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The Field.

Change of Seeds—Especially Wheat.

The importance of change of seed in growing cereals cannot be too strongly urged. Change has almost invariably been found beneficial, even where it has only been from one township to another, or from sandy to clay land. How much more advantageous, then must it be to import seed grain from Europe to Canada. The British Agricultural papers are filled with advertisements of new sorts of wheat, obtained usually from hybrid seed. The hybridizing of cereals, especially peas, has for many years received the special attention of English horticulturists. There are parties who take great pains in this peculiar branch of horticulture, and they find their immediate advantage and profit in so doing. The varieties of seed peas are increasing yearly, and some of them are perfect marvels of size and abundance of yield, combined also, with improved quality. In Canada, enterprise of this nature has not been very much indulged in, but there is no reason why we should not profit by other peoples experiments. It is especially desirable that we should import some of every variety of new wheat advertised. It is absolutely impossible to form an opinion as to which kind will succeed best here, without actual trial, and to introduce one or two varieties at a time, would take a generation to test and determine which is best for immediate adoption. Nothing but tried generally and simultaneously all over the Dominion, will result in satisfaction. We have only to look back on the disasters attending on the failure of our potatoe crop, to be at once alive to the advantages of frequently importing change of seed. For many years, potatoes were a dollar a bushel. This ruinous price was due altogether to failure caused by defective seed. It is well nigh certain that the seed was extensively worn worn out by growing from cuttings for a long succession. Under this process, some choice kinds, as for example, the Pink Eye, became extinct for years. New varieties were grown from sprouts from seed by means of grafting, and in every conceivable way. Hundreds of sorts thus originated were condemned, as not fulfilling all the requirements of a good potato; but some were retained as the best amongst them, and we now have plenty of excellent potatoes at 80 cents a bag (of 1½ bushels) whereas they used to cost nearly three times that price. One such practical fact speaks volumes.

There can be no doubt that the diminished crops of our great staple which have so discouraged our farmers of late years, are partly to be attributed to a decline in the quality of the seed, owing to successive sowings on the same kind of land and amidst the same climatic conditions. The grand cause of this evil is poor raising, but poverty of seed has had

something to do with it, and while we advocate the best possible system of culture, we cannot urge too strongly, the use of new and choice varieties of seed. This matter has often been brought before our Local and Provincial Agricultural Societies, and occasionally a move has been made by them in the right direction. This is certainly one of the most legitimate ways in which they can expend money and put forth effort. We hope the Government Model Farm, when it once gets into operation, will do good service in testing new seeds, and drawing public attention to such as are worthy of general introduction. But our farmers ought not to wait for or depend upon societies, public bodies, or government institutions. There are multitudes of them who have made money and got before hand. Honest pride in their calling, business energy, and patriotic feeling, should impel them to do what they can in the way of importing and testing new seeds. The same enterprise which leads our stock men at so much risk and expense to import valuable animals, should be manifested by our grain growing farmers in their special line of things. It will pay them to do it.

Here then is an inviting field for the energetic and public-spirited farmer. It is comparatively unoccupied, and there is ample room to "go in and win."

Large Yields of Wheat from Artificial Manures.

A table, showing the produce of nineteen different descriptions of wheat, grown by J. B. Lawes, Esq., on his experimental farm, at Rothamsted, after highly manured roots (carted off), and all manured with superphosphate and nitrate of soda, also that of some of the same descriptions in previous years:—

	Bushels of Dressed Corn per Acre.				
	1863.	1869.	1871.	1872.	1873.
1. Red Wonder.....	51½	54½	51	31½	43½
2. Burwell (Old Lammus)...	44	48½	45	34½	41½
3. Bristol Red.....	44	48½	45	29	44
4. Red Nursery.....	41½	49½	45	54½	45½
5. Red Langham.....	—	—	49½	54½	43½
6. Welly Ear (W. to).....	—	—	47½	71	42½
7. Harcastle (White).....	—	—	—	—	40½
8. Golden Drop (L. H. H. to).....	—	—	—	32½	45½
9. Hunter's White, Hollow's.....	—	—	—	36½	32½
10. Victoria White, Hallett's.....	—	—	—	34½	40½
11. Original Red, Hallett's.....	—	—	—	31	35½
12. White Childham.....	44	46	45½	28½	38½
13. Cassy's White.....	—	—	—	—	41
14. Golden Bunch Chaff (B. H.).....	—	—	—	51	39½
15. Botes Prolific (Red).....	—	—	51½	54	42½
16. Club Wheat (Red).....	—	—	—	—	44
17. Browick (Red).....	—	—	51	35½	40½
18. Red Chaff (White).....	—	—	—	34½	37
19. Chul Wheat (Red).....	—	—	—	25½	40
Means.....	46½	51½	49½	31½	42½

The above tabularly-arranged yield of wheats, of various kinds, has a great interest for Canadian farmers, as showing what may be done on exhausted soils in England. Unfortunately for us in Canada, artificial manures are somewhat too expensive, as yet, to come into general use, but we are glad to learn that a company has been formed in Montreal, solely for the purpose of collecting and utilizing the city refuse and sewage, and by careful manipulation to make a manure sufficiently good to bear exportation to home

markets. When this is done, we may hope for artificial manures at a reduced price. At present we must turn our attention to home manufacture, and the only source individually open to us, that has anything like certainty about the cost, and quantity as well as quality, is in the direction of stable-feeding and fattening stock, combined with increased protection and care in saving both the liquid and solid portions of the home-produced fertilizers.

If all the liquid and solid excrement from one ox is carefully saved and protected, carried out and applied to the land, the increased crops obtained before this one dressing is exhausted, will fully equal ten dollars in value. Indeed, we believe this is a low estimate. An acre so manured, will, in all probability, yield double its former returns, for at least three years, and whether a man gets fifteen bushels of wheat or thirty, twenty bushels of barley or forty, or a ton of hay or ten, from each acre so treated, will make (on a large acreage) a very considerable difference in the profits of the farmer as a whole.

We cordially commend the above statement to the careful consideration of our intelligent, enterprising agriculturists, being persuaded that higher farming is the true road to more profitable farming.

Defects in Farming.

A Cleveland correspondent of the *N. Y. Tribune* writes very sensibly on the above topic as follows:—

The question, Does farming pay? may be answered as positively yes as no, and no as yes. The whole thing, in my opinion, hinges on the man. Put a genuine farmer upon a poor piece of soil, and he will bring it into a good state of productiveness, if there is any element in it. If swampy and cold, he will underdrain thoroughly, and make it bloom as a garden, if sterile from over use, he will, by aid of green manures and other fertilizers, bring it up, and make it give returns annually while under the process of renovation; but put a poor manager on the best farm in the country, and he will plan it so as to make the investment scarcely profitable. Now, I propose to point out some of the most important mistakes made by the unsuccessful. Many farmers do not appear to realize that the results of projects may frequently be very accurately foretold by reasoning and the use of figures, and that oft times the expenditure of money and days of hard manual labor may be saved, and the same end accomplished; in short, that calculation is better than hard work. Hard labor is not always attended with profit. A man may be diligent and frugal all his life and die poor, while another who labors less, with equal advantages, may enjoy life by the liberal use of accumulating means, always have plenty, and leave a handsome inheritance to those who are dependent upon him. In the latter case it is not good luck, but the result of bringing into daily use the reasoning as well as the executive faculties, through all departments of