

neighbor of Mr. Fife. The Fifes and the Essons came from Kincardine, Parish of Tullyallen, Scotland, and settled in Otonabee, Peterboro' County, Ontario, about 1821. Here is Mr. Esson's letter, which may be found in "The Canadian Agriculturist" for March, 1861, (p. 167).

"About the year 1842, Mr. David Fife, of the Township of Otonabee, Canada West, (now Ontario), procured through a friend in Glasgow, Scotland, a quantity of wheat which had been obtained from a cargo direct from Dantzig. As it came to hand just before spring seed time, and not knowing whether it was a fall or spring variety, Mr. Fife concluded to sow part of it that spring, and wait for the result. It proved to be a fall wheat, as it never ripened, except three ears, which grew apparently from a single grain. These were preserved, and although sown the next year under very unfavorable circumstances, being quite late, and in a shady place, it proved at harvest to be entirely free from rust, when all the wheat in the neighborhood was badly rusted. The produce of this was carefully preserved, and from it sprang the variety of wheat known over Canada and the Northern States by the different names of Fife, Scotch and Glasgow. As the facts occurred in my immediate neighborhood, and being intimately acquainted, not only with the introducer, but with the circumstances, I can vouch for the correctness of the statement, and if necessary produce incontestible proof."

From An Ontario Farm.

There are some traditions in connection with David Fife's wheat that differ from the above. One is that having by experiment found out that the Scotch Dantzig wheat was a spring and not a fall variety, the sack in which the wheat had been contained was looked up and a handful of grain was found in it, and this was sown in the succeeding year. Mr. Esson's account is probably the more accurate. Another story is that Mrs. Fife is entitled to share in her husband's honor, for, discovering the family cow contentedly making a meal off the growing clump of grain, she was in time to rescue a portion of it before it was too late. It is worth recording in Canadian history that the millions of bushels annually produced on the Canadian prairies are the descendants of one or more grains that a pioneer farmer in Ontario was fortunate enough to sow over seventy years ago. In 1862, Mr. Walter Riddell, of Northumberland County, in one of his communications to "The Canadian Agriculturist" called attention to the fact that no public recognition had been paid to Mr. Fife by the farmers of Upper Canada. "It does not reflect much credit on our farmers that they have not ere this bestowed some public testimonial on the gentleman who was the means of introducing it into the province." (July 16, 1862, p. 442). It is too late now to make the personal recognition, but we can at least inform our people of this story and suggest a proper place in the historical records of our country.

European Origin Established.

But the story is not yet complete. In 1905, Dr. Chas. E. Saunders, Dominion Cerealists, in his evidence before the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture and Colonization, referred to Mr. Esson's letter, and then added the following:—

"This account has given rise to the idea that Red Fife is a Canadian wheat, that it originated with Mr. Fife in some wholly unaccountable manner, or as a sport from some European variety. It always seemed to me probable that the kernel which Mr. Fife obtained was merely a seed of some common European variety which had found its way into this wheat from Dantzig. Last season, among our newly-imported European varieties, was one under the name of 'Galician' obtained from a seedsman in Germany. Now, Galicia lies about 300 miles inland from Dantzig. This imported Galician wheat struck me at once as being very much like Red Fife,