



VOL. X. No. XXIV.
(NEW SERIES)

TORONTO, CANADA, DECEMBER 30, 1873.

\$1.50 PER ANNUM.
SINGLE COPIES 8 CTS.

The Field.

Barley Growing.

The following interesting contribution to the *Country Gentleman*, on this subject, is from the pen of Hon. George Geddes:—

"In your paper of the 20th November, you say, 'We have frequently expressed surprise at the increasing neglect with which this important grain appears to be treated by our farmers generally,' and you ask for the reasons

"There is an unexplained something about the growing of barley that appears to govern its production. Formerly, barley was raised in great quantities in New England, and in the eastern part of New York, now very little is raised east of Utica. Thirty years ago, the south part of the County of Onondaga made barley a leading crop; now but few acres are there devoted to it. But lately the county of Jefferson raised barley that had a high reputation in the market, and now the 'fancy brands' must be raised on the shores of the Bay of Quinte, Canada. So few men govern the price of barley, that they are able to allow their imaginations full play, and pay about as suits them. Last year (1872), sixty cents was the price, this year, in defiance of the panic, the prices are much higher—nearly double last year. There is no staple produced by our farmers whose market price is so capricious. Very often a bushel of barley will sell for as much, or even more, than a bushel of good wheat. We once sowed our crop, in a year of good yield, at \$2 per bushel. The next year the crop was short, but what little there was, would bring at the most, seventy-five cents a bushel. The large crop of the one year remained, so much of it, in the hands of the malsters and brewers, that they appeared determined to indemnify themselves by paying a low price for the product of the unfruitful year.

"To illustrate the irregularities of the barley markets, I take the quotations of this morning, Nov. 25th: Chicago—No. 2, \$1.32; Buffalo—two-rowsed State, \$1.23; (which is nine cents lower than No. 2 is at Chicago); four-rowsed at Buffalo, \$1.40 for State, and \$1.45 for Canada grown; Syracuse, no buyers; Albany—two rowsed State, \$1.37, four rowsed State, \$1.55; No. 2 Canada West, \$1.65, New York—Canada East \$1.60, Kay Quinte, \$1.75, State two-rowsed at \$1.35 to \$1.37.

"Why does Bay Quinte raised barley sell at 15 cents more per bushel than Canada East? Much inquiry has elicited the statement from the brewers that there is an unknown something in the soil or climate, or in both, that gives a finer flavor to the beer made from the barley of the Bay Quinte, than from that raised anywhere else; just as tobacco raised in Connecticut has something about it, that the consumers prefer to tobacco raised from the same seed in the central part of the State of New York. This is the final solution given to this matter, after trying for years to find out the facts. Barley is mostly made into beer, and whoever, in this country, engages in its production, should know the use that will be made of it, and the growers may as well understand that the fancies and whims of the drinkers of beer will govern the prices of different grades of barley, as the smokers govern the prices of American grown tobacco.

"Barley likes a clayey soil, and a cold, wet climate. So marked is the effect of soil, that in England the

farmers of warm, gravelly lands, are obliged to procure their seed from the strong, clayey lands; and the product of the warm lands in England called the 'rath-ripe,' and the product of the colder lands is called the 'common.'

"A season that is good for raising a corn is a bad one for barley. The hot days in June and July, that are so beneficial to the maize, are not good for the barley; and it is not often that the same farm produces maximum crops of Indian corn and barley the same year.

"To secure a good price for barley, or rather to have it of the best grade that any soil and climate can produce, great care is required so to handle it in harvest, and in so housing the crop, as not to have it get injured by wet weather. 'Black ends,' they are called, really injure the grain, and destroy its malting qualities. The grain should remain in the mow some weeks, that the heating may all be over before threshing. Thus the grain will be entirely dry, and the color good, if no injury was suffered in the field, and the crop went into the barn as dry as it should be.

"Threshing should be done with care; the teeth of the machine should not have sharp edges, and then run so close as to cut the kernels. Cutting the grain not only spoils so much as is broken, but in malting, these cut grains not only will not sprout, but they mold, and injure several grains that come in contact with them. This injures the beer.

