

One feature, perhaps, you will be somewhat surprised at, viz., the quantity of turnips raised. In British husbandry, as you are aware, this esculent is an essential. But even in our climate, with a long cold winter, we have many farmers, principally however, natives of Great Britain, who raise annually from 1000 to 5000 bushels of turnips, which are used for feeding cattle intended for beef.

The farms are severally owned by Messrs. Ferguson, Rankin & Co., Bathurst, and Francis Ferguson, Esq., St. Johns.

First—Village farm contains 334 acres cleared land, well fenced, and without a stump, besides about 50 acres pasture land, partially cleared, but not fit for the plow. The bulk of the land has been reclaimed from the wilderness within the last fourteen years. The quantity under crop in 1859, was 136 acres, from which were

300 bushels wheat—weight 61 lbs.	
1,400 " oats. " 38 "	
50 " barley " 48 "	
3,500 " turnips "	
2,100 " potatoes.	
240 " carrots.	
75 " mangold wortzel.	
17 pigs were killed, weighing 5,710 lbs.	
8 head of cattle killed. " 4,710 lbs.	

Besides 25 which were purchased from and fattened on the farm.

#### *Stock on the farm Jan. 1860.*

12 horses old and young	46 head horned cattle,
27 sheep,	13 pigs.

Ninety acres of land now plowed, ready for crop next season, 30 of which were stumped last year and plowed in October.

Second, or Somerset Vale Farm.—Containing 200 acres cleared land, well fenced and without a stump, besides a quantity partially cleared, and capable of pasturing at least 50 head of cattle. A portion of the above has been long under cultivation, but it is only within the last few years that an attempt has been made at systematic farming. Previous to that very little stock was kept on it, and the greater part of the crop was removed and consumed elsewhere.

Quantity of land under crop in 1859, was about 130 acres, from which were raised

150 tons of hay,	
80 bushels wheat—weight 62½ lbs. per bush.	
About 2,000 " oats " 39 "	
3,000 " turnips,	
750 " potatoes,	
74 " carrots.	

The stock on the farm January, 1860, consisted of

7 horses old and young,	26 sheep,
41 head horned cattle,	5 pigs.
72 acres plowed last fall for crops next spring.	

J. D. M. KEATOR.

Hammond River, N. B., Dec. 10, 1860.

## **The Melbourne Prize Wheat and Barley.**

The governor of Victoria has lately sent to the governor of this colony samples of the prize wheat and barley shown at Melbourne in April last, the former of which is said to have beaten the Adelaide prize wheat of February. These samples Sir Richard MacDonnell has kindly transferred to the South Australian Agricultural and Horticultural Society; and we need hardly say that they have excited considerable interest among our farmers, who, of course, are very anxious to see what grain their neighbors are growing, and to ascertain precisely how far the superiority of South Australian produce is real or imaginary.

The wheat sent from Melbourne is undoubtedly a very fine sample—the grain is small, regular, and beautiful in appearance. Its weight is 67 lbs. 2 oz. to the bushel, the weight of the prize wheat at the last Adelaide show having been 67lbs. 8½ oz. to the bushel; but we are compelled to say that it is not perfect as a millers' wheat, being rather flinty. With regard to the weight per bushel, it is difficult to make any accurate comparison; for not only do the mode of filling the measure and the manner of striking off the surplus grain differ at different exhibitions, but even the measures which are used are apt to vary very considerably. We are not doubting the correctness of the measure used at Melbourne, nor the artistic method in which it was filled and struck—of these we know nothing; but there is sufficient disagreement between the reports from different exhibitions in South Australia to prove that the returns of one place cannot always be safely compared with those of another. For example, the wheat shown in Adelaide on the 29th of February was shown again at the Mount Barker's Agricultural Society's exhibition on March 8, and the weights taken at the two places differed by more than one pound to the bushel.

The sample exhibited at Melbourne was not a portion of the wheat actually shown in Adelaide, but a sample from the same lot procured afterwards from the grower. It is by no means certain that the second sample thus taken from the bulk was fully equal to the 12 bushels originally selected for exhibition. To say the least of it, the Melbourne chosen sample was placed against the residuum of the Adelaide lot.

The Adelaide prize wheat was not, in the opinion of many of our most competent judges, the best sample which South Australia had produced. The judges at the Adelaide exhibition placed it first in order, but decision was reversed a week afterwards by the judges at Mount Barker and by those at Woodside, both of whom preferred the wheat which had taken the second prize to that which had taken the first prize in Adelaide. Not only so, but both the lots of Adelaide prize wheat were purchased by one