

Prizes at the Grain Show in Charlottetown, P. E. I.

We are apt to boast in Ontario of our soil and climate, as being the Garden of the Dominion, and we are not without some grounds for our boasting. Our grain is good, as a rule, superior to that grown south of our borders; our wheat, oats and barley are plumper and heavier; in corn only is the yield of their fields greater than that of our's. If we had entertained the opinion that Ontario stands alone in the Dominion in this pre-eminence, the reports we receive from time to time of the quality and yield of grain in the other provinces, have undeceived us. We did not expect to meet with such returns from the maritime provinces as we have lately met with. As we read of the severe winter in the countries lying in or contiguous to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, we little thought that their wheat and oats (and they not of any improved varieties) would weigh respectively 64½ lbs. and 45 lbs.; yet so it is.

In our exchanges of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (the *Examiner* and the *Patriot*) we have the list of prizes at the Grain Show for Queen's County, on March 12th, from which we make the following extract:

WHEAT.—Best two bushels, 64½; 2nd best do, 64½; 3rd best do, 64½.

OATS.—Best two bushels (black), 45 lbs. per bush.; 2nd best do do, 44½ lbs.; 3rd best do do, 44 lbs. Best two bushels Norway, 40 lbs. Best two bushels white, 46½ lbs.; 2nd best do do, 45 lbs.

BARLEY.—Best two bushels two-rowed, 56½ lbs.; 2nd best do do, 54½ lbs. Best two bushels four-rowed, 53½ lbs.; 2nd best do do, 52½ lbs.

The prize grain was sold at auction.

WHEAT.—\$3 per bush.

OATS.—\$2.30 to \$2.75 for black; \$1 for Norway; \$1.10 to \$1.20 for white oats of first prize; \$1.10 for 2nd prize.

BARLEY.—Two-rowed, \$2; Four-rowed, \$1.10 to \$1.25.

Good prices for seed not of improved varieties! The islanders know that only from good seed can they hope to produce large yields and of good qualities. —S.

Change of Seed.

Our intelligent farmers do not require to be told that grain sown continuously in the same locality, or in similar soil, degenerates after a short time, and that we must change our seed in order to have good produce, and that of a good quality. Even if we could, without a change of seed, have a heavy crop, still to have that crop of a superior quality, the change of seed is necessary. We need not enquire why this is. Experience assures us of the fact. However, sometimes we have to be reminded frequently of the existence of the plainest facts. Some other things absorb our attention, and the additional trouble and expense to be incurred we sometimes plead to ourselves as a sufficient apology for not doing what we know to be for our ultimate profit.

We have noticed in one of our exchanges a letter from the well known and extensive millers, Messrs Gibbs, of Oshawa, a good authority on the quality of wheat, from which we take the following extracts:—

"We desire to avail ourselves of your columns for the purpose of calling the attention of the farmers and agricultural societies of this and adjoining counties to the consideration of some facts, which, as millers and produce dealers, have come under our observation since last harvest, and which we deem of sufficient importance to place before them.

"It is well known flour manufactured from Fife Wheat, grown in this county, has for years past obtained a reputation for its strength if not for its color, and where this grade of flour is in demand, it has been eagerly sought after at relatively high prices. This has enabled our farmers to realize and our millers to pay the highest prices in the Pro-

vince of Ontario for the Fife Wheat sold in this and the adjoining markets. The quality of this wheat has induced mills from other sections to compete for its purchase, and they have been enabled to supply the demand for strong flour better than by grinding wheat grown in other parts of the province. We regret to say that we can no longer claim this superiority for our Fife Wheat. If some remedy is not devised at once, and the wheat grown this year should not prove better than that of 1874, we fear our past reputation will be borne by more successful competitors in the race for producing a superior brand of strong spring wheat flour.

"Whether from climatic or other causes, the Fife Wheat grown last year in the northern portions of this county is superior, for the first time, to that grown in the south. We would urge our farmers not to grow Club Wheat, and would strongly recommend its disuse whenever practicable. The proportion grown is small, it is true, but has increased largely during the past two years; but even a small percentage mixed with Fife in grinding depreciates the character of the flour, and deters purchasers, even at reduced prices. In some portions of the country, dealers, last autumn, advertised in the Toronto dailies that this grade of wheat would only be bought at a reduction of five cents a bushel from the price of Fife Wheat. Even at this reduction, until the markets of the United States (where color is in more estimation than strength) are thrown open to our flour, few of our millers desire to purchase it if it could be avoided.

"Millers on the shore of Lake Ontario discovered last fall that flour produced from wheat grown in the Western States had displaced theirs in the Montreal market, excelling it not only in color, as it had always done, but also in strength, which it had never previously done. Not being practical agriculturists, we are not prepared to advance opinions as to what causes have produced the results referred to, and only now state them in the hope that, if possible, the subject may be taken up and a remedy applied. It may be that our Fife Wheat is degenerating in quality, and that the seed should be changed more frequently. Whether this is correct or not, the fact remains that the wheat grown in 1874 does not possess the quality of former years."

The Messrs. Gibbs, though not "practical agriculturists," have arrived at the conclusion that practical agriculturists have, we may say without exception, come to. The flour made from Fife Wheat was for many years of the highest quality, and, in part, at least, from the superior quality of this variety, Canadian flour obtained and held a high reputation. This wheat maintained its character for a long time, but that time has passed away, and the wheat from the Western States, hitherto inferior to that of Canada, is now a competitor with her in her own markets. Is it not time for us to ask why this change?

