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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

"PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED."

VOL. X. { WILLIAM WELD, Editor & Proprietor. }

LONDON, ONT., FEBRUARY, 1875.

{ \$1 Per Annum, Postage Prepaid. } NO. 2
{ Office—Dundas-St., Opp. City Hotel. }

Caution! Caution!

Can you give me any information regarding the Hulless or Bohemian oats. There has been a person round here selling Hulless oats at \$10 a bushel, and binding the parties purchasing them to supply him with the whole of the crop at \$6 a bushel.

R. GRAYSON, Mannheim.

We would not advise any one to invest in this speculation. The grain you may pay for and receive, but the crop you raise will not so readily be disposed of. The advantage this variety possesses over other oats in having no hull will be found quite counterbalanced by the good qualities possessed by other oats.

You need not expect to dispose of the crop you raise, except to feed your stock with. Before bul-ling mills were brought to their present perfection they might have been valuable; even now, where persons live a long distance from the market of the world, like Robinson Crusoe, they might be valuable, but at \$10 per bushel here you will not see your money back. At least, this is our impression. We may, through ignorance, have introduced to our subscribers some things that may not have been of advantage. The Hulless oats have been in our establishment, but we considered them of no advantage to our supporters, or we should have offered them to the public.

We know that able salesmen can sell anything; we know thousands of farmers have been wronged by these able talkers, and we believe some system should be adopted to lessen these travelling salesmen. We know that sales are sometimes effected under false pretensions and misrepresentations.

Seed Wheat.

In our last issue we promised the readers of this journal the cut of a variety of new wheat. The accompanying engraving is taken from a head of wheat, of which we have several similar samples in our office, and is the exact size. We know many will think this the Rio Grand, Red River, or McCarling Wheat, but the grain is totally different, being much shorter and of a superior quality. It is about two-thirds the length of the other grain, having a similar head. If any of our readers have seen or know of such grain, or anything about it, we should like to hear from them. Let them send us a postal card.

We are having another head of grain engraved for the next issue of the *ADVOCATE*, and as we hope to publish early next month, there will be ample time for you to have your seed for sowing. We do not contemplate giving you a large variety, but we wish to supply you with a new and valuable kind. Your general stock of seeds you can procure in your own localities. Mr. Child, of this city, will have a fine new collection, and we think that he is a reliable and deserving person. Messrs. Bruce & Bros., of Hamilton, have just gone into their new establishment. They are well known. Messrs. Steel Bros., of Toronto, have their advertisement in this paper, and are importing a good stock. Mr. Marcon, of Guelph, will also supply the demand near Guelph. Mr. Vick, of Rochester, is well known to most of you for his choice flowers. P. Henderson comes out with a beautiful catalogue in which are numerous handsome colored plates. By referring to the advertisements you will find your requirements, all ready to be supplied to you. We shall be ready next month with some kinds of seeds that will be of much value to you.

Manures—When to Apply Them.

All are acquainted with the fertility of the virgin soil of Canada. When the land is first brought under cultivation, there is no need of manures; no thought then enters the mind of the farmer of increasing its fertility, in order that it may bring forth abundantly. So much is this the case that its state of productiveness has been abused, and, as if this fertility could not be exhausted, it has been made to yield, without intermission, successive crops of grain for many years.

But as all crops, though they absorb much of their nutriment from the atmosphere, draw largely from the soil the greater portion of their food, it is evident that in order that the soil retain fertility, those elements drawn from it must be restored, if its productiveness is to be maintained. Hence the necessity of liberal supplies of manure.

So much is the success of agriculture found to depend on manure that the market of commercial fertilizers has become one of the most important in England. Her ships homeward bound bear fertilizers from every quarter of the globe—woolen rags from the continent of Europe, guano from the Islands of Peru, bones from every land, and the many other commercial fertilizers from east, west, north and south, wherever they are to be obtained. But most suitable for every soil and crop, the best fertilizer is organic manure, the product of the farm itself.

Guano, sulphate of ammonia, nitrate of soda, phosphate of lime and many others are extensively used, but it is to supplement the manure made from the farm products. Let us prepare with due care and use, so as to produce the greatest profit on organic manures, before we have recourse to commercial fertilizers. At the head of our manures is that of the farmyard. It contains within itself, more than any other, the elements needed to ensure abundant produce. The principal element of which it is composed, and which

greatly enhances the value of others, is that which seems to have been intended by nature for the renovating of the soil—animal excretions. All vegetable matter, as straw, hay, &c., when decomposed, form manure, and when mixed with the excreta, as in litter, add to the quantity of the manure heap without detracting from its productive value.

The making or saving of this manure is to the farmer a matter of great moment, as on this much of its value depends. It is necessary that it be decomposed equally throughout, that it be not deprived of the ammonia by evaporation, and that it lose not its salts by unnecessary exposure to the rain. Not only does the fertilizing power of the manure heap depend in a great degree on the saving and preparation, but the animal excretions, the most valuable among the manures, differ much in real value.

The richer the food of the animal has been, by so much are the excretions richer. Scrapings of yards, and muck that has been some time exposed to the air, and offal of various kinds are all valuable adjuncts to the manure heap, and the elements of fertility they contain, when made available by the composting with the excretions, will do much to make up the elements of fertility of which the soil has been deprived. It is well for us to bear in mind that manure must be decomposed, and the salts brought into such a state that they will be available to the growing crops for food, and that in the manure heap the primary part of this decomposition is effected. The richer its component parts, the sooner and the more thorough will be the heating, fermenting, and decomposing of the manure, and we should therefore have them as rich as possible. The excretions tend to this fermenting more than any other, and, we repeat, the well-fed animals give the richest excretion.

Of the organic manures, another one of very great value to the farmer is lime. It has been doubted by some if lime be in itself really a fertilizer, but as it is known that it enters largely into the composition of all plants, we can entertain no doubt on the subject. We know that it is in vain to expect good crops of wheat if there be not lime in the soil, and the quality, not only of grain, but also of potatoes, is better from the land to which lime is applied. But lime, as a manure, we intend to consider in a future number.

We would now refer briefly to the best time of applying manure; and hope our few remarks on the subject will lead many of our readers to consider the matter more attentively, and that some will, through the *ADVOCATE*, give the results of their experience of the comparative advantages of fall and spring manuring. There are differences of opinion on the subject, and it is a question on which the experience of the farmer must bear stronger testimony than any arguments drawn from science; and as the value of manure to the producer is of the greatest importance, we should know how we can obtain the best results from this, one of the most important products of the farm.

Though the winter season is generally the principal time for making manure, it should at all times of the year have a claim on the attention of the farmer. The manure that we now write of, regarding the time for applying, is what is made after that of the winter has been applied. Is it more advantageous to apply it in the fall, or to prepare

