

Seed Catalogues for 1892.

Below we give the names of a number of reliable seedsmen of Canada, the United States and Great Britain, who have favored us by sending copies of their catalogues for the coming season. Those of our readers who are wishful to obtain reliable seeds or novelties in the line of field or garden seeds would do well to send for a copy of each. All contain much useful and interesting information.

Steele Bros. Co., Toronto, issue a very handsome and richly exhaustive catalogue. The firm have been in the front ranks among the houses sending out the best class of seeds. New varieties of all the spring grains and other field seeds are included, while for a full list of garden seeds, as well as bulbs and plants, the catalogue embraces everything new.

John S. Pearce's, London, Ontario, embraces field, vegetable and garden seeds, dairy supplies, and a number of very promising new varieties of spring grain, roots, corn, vegetables, etc., together with a full list of flower seeds and bulbs, forming a catalogue worth the attention of those interested. This house has for many years enjoyed the confidence of the public for keeping abreast of the times. All the newest lines of dairy supplies are kept on hand.

Another handsome catalogue is Rennie's Illustrated Guide, sent out by this well-known Toronto house, which has for many years enjoyed a reputation for choice selections of field and garden seeds. Particular attention is paid to field roots.

W. Ewing & Co., Montreal.—This season's catalogue, sent out by this long established firm, is replete with all the standard varieties of spring grain, field seeds, together with grass seeds, also much in the line of choice flower seeds, bulbs, etc.

John A. Bruce & Co., Hamilton.—This firm claim that this season's catalogue is the forty-first issued by their firm. They have for many years possessed the confidence of a long list of customers. Strict attention has always been paid to the quality of the seeds sent out by them.

D. M. Ferry & Co.'s, Windsor, Ont., big descriptive annual contains a full list of vegetable seeds of first order.

Smith & Vanduzer are among our most reliable Canadian firms in the line of nursery stock. This year's lists of trees, vines and plants are very full, as also are their stock of small fruits, rose bushes, etc.

From the United States we have received catalogues from John Lewis Childs, Floral Park, N.J., and Samuel Wilson, Mechanicsville, Pa.

Chas. A. Green, Rochester, N. Y., entitles this season's catalogue, "How we made the old farm pay." Small fruits and vegetables in great variety are brought out in its pages.

T. J. C. Vaughan, Chicago, gives a very choice selection of vegetable seeds, together with a great variety in flower seeds and bulbs. Special attention is drawn to the excellent line of roses offered.

S. T. Lovett & Co., Little Silver, N. J.—This catalogue details several novelties in small fruits. Strawberries and blackberries receive special attention, as well as nut-bearing trees. All are catalogued in great profusion, as well as bulbs, flower seeds and ornamental shrubs.

Of the catalogues received from English seedsmen:—Carter's, of London, field seeds, grains, grasses and roots; Webb's, of Wordsley, in the same line; Sharp, of Bardley and Reading; and Hurst, of Houndsditch, are all very good, and are well known by reputation to many agriculturists in Canada.

Errata.

A subscriber at Charing Cross calls our attention to a mistake which occurred on page two in the article entitled, "Dairying, Present and Future." The printers made us say, "If the farmers can get 10 cts. per hundred pounds for the milk, etc." This clause should have read, "If the farmers can get \$1.00 for 100 lbs. of milk, etc." Better results than this can and should be obtained, but this depends not only on the cows but on the care and feed they receive.

Again in the February number Campbell's White Chaff wheat is called Velvet Chaff under the cut on page 47.

Death of Mr. Thomas Brown.

A cable received on Friday, the 12th February, announced the death, the previous evening, of Mr. Thomas Brown, farmer, Petite Cote, Montreal. He had been ailing for some time, and had gone on a visit to Scotland, thinking the change would be beneficial, and was residing with his aunt, Mrs. Aitken, Acre Cottage, Broughton (his native place), when he died. The late Mr. Brown was one of the leading farmers and stock breeders of the Province of Quebec. His herd of imported and home-bred Ayrshire cattle is not only a large one, but is considered by competent judges to be one of the best in the Dominion, if not in America. He was very successful in the show ring with Clydesdale horses, of which he had a large stud, both imported and home-bred. The late Mr. Brown came to this country about twenty-five years ago, and for the last twelve years rented a farm in Petite Cote, near Montreal, on which he was very successful, and made a specialty of growing potatoes and supplying milk to the city. He was a thorough, all-round farmer, proud of his calling, a prize-winner at the leading ploughing matches, and though a hard-working man still found time every fall to have a few days' hunting, and never missed being in the first flight at the finish. He was a straightforward, unselfish gentleman, and this, combined with a quick intelligence, made him a leader among his fellow farmers. His death leaves a blank, not only in Hochelaga county, but in the Dominion, which will not be readily filled.

New Varieties.

