

What Our Seedsmen Write Us.

Messrs. Steele Bros. write:—According to promise, we herewith forward some jottings regarding new grain, etc., we are offering for this spring's trade. We feel justified in calling the attention of the public to them, for while we are always on the watch for the latest introductions in the vegetable and floral kingdom, yet we ever discriminate in the selection of same, being determined that only those well recommended, and from reliable growers and originators, are through our instrumentality placed before the public. We believe with Swift that "That man is a benefactor to his country who has made two blades of grass grow where only one grew before," and think that agricultural editors and seedsmen deserve to be recognized as such, for truly our constituency is a large one, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific the request for information and for the latest and best varieties of cereals, calls for all the energy we are possessed of, and sometimes for knowledge that it is difficult to obtain.

New Spring Wheat.—Campbell's White Chaff.—For some years past we found the almost universal enquiry was, "Have you anything new in spring wheat; we have tried this variety and that, and results have not been satisfactory?" Knowing this feeling, we were pleased when we found a new variety, which originated with Mr. David Campbell, in Simcoe County, near Georgian Bay, a section that has the reputation of always turning out remarkably fine samples of grain. This wheat is from the same parent plant as Campbell's Triumph, a variety which was introduced some years ago, and which has produced such good results in the Northwest. Mr. Campbell says that eleven years ago, when he commenced to grow it, it changed its character for six years, and has only become fixed for the last five years. He has sold us all his crop, with the exception of some sent to the Experimental Farm, Ottawa. Many of your readers will no doubt have noticed the report of this wheat tried there last year and reported in the bulletin, when it produced, under unfavorable circumstances, 36½ bushels per acre, while the next to it was White Russian with 30 bushels, all the other varieties then tested running from 15 to 20 bushels. We wrote Prof. Saunders as to the result of the year's crop, and herewith give his reply:—

Messrs. The Steele Bros. Co.—Gents.—We have had two years' experience with Campbell's White Chaff, and it has yielded the heaviest crop of any of our spring wheats. Last year the crop was 36½ bushels, when our best crop of any other variety was 30 bushels. I have examined this grain very closely for the past two years in all stages of its growth, and I think it is the most promising spring wheat for Ontario in the east we have handled. It is a bald wheat, club shaped, with a compact, rather heavy head, and a very good and thrifty grower. Since we have the wheat in stock it has been examined by many farmers, who are all favorably impressed with its appearance. We sent some for test as to weight, and found it to exceed 61 pounds to the bushel. We feel very great confidence in recommending this new early wheat.

Steele's White Cave is a strong-growing white side oat, ripening just before spring wheat. The straw is bright and strong, the berry white, and on trial plots has yielded upwards of seventy-five bushels per acre, and in field presented in straw, crop and head, a very beautiful appearance. Our supply is limited for this season.

Messrs. Shore Bros., of White Oak, Ont., say:—From one-half bushel of White Cave Oats sown May 7, 1889, we concluded this variety was worth cultivating. We find them to be very strong growers, remarkably free from rust and blight. The straw is stiff and bright, growing to good length. The heads are large and close, the field having a very handsome appearance when growing, and resembles the Black Tartars when green, ripening about five days before that variety on the same land. They are the most prolific of any sort we have yet tried, and will easily yield 70 to 80 bushels per acre, with fair treatment. To those who wish to grow a first class milling sort we can heartily recommend them.

Wm. Smith, Esq., M. P., and W. S. Hawkshaw, Esq., both gave very favorable reports regarding them, which we have given verbatim in our catalogue.

Oats.—American Banner.—These remarkable oats still attract public attention. We sold several thousand bushels last season, and so far without any complaint, all unite in pronouncing them great yielders, while the price they are sold at this year places them within reach of all, and you will agree with us that it pays to change seed, especially when you have something really good and that all recommend.

Barley.—Carter's Prize Prolific.—This is the variety the government imported last year, and which has done so well here. Our stock was grown by two of the most successful farmers in Markham, Messrs. Pike and Rennie, and has since been thoroughly re-cleaned and tested. We were pleased to see the way the farmers of the Dominion took hold of the barley question last spring, enquiries poured in every day from all sections for the imported seed. Many have called in this spring and reported good results, and we predict ready sale this season for all those who ventured to grow it last year, the sample in almost all cases is very fine.

Barley.—Duckbill.—This is a two-rowed barley, and also seems admirably adapted to our climate, many samples shown us have been remarkably plump. It will malt with Chevelier and Prize Prolific, and will be in demand for English trade. We imagine stocks of pure seed will be in great request this season and probably be found somewhat scarce.

THE STEELE BROS. CO. (LTD.)

John S. Pearce & Co., Seed Merchants, London, write us that the Colorado Spring Wheat has done well all over the western section of Ontario, and is, we believe, the safest spring wheat to sow. Among all the other varieties tested by us the past season, this variety is a long way ahead of any of them. The demand for this wheat will be heavy the coming spring. We have only catalogued this variety and the White Russian, as we feel that they are the only sorts that will be safe to sow.

Barley.—There is a diversity of opinion as to the results and prospects of growing the English two-rowed barleys in this country, and from what we have seen and can learn, we think it would be safer for our farmers in this western section if they did not depend too much on their barley crop, except as a feeding grain.

Oats.—The two new oats sent out by us last spring, The Rosedale and Golden Giant Side Oat, have done remarkable well, and the reports from our customers as to these oats are very promising. The American Banner, Black Tartar, Race Horse or Bonanza are also reported as giving fair results.