"Following the example of the English farmer, let the seed be constantly renewed by procuring it from the places where the best grade is produced. Have it free from oats, or any other foul seed; sow early, selecting the strongest clay soils; harvest and thresh with care, and put the grain in the best position, and take all the uncertainties of the market. Sometimes the crop will be very profitable, but generally not more so than other farm productions. Inasmuch as all that is imported from other countries may be said to go to the making of beer, the makers of tariffs might lay a heavy duty on the produce of foreign countries, and thereby give our farmers some 'protection,' and oppress nobody—perhaps indirectly help the cause of temperance."

Value of Ashes for Potatoes.

On a small patch of land which I have cultivated this season to potatoes, ashes were applied in the hill at the rate of sixty bushels to the acre, save on one row, which was left for the purpose of comparison. On this no ashes were applied. On digging the potatoes, those from the row without ashes, and also those from the two adjacent rows were weighed. Computing the yield for an acre of each, the following is the result:—

	Large Potatoes. Bushels.	Small Potatoes. Bushels.	Total. Bushels.
One acre without ashes.....	163	57	220
One acre with ashes.....	260	37	297

If we take into the account only the large potatoes, the thirty-two bushels gained by using ashes at sixty cents per bushel, would amount to \$19.20. This sum divided by 60, the number of bushels of ashes to the acre, gives thirty-two cents per bushel as their value. Allowing for the labor of applying the ashes, and also for the excess of small potatoes from the ground upon which no ashes were applied, it would be safe to regard the value of the ashes at about twenty-five cents per bushel.

The ashes were from mixed wood, about two-thirds soft wood, and one-third hard wood. It is more than probable that from the dryness of the season the

beneficial effects of the ashes in the soil have not yet been fully realized. During the growing season, the row without ashes could not have been selected by the appearance of the tops. The two lots of potatoes have not yet been compared as to quality for table use. Those, however, which have been tested from land to which ashes were applied, are excellent. The Orono potato was used for the experiment.—M. C. F., in *Maine Farmer*.

Mr. Harris' Corn Crop.

In our notice last summer, of a visit to the farm of Joseph Harris, near Rochester, we briefly mentioned a fine 15 acre corn field, which had then been harrowed four times broadcast with a smoothing harrow, and was receiving the fifth dressing with the cultivator. Our own experience is, that stirring the surface once a week, or oftener through the season, adds from ten to twenty bushels per acre to the corn, and we are therefore not surprised when Mr. Harris reports seventy bushels per acre from that field, in a late number of the *Agriculturist*. He states that the land had been a badly run down field, weedy and stony; plowed last fall, and again in the spring, getting out all the stones practicable—harrowed and rolled. The following is his account of the crop:—

"The corn was drilled in, 3½ feet apart, with a grain drill. It was harrowed four times after planting, with Thomas' smoothing harrow, and cultivated nine times. The expense of cultivation was about as follows:

Fall ploughing with three horses	\$3 00	per acre.
Spring ploughing	3 00	do.
Harrowing three times	1 00	do.
Rolling, 25c.; drilling, 50c	75	do.
Four harrowings with smoothing harrow	1 00	do.
Cultivating nine times	3 75	do.
Hoeing	1 50	do.
Cutting up corn	2 25	do.
Husking—6 cents per bushel of ears.	8 40	do.
Drawing stalks, &c	1 35	do.

\$26 00"

The cultivating is put down at a low cost, as the horse went only once between rows at a time. The net profits per acre, allowing 60c. per bushel, and three tons stalks at \$10, are estimated at \$46 per acre, or \$690 for the 15 acres. The field was one of the cleanest we ever saw, which was largely owing, no doubt, to the four dressings with the smoothing harrow, all of which cost only one dollar per acre. Mr. Harris says that Mr. Phillips, of Michigan, pronounced it the cleanest field he ever saw.—*Country Gentleman*.

SUBSOILING VS. DEEP PLOUGHING.—The question of deep ploughing comes up once in a while in England, by the statement being made that all the fertility of the soil lies within four or five inches of the surface, and that to plough deeper will bring up the "cold stuff." It does seem, however, that on cold clay soils, a farmer is likely to be ruined by ploughing deep, but not by subsoiling, and it is important so consider this difference. By deep ploughing un-fertile and dormant clay may be brought to the surface, but by subsoiling, the roots of plants can descend deeper, and in a year or so the cold clay becomes fertile, when deeper ploughing can be done with great advantage. A simple observance of this rule would do away with much needless speculation, and form a safe guide.—*N. Y. Times*.