In our last issue we promised our readers that in this number we would give some particulars concerning new varieties of seed grain written of by us or our correspondents. If our subscribers will closely read the letters received by us from leading farmers residing in various parts of Ontario and Quebec, they will gain much useful information. Beginning with spring wheats, the Colorado is new in some sections, but it is well known in others. This is one of the few varieties that seems to excel over a very large territory. From growers in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick we hear of its hardiness and productiveness. In Ontario, except in a few sections, it is by far the most productive and reliable spring wheat, though there may be varieties which may outyield it in certain years, which will not nearly equal it when a period of five years is considered.

A newer introduction, Campbell's White Chaff, introduced by the Steele Bros. Co., of Toronto, is a beautiful wheat spoken of by several of our correspondents. It does not seem so suitable for general cultivation as the Colorado, but in sections where the soil suits it, it will doubtless prove a valuable sort. Like the black oat, it is more liable to rust than some others. It doubtless is not a safe variety to sow in places where wheat is subject to rust; but where rust seldom or never appears, it promises to be valuable. A heavy dressing of salt would render this variety more reliable in some sections. Campbell's Triumph is not as desirable in any respect. We do not recommend it.

Among the English barleys, Carter's Prize Prolific has been the most productive and desirable up to date. But the best two-rowed barley in cultivation is the Duckbill, a variety which has long existed in Canada. It was originally imported from Scotland, but was brought prominently to the notice of the farmers by the efforts of the Dominion Experimental Farms. Like the Colorado wheat, it does well over a very large territory; where barley growing is profitable, it will doubtless outyield any other sort except Canadian Thorpe. It, however, requires good cultivation. Unlike the English varieties, it does not lodge or break down. The

straw is as stiff and strong as fall wheat, the head standing erect. The grain is large, plump and heavy. Some parties fear it may not malt as well as the English barleys. This is a mistake; it is as good in every particular as Carter's Prize Prolific, and better in most points. The straw of the latter, like most English sorts, is too soft, breaking down and lodging badly. It, therefore, is expensive to harvest, more apt to be discolored and liable to have the heads cut off in quantities by the binder, as is the case with the common six-rowed.

The latest introduction is the Canadian Thorpe, introduced by Mr. John S. Pearce, of London. This is an improvement on, and a selection from, the Duckbill. It has been carefully tested in many places in the Northwest, as well as in Ontario. From evidence obtained, we believe it the best barley now in Ontario. It is hardy and productive, of good quality and very suitable for malting. We have had several samples tested, and we find 95 per cent. of the grains germinate and produce strong, healthy plants. Like the Duckbill, it should not be sown too thickly. From 1½ to 1¾ bushels per acre, according to the land, will give the best results, on good land; it tillers very profusely. We have seen from 12 to 20 fine heads grown from one stool. When growing it closely resembles the Duckbill, but is purer and superior to any Duckbill the writer has yet seen.

There will be a great deal of Duckbill sown this spring. Many unscrupulous persons will sell much inferior two-rowed barley as Duckbill. Be careful where you get your seed. We saw several fields last year, the seed of which was bought as Duckbill, that was some other sort. At the Guelph Experimental Farm they had none of this variety. Though they had procured some seed said to be Duckbill, yet it was not at all like this variety; the officials had simply been imposed upon. Last spring Mr. H. H. Spencer, of Brooklin, bought enough Duckbill seed to sow a field. When it came into head it was found to be an inferior variety and badly mixed. The seed was supplied him by a person who poses as a grower of seed grain. The truth is a great deal of the seed sold as Duckbill last spring was much mixed with an inferior English sort. There are, however, many honest men in the seed grain trade who grow and sell the proper article. These men usually either advertise themselves or sell to the seedsmen.

In oats, the Gothland is being introduced by Messrs. Steele Bros. & Co. This is a strong growing white of Swedish origin. The introducers in their catalogue give a full description of it. It is a promising new oat, which we believe will be found valuable. Last year the same firm introduced the Cave oat, one of the most valuable in cultivation; when growing it closely resembles the Tartarian. The heads grow in the same form, the straw is of excellent quality, the grains are white and long and are covered with a very thin hull. They are less liable to rust than the black varieties, though not as free from it in some soils as the Australians. They did exceedingly well wherever grown last season, yielding perhaps a larger average crop than any other variety; are suited to high, dry, loamy soils. They were produced from a cross between the hardy White Canadian oat and the Black Tartarian. Though white in color, heads will frequently be found which contain dun-colored and sometimes dark-brown grains. This trait caused Steele Bros. & Co. to withdraw them this year, thinking them impure. The Abyssinia oat, which Mr. John S. Pearce is introducing this year, closely resembles the last named. Both are abundant yielders of both straw and grain. Though a white oat, it will also occasionally produce a berry more or less colored. This is also a cross-bred between the white and black sorts. The Rosedale, introduced last year by the above seedsmen, when growing could not be told from either of the last named varieties. The straw is perhaps a little stiffer and brighter; the grain is always white. Etampes and Joanettes (French oats) are being introduced by Wm. Rennie, Toronto, or at least the latter are, though in reality we can see little difference between the two sorts. They are a black oat, yielding an abundance of grain, but the straw is very short and fine. Many growers will object to them on this account.