midge Proof wheat, because raised by a person of that name. By some it is called the California wheat, by others Rice wheat, and goodness only knows how

many more. We first bought some under the name of Rice wheat, but we did not consider it worth cultivating. We find others that did not then approve of it now highly taken up with it, because it stands against the effects of the midge, and has yielded better than other varieties. It is a very nice, clear looking sample, but the millers do not like it, being hard and flinty, and the color of the flour is yellower than from other wheat. Still, bread is what people want, and such is the demand for it that we cannot get sufficient supply. We were asked \$3 50 per bushel for a most miserable and dirty sample—the only sample we have rejected and we have advertised for it for three months. Our supply is nearly all exhausted, and if we fail to get more this Spring, we shall not be able to supply others that require it. We sold some in January at a small profit for \$2 50, per bushel, now we cannot sell it under \$3 25. We have accounts of it yielding from 16 to 40 bushels per acre.

THE RIO GRANDE WHEAT

We consider the next best variety to sow for a crop, and if quality is to be considered it far surpasses the Chilian. We have accounts of this wheat yielding from twelve to thirty bushels per acre, even where the midge has destroyed other varieties adjoining it. It is a bearded variety, long in head, finer in the straw and darker in color than the Chilian. It is a good milling wheat, and there is but little of it raised in this section. We are procuring a supply from Mr S. White, one of the Reeves of Kent—a good sample, and paying \$2 25 per bushel for it, before