Peas.—The Mummy has done well, and is a good sort for good rich land, but do not sow it on poor light soils. A peculiar feature of this pea is that the pods are all on the top of the stalk or vine, which only grows about eighteen inches to two feet high, and stands up well till the pods are well filled or nearly matured. The Centennial is another fine pea, and worthy of a more extended cultivation; is a beautiful sample of fine, large, very white peas, and its habits are somewhat similar to the Mummy, but not so marked. Dan O'Rourke, Crown and other field varieties are too well known to need any description.

Mr. William Evans, Seedsman, Montreal, writes:—With regard to the different varieties of grain grown in this vicinity last year, I may say the crops were generally light, with very few exceptions. Wheat was very light, almost universally, especially that grown from English samples. Occasionally White Russian did fairly. One farmer reports well of a new Russian bearded variety (not Ladoga) which I imported from Russia two years ago. It is an early kind, not unlike the old Black Sea Wheat.

Barley.—I have good reports from some of the parties who grew the Government barley. Sown early on good land it yielded well, but is much colored owing to the prevalent wet weather. Four-rowed was good in some instances.

Oats were light all over. New varieties had no chance at all. American Banner turned out fairly well, however, in several instances.

Beans.—The improved pea bean which I introduced here turned out very well. It is at least a fortnight earlier than the standard kind, and is enormously productive. Barliness in this crop is a decided advantage here.

Last season was not favorable for experiment with grain, it was too cold and wet throughout. I think it would be very unsafe to make my general statement based on its data. I would rather hope for better things from another year's trials than predicate anything from last years.

Early and Late Sowing.

The early sowing of spring wheat, barley and oats shows in every instance, beyond a doubt, the great advantages of the farmer. The generally accepted truism that the best results are obtained from early sown spring crops has never had enough careful investigation to ascertain how much was the gain or loss from this cause. The valuable services rendered by trials at the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa in this direction will, we trust, have a beneficial effect in not only inducing others to experiment in different localities, but of impressing more forcibly the advantage of early sowing upon the farming community. The loss on Prize Prolific barley by a delay of one week was nearly sixteen bushels per acre, and Danish Chevalier a little more than eleven bushels, while a delay of two weeks shows an average loss in the two experiments of more than half the crop, or about eighteen bushels per acre. If these tests could be relied upon as conclusive in an absolute sense the loss of one week's time in sowing the barley of Ontario, reckoned at 50 cents per bushel, would be over two and a-half millions of dollars in one crop. In spring wheat the loss of one week only gave a loss of about one-sixth of the crop, while two weeks delay resulted in a loss of one-fourth of the crop.

Oats seemed to be less influenced by late sowing than either wheat or barley. In the case of Prize Cluster there was a falling off of about three bushels per acre for the first week, but a

delay of two weeks resulted in a loss of over six and a-half bushels per acre. The oat area of Ontario each year is so large that the loss of one bushel per acre, taking oats at 40 cents per bushel, is equal to \$752,946.

These tests correspond with our own experience. We will cite two cases. The first was a field of thirty acres of barley. The land was similar in every particular. Fifteen acres of this was sown with six-rowed barley on the 28th day of April. A heavy rain prevented the sowing of the remaining fifteen acres for about eight days; it was then sown with seed taken from the same bin as that previously sown. The first half yielded 50 bushels per acre, the average weight of which was 54 pounds per bushel; the later sown half of the field yielded 39 bushels per acre, the average weight of which was 48½ pounds. A field of fifteen acres of White Russian wheat was treated in a similar way, four acres of which was sown six days earlier than the remainder of the field, and yielded per acre three bushels more than the average of the remaining land, and weighed one pound per bushel more.

Ottawa Central Experimental Farm.

The staff at which consists of Professor Wm. Saunders, Director; James W. Robertson, Agriculturist and Dominion Dairy Commissioner; John Craig, Horticulturist; James Fletcher, Entomologist and Botanist; Frank T. Shutt, Chemist,—thus are they equipped for efficient work in the different departments, all of which we hope to review from time to time, and from which we hope to derive a large fund of information, alike interesting and useful to our readers wherever situated.

Apart from what is being done in feeding experiments at Ottawa, of which we will have more to say next month, we may state here that the eight pure breeds of cattle kept, including Shorthorns, Polled-Angus, Galloway, Ayrshire, Holstein, Devon, Jersey, Quebec Jersey, as well as Grades, are all in the highest state of thrift. High, luxurious feeding is not aimed at in any case, but the most plentiful supply of cheap, bulky feed grown on the farm is used, to which is added a very small supply of the more concentrated sorts, including grain, oil cake, cotton-seed meal, etc. As might be expected where the greatest pains and skill, combined with watchful supervision, is practised, each breed is giving most satisfactory results, each of the buildings being laid out with a view to making each department tell, as well as the most economical expenditure of labor. In order to feed liberally, it is necessary that a liberal amount be grown, and in this particular the management have been eminently successful. Not only have ensilage crops turned out a decided success, but the roots were the finest, taken collectively, of any we have seen during this season, and speaks volumes for what attention and necessary labor will accomplish, particularly as not the first particle of any special or commercial fertilizer has been used. The root-house is divided into bins, holding large quantities of each variety of mangolds, carrots, turnips, sugar beets, etc., and each sort had numbers of specimens equal to those of any show collection at our exhibitions. Size and quality was remarkable in each of the varieties, not in picked specimens, but throughout the entire mass, and the yield of each variety, which is duly recorded, is in every case very large, and in some few particular cases enormous. Another month we hope to publish the weight