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The Egyptian or Eldorado Wheat.

Many persons have called upon us, and many have written to us enquiring about the Eldorado wheat. Some accounts of it have been received that have been most laudatory, others have condemned it. So conflicting were the accounts about it, and so many enquiries, that we concluded to go to where it was raised and find out the fact in regard to it. We went to Thornbury, in the county of Grey, and saw the farmers where it had been raised, and conversed with those who were in favor of it, and with some who objected to the mode of handling it. The origin, from what we can learn, was, that Mr. J. Smith, of Collingwood, received from a traveling friend of his one head of this wheat about eight years ago; he raised the wheat in the spring, but it did not come to much; he continued sowing it, and it improved; he had it nearly all destroyed by cattle one year. A Toronto seedsmen three years ago agreed to take it all, but the bargain was not legally binding. A young American, who had for years been dealing in seed wheat, saw a head of it at one of our exhibitions; he instigated inquiries, purchased Mr. Smith's entire stock, and paid him \$5 per bushel for it. He formed a compact or company, and had the wheat sown in different parts of Canada; the company supplied the wheat and gave the farmer \$1 per bushel for the crop. From Thornbury they have shipped seven car loads of this wheat. The grain is plump, large, and as white as any white fall wheat. The crop has yielded from 18 to 25 bushels this year; in some localities it may have given 10 bushels over, in others 10 bushels under this. The farmers around Thornbury appeared anxious to procure it, but few would be willing to pay such a high price as this company have put on it, namely, \$12 per bushel in lots of not less than five bushels. The purchaser also has to sign papers

that he will maintain the price next year. We hear the expected price for next year is to be \$6 per bushel. This company takes 20 per cent. off when cash payments are made. Of course, \$60 under a bond to procure a seed grain, appears to most farmers a fearful price; only wealthy farmers could afford to risk such a sum. If the wheat could be relied upon to yield as well in all parts as it has done in Thornbury for the past three years, it would pay to give even that price for it; but the results of last year hardly justify such an expectation, as one piece sown near St. Catharines was not worth cutting, and some sown near Grimsby was only a poor sample. Of course the season was most unfavorable. In Peel, York and Ontario it did well; in Kent and Lambton it did not succeed; in some localities where it proved successful we hear of some farmers purchasing 25, 50, 100 bushels and some even more than that to sow this spring. There will be 5,000 bushels of this wheat sown this spring. Those having control of this wheat expect to sell it next season in the States.

This wheat is not a new variety, but it appears to have had some change in its nature, productiveness or mode of handling that has caused it to obtain its present position. Whether deserving or not another season will tell. It is undoubtedly a spring grain; this fact many millers and farmers will doubt when they see it. We do not feel justified in commending our readers to invest this year; the price is too high, the quantity too much, and a bond to maintain a fixed price next season is not what farmers want. Still, there are speculators who are ready to risk; let them do so. There have been two law-suits in regard to the right to this wheat, and the American has gained them both. It is most probable there will be more, as many farmers have stolen heads, sheaves, and sometimes more. It can yet be ascertained if people come by it honestly, as we have only heard of two persons that had any, except the stock purchased by Mr. Andrus, and they were only small lots.

W. P. Andrus, of Toronto and Buffalo, is the principal holder of this wheat. Those who have sown it on light lands have found it would not answer. Those who have good heavy wheat land are the persons that laud the wheat.

W. H. Howland, the largest exporter of flour in Ontario, procured two and a half pounds last year; he had it sown in the middle of a 15 acre field of oats, near the Credit, 12 miles west of Toronto. The wheat yielded much better than any other in that locality.

Mr. John Nelson, of the firm of Nelson & Delaporte, of Toronto, had 50 acres sown in Scarborough; this also yielded most astonishingly. These gentlemen are well known, and both speak highly of it. The wheat appears to be adapted to strong clay soils, as we find the good reports come from those having such land, and poor reports from those who have light sandy soils.

Grumbler's Wheat.

Some farmers have complained to us about the communication which appeared in our last issue under the heading of "Danger Ahead," because the article condemned the Farrow or Red Chaff wheat. One farmer stopped his paper on account of it; we presume he was intending to sell his wheat for seed. Farmers say that millers complain about new wheats; that time improves wheat by raising it in Canada; that Mediterranean wheat was not well liked by millers at first, it improves in quality very soon after its introduction. Also, the Fife wheat was not as good as other spring wheats when it was first introduced; two or three years improved both these varieties. On the other hand, the Chilian or Rice wheat was always condemned by millers, is still, and we believe it always will be. The Farrow or Red Chaff wheat has been raised in Canada for eight years, perhaps twice that length of time. Millers inform us that it has not improved in quality, and they do not believe it ever will make a good wheat. We enquired of Mr. Howland, of Toronto, who is the largest exporter of flour in Ontario, and he corroborates the statements made in the article referred to, and says he will not purchase the wheat when he can possibly evade it, even when mixed with large lots of other wheat. He says it is not worth as much as other spring wheat by 10 cents per bushel. Some farmers say it has yielded well, and they would rather sow it even if it should be worth 10 cents per bushel less. That may be right enough, there will be grumblers that do not want the truth to be known; we can only pity such. Fact and truth are what are wanted.

The Agricultural Investment and Loan Society.

This society held its fifth annual meeting in this city, on the 14th of February. There was a large attendance of stockholders, and all were highly pleased with the reported increase of the business done. In 1873 the amount paid on stock was \$74,754.92, in '76, \$350,691. The savings bank deposits and loans had increased in about the same proportion; eight per cent. interest had been paid, and \$6,429 added to the reserve fund. All the stockholders were entirely satisfied with the management. The business is done in an economical and yet efficient manner. John A. Roe is the manager; he is always ready to give information personally or by letter.

There are some monetary institutions in Canada in which farmers invest their surplus cash, but time will show that there is a difference. We do not wish to encourage farmers to impoverish or neglect improvements on their farms, or the education of their children, or the comforts of life, to put money in any of these institutions. We know some farmers are too miserly already, but judicious farmers require a little cash at command. There is no worse place to keep it than about their persons or in their houses.