

sun. The samples of maize shown are of the white and yellow varieties. The cobs of maize are large, and the samples of the grain are generally excellent. Buckwheat, linseed, and samples of flax straw are also shown. The flax and flax seed give promise that Canada may yet become an extensive exporter of seed and fibres.

Another proof of progress in agriculture in Lower Canada is furnished in the exhibition of drain tiles, manufactured there by the Missisquoi Drain Tile Company and others. A very short time ago there was not a thousand acres in Canada properly drained with tiles. Now it is becoming a matter of contest who shall use the most and soonest. Back from the plain districts we have named, stretch hilly, broken pasture lands, abounding in wild romantic scenery, plentifully watered with mountain streams, and affording an excellent grazing country during the summer months. There, oats; root crops, and grass are the staple products, but they are very indifferently represented here. There are some specimens of timothy and clover seeds; these are good, and clover seed might form a far more extensive part of the exports of Canada than at present. And to represent the produce of the dairies, we have a single cheese of a decidedly American style of manufacture, and one little crock of excellent butter, which comes, however, from an esteemed correspondent, Mr. James Logan of Montreal. In Canada the farmers make a great portion of the sugar they use from the sap of the maple tree, and there are exhibited several good specimens of this—those from Lower Canada being decidedly the better. A bale of hops is also shown, grown on the island of Montreal, of very excellent quality, but not very carefully picked.

We turn next to the Upper or Western Province—the great wheat producing district, and concerning its products we have the advantage of information gathered from Colonel Thomson, a leading agriculturist there, and President of the Board of Agriculture. He is also a juror in this class at the exhibition. Specimens of winter wheat are exhibited from the counties of Durham, Peel, Wellington, Lincoln, Wentworth, Oxford, Brant, Elgin, Kent, and Lambton, extending over a distance of 250 to 300 miles from east to west. Here are comparatively new soils, admirably adapted to the growth of wheat, as yet in very few instances exhausted. The farmers of Upper Canada, warned in time, are beginning by careful cultivation and rotations to guard against the evils suffered in the east, and in parts of the United States, though it is still too common a practice to grow wheat, as the most saleable product, year after year.

There are twelve good samples of half a bushel each. One quality of the wheat is good, being generally plump and of a bright clear colour; a portion are white wheats, average weight about 62 lbs. per bushel. One sample shown by Mr. Fleming, seedsman, Toronto,

weighs 66 lbs. The samples exhibited are all white wheats of highest commercial value, and are grown in all parts of Canada West. The usual quantity of seed sown per acre is $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels, and the yield is, when the soil is properly cultivated, from 16 to 40 bushels per acre, according to season and other circumstances. The average amongst good farmers is about 25 bushels; but a too numerous class of cultivators do not get an average of more than 13 bushels. The most reliable information Colonel Thomson has been able to collect (covering a period of ten years), gives a general average of 17 bushel per acre. 45 and even 50 bushels have been obtained in some cases in particularly favourable seasons. Their best wheat lands are marly clays and gravelly loams, with more of the calcareous element present in the soil.

The winter wheats are generally designated as "Soule's," "Blue Stem," "Red Chaff," and "White." These, I am told, are the best varieties of wheat grown in Canada, and command the highest prices in the Canadian markets, and those of the adjoining state of New York, being much sought after by the millers of that State to mix with inferior wheats grown there and in the Western Federal States, the flour being thereby made to command a better price for home consumption or export.

As to the name of Soule's Wheat, it is said to have been first introduced into Upper Canada by a person of that name, being brought from the State of Virginia. The Blue Stem has very naturally taken its name from the fact that the stem or stalk is of a bluish colour. One of the recommendations of this variety is that the straw is stiff, and never lodges, and consequently is easily harvested.

The old Red Chaff White has long been favorably known in Canada, as has also the Velvet Chaff; but the latter is now rarely met with. Another variety that was in favor ten or twelve years since, was a bearded wheat known as the "Michigan," having been introduced into Canada from the State of that name. It was supposed to resist the ravages of the fly better than any other; but the grain was found not to yield as much flour as the other varieties; consequently it will not now command so high a price.

The spring wheats shown are common to Canada East and West—some of the finest being grown in the vicinity of Montreal.

The Fife is an early wheat, and comes to maturity even when sown a month later than the date at which other spring wheats are sown. The ear does not appear until it is too late for the fly to deposit its ova in it. Being besides a good wheat, both as regards productiveness and its value to the miller, it has become a general favourite. It is a red wheat, and without awns. The Golden Drop is a fine wheat, it being also as well as the Black Sea wheat, without awns. There are besides one or two samples of bearded wheat shown, but they are not favourable.