

Communications.

We have inserted all communications sent to us, but one omitted this number. We hope to have a greater choice in future; we have received more the past month than ever before, showing the increased interest manifested in our undertaking. We again request Secretaries of Agricultural Societies to inform us of any surplus wheat or good seed of any kind that may be had in their sections of the country. The facilitating of exchange in seed is what we want.

We hope some farmers will assist us in responding to questions asked in regard to the origin of valuable varieties of seed, wheather Wheat, Peas, Oats, Barley, Potatoes, or any thing else. You may find leisure now, but prepare for spring operations, in time, we know that many will be too late in sending in their orders. Some that have suitable seeds will probably have to grind or sell for feed, what might be of advantage to the country, and more profitable to themselves if they let us know in time; one person wrote informing us about Treadwell Wheat after seeding was over.

For the Farmer's Advocate.

AGRICULTURAL SHOWS.

MR. WELD SIR:—Reading in your valuable little paper the *Farmer's Advocate*, of September that HON. GEORGE BROWN said there needed some change in our Agricultural affairs, also, the HON. JOHN CARLING was willing to work for the benefit of the farmers of Ontario. The following remarks will not be out of place.

Now, sir, allow me to suggest a few thoughts on two things that want some amendments. First, the way our Provincial Agricultural Fairs are conducted. Secondly, to do away with our County Fairs. You are well aware that at Provincial Fairs prizes are awarded for the best of all kinds of domestic animals and best description of fruit and vegetables, irrespective of how they were brought to such perfection, and by whom. This I contend is not right, for instance, here Mr. A. exhibits a fine lot of thorough breeds and grade cattle, and of course carries off the premiums, now Mr. B. has a yearly income from some other source independent of his farm and keeps these animals for novelty or pastime. He also has a small garden of the choicest Fruit and Vegetables, and keeps a man to work in it year after year. On the other hand Mr. C. (who has no other source of income but his farm) owns say 200 acres of land and has to manage well to make both ends meet and annually improve his farm, and add to the revenue of our Dominion. To be sure he has fine grade cattle and fine fruit, but how can he compete with Mr. A. in grade cattle seeing Mr. A. exhibits grades only a shade from thorough breeds, or how can he compete in fruit or vegetables with Mr. A. seeing Mr. C. can devote to his garden but the odds and ends of time. Please don't misunderstand me and think I want to throw Mr. A. out of a prize. Not I. The idea I wish to convey is, birds of a feather

flock together! I have attended several Provincial Agricultural Shows, and by what I have seen and heard remarked by others, there is no chance for farmers of 100 or 200 acres of land, (not having any source of income but their farm) to try for a prize, therefore they go away disgusted rather than benefited. I would like to ask, among farmers who pay the greater part of our taxes, and who constitute the back bone and sinew of our agricultural community. Are they the 200 acre men and less?

Now sir for a few words about County Agricultural Shows I suggest we ought to do away with them. Some of my reasons are these: First we have too many. Farmers can't spend so much time running to all of them, secondly, being located often at one side of the county too far distant for many to attend, it often happens that close to where the Fair is held is situated a town or village with such men as Mr. A. and plenty of men with gardens of the choicest fruit and vegetables. Now sir how can such farmers as Mr. B. compete with such men. On the other hand we want to encourage our Township Agricultural Shows, that is the place where there is more equality. There it is where farmers compete, (not for the money) but for the best article. From there farmers go home filled with ambition, saying to themselves, "I'll beat such a one next year." There's where the great influence of *Practical Farming* is spread among farmers. We want our Provincial Agricultural Shows, and it is the duty of every farmer to encourage it as much as possible. There's the place where farmers and men of capital can see what our country is capable of producing, and what machinery we have, if only rightly applied with skill and means to make our Dominion second to none on the Globe. We want our Township Agricultural Shows to bring practical farming home to our doors where farmers of the same stamp can compete with each other, and men of capital by themselves, likewise gardeners and men of small gardens by themselves. When this takes place, and not till then, will our Agricultural Fairs prosper as they should. I have attended several Agricultural Shows this fall, and I am more and more convinced that the change I have spoken of would advance agriculture in our Dominion. It would not be long till we would see our townships vying with each other which would have the greatest number of entries. It would take too much room for me to express all my views on the above subject, therefore I have given but a mere hint on what I would like to express.

FREDERICK J. PAYNE.

More Information Still Wanted on the Wheat Question.

Westmins. Nov. 1867.

To the Editor of the *Farmer's Advocate*.

DEAR SIR:—Your efforts to collect and publish reliable information concerning the best kinds of seed wheat, is gaining you hosts of friends in this neighborhood. We feel that it is just the thing that is much required at present.

The failure of the spring wheat the past

season has forced the conviction that it is almost useless to sow any of the old varieties that have been common here. Wherever a few farmers meet the question is sure to be asked what kind of spring wheat are you going to sow? or where shall we get a new kind of wheat to take the place of the Fife, and as far as I have observed no one as yet can give a satisfactory answer. For although it is generally allowed that the Chilian Wheat that you mention, is likely to yield well (we know that it has done so this year in this township) still there is an impression that the quality is not just what could be desired. Whenever you hear this subject discussed the question is sure to be asked when, or how did we get the different kinds of wheat that have done well in past years? it is naturally assumed that if we knew how success had been obtained in the past it would be the surest guide to enable us to succeed in the future. But it is an astonishing fact considering the vast importance of the subject, that no one that I have met seems to know anything about the origin of the different kinds of wheat that have formed the principal staple of the country; with the exception of the Fife wheat. I daresay most of your readers remember seeing an account of the origin of that some years ago. And the Siberian Fall Wheat, which I know was changed from spring wheat by the late Mr. John Frank of this township, and it answered remarkably well for some years.

As to the names of other kinds that have flourished and failed in succession in this part of Canada, we are totally in the dark. It is this Mr. Editor that has induced me to trouble you with this note, hoping that you, or some of your numerous readers will be able and willing to give us some facts concerning the origin or importation of the kinds of wheat that have proved successful in Canada.

As at the present time especially, such information must prove both interesting and useful.

I am, yours truly,

A. P.

For the Farmer's Advocate.

ENCOURAGEMENT.

MR. WM. WELD.—Enclosed you will find payment for the *Farmer's Advocate*. I will try and get a club for it this year. What I at first thought little of is now become a necessity. Although our part of the country differs from yours, yet there is much to be learned that is of benefit to us. I think the farmers generally do not take the interest in agricultural periodicals that they should.

Have you any Black Sea wheat in your part of the country? If so, how does it do? Or have you any other kind of Spring wheat that is hardy? Please answer in the *Advocate*.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

REUBEN SHAEVER.

South Mountain, Nov. 6th, 1867.

[We are not aware of any of the Black Sea Wheat being grown in this vicinity, nor any other kind, that we could safely recommend.