The estimated average of wheat per acre is low. It is given by the Bureau of Agriculture, 18½ bushels for fall wheat, and 16½ for spring wheat. To ensure a higher yield and to regain the reputation our wheat had borne, nothing is more absolutely necessary than selecting the very best seed to be procured. —S.

Sowing Grass Seeds in May.

REPLY TO INQUIRER.

How shall I sow grass seeds so as best to obtain a good growth and have a good pasture? Will May be too late for sowing the seed? May I expect a good return from barley or oats sown in that month, and will the young grass growing up among the late sown grain be apt to make the yield lighter or otherwise?

In sowing grasses, as in other farming pursuits, we must be guided greatly by experience. 'Tis true, even experience may inculcate lessons that will sometimes mislead us, and many professing to be guided by experience differ very much from one another in many operations of the farm. "Inquirer" need not be reminded that the grasses are generally sown in this country in the fall; September or October is preferred. When the ground is mellow and fresh, the seed sown is likely

to germinate better. If sown in the winter, the soil is not in so good order; however, sowing grass seeds on the snow is generally practiced. The freezing and thawing cover the seeds sufficiently, and the general continuance of sowing grass seeds in this manner is a strong argument in its favor. Were it unsuccessful it would be soon discontinued. The January thaw and the final thaw, generally accompanied by soft rains, are greatly in favor of the young, tender plants.

In the home country we generally sowed our grass seeds in spring, the latter part of March, throughout April, or early in May. We always sowed it when the soil was fresh and mellow. We sometimes sowed early in autumn, when laying down with a rape crop. But the climates of the two countries are so different that in this matter we must not take their practice as our guide. There the climate is damp—even their summer is often so; here we have to guard against the greater heat and drought. Notwithstanding this general drought, the probabilities are in favor of grass seeds sown not later than the first week in May.

The ground must be in good condition, fine and mellow, and while it is fresh, immediately after the harrowing in of the grain crop, sow the grass seeds, covering lightly by harrowing with a bush-harrow and then rolling. It is of the greatest importance to sow seed when the ground is fresh, still damp from the previous tilling. This moisture is the greatest help to the germination of the seed. The soil should not only be moist, it should be rich. Grass seeds cannot do well in an impoverished soil.

The young grasses and clover plants will not cause the grain crop to be lighter. On the contrary, their shading the ground will have the effect of keeping the ground moister than it would be otherwise, and by this means the grain crop will be less affected by the drought, and the kernels will be plumper and better filled, and there will be a heavier yield.

Grasses do better sowed with barley than oats; barley does not lodge so much, so the young plants are not so apt to be smothered, and barley is the least-scouring of all the cereals. —S.

What Preparation Shall We Make for Winter Food for Our Stock?

This question is a very important one. The answer must depend somewhat on locality, but it is one on which the farmer must come to some decision, and now, on the eve of May, there is no longer time for hesitation. We have learned that to bring our stock well through the winter, we must have not only a sufficient supply of dry fodder, but it is necessary to have a store of more succulent food provided for the long, hard months when cattle are dependent for their whole support on the farmer's provident care. For young, growing stock roots are as valuable as for milch cows or stock preparing for the shambles. And not only for our horned stock is it necessary to have roots for the winter. We need them for all the stock of the farm. Sheep require roots in winter; they form a valuable addition to the feed of our horses, good for their condition and health. And they add no little to the means of increasing our profits from the piggery.

What preparation, then, shall we make for winter food for our stock? What roots shall we raise? The great root crop—in many instances the only one—that we have raised for our stock is turnips, though we have not raised them as much as we ought. With us it has been comparatively a plant of recent introduction. We have had too much to do in clearing our farms, in bringing them into cultivation, and in growing such crops as would bring immediate and certain returns, to be

trying what might seem to be the best conditions in agriculture. heart, and the improvement present themselves to us as we have since found besides, another object of expense in stock feeding and mutton were sold at butter at 10 to 12 cents a case; we have now better, and our stock is stowed on it. We root crops.

Shall we continue to staple of our root crop most exclusively, and as we have done? Its great value. We yields so much good labor. It has been felt on the farm. In England which agriculture has state of excellence; and fitted by it even in the it a very uncertain crop many obstacles to continuing sowing there may be a not altogether prevent if it escape this danger destroyed by the dreaded drought and may prevent the crop one. Of this we had In the crop returns for the Commissioner of 4 turn given is one of 70 portionable number are The report, not a solid places almost a failure, sects"—tells us of the crop. Still we cannot uncertainty. There place in every respect, nip must be a partial

Mangolds and Kohl for winter feed—both keepers. Of the gro we have had many years equal to the turnip feed cows it is better, produced and not communicable. With grain added, it fattening hogs. Much owing to its saccharine very rich. We have to fail as the turnip, and in the drills, they can from spots where the Mangolds and beets be The returns of the yie cultural Reports are those of the turnip crop (S. Grey) reports an quality very good," a crops. Would it not to consideration, to so golds?

Carrots should also quantities, as part of especially, they are ties; and they are not serve to keep in good food they form a part for oats, but when ca oats used is less, and with high spirits, his pearance that indicat