

### Sell Your Crops.

Sell your crops as soon as you can get them to market. How much have those farmers made who have held their wheat from last year, losing by interest, waste, shrinkage, and running the risk of fire, theft, etc.? Get your cash and use it judiciously, and you will make more than those who hoard wheat, wool, butter or any other produce. We cautioned you about the butter market last spring. If you have heeded that caution you can pay for the ADVOCATE for your grandson. If you have a lot of grease on hand we pity you. Do not be in too much of a hurry to sow your winter wheat. There will be Hessian flies about, which will go for the early-sown wheat.

### The Old, Old Story.

Which is the best kind of wheat to sow this fall? is asked us by many. Sow that kind which has turned out best in your own neighborhood for a general crop. In some sections the Scott wheat has done better than the Clawson; in others the reverse is the case. These two varieties are commended as being generally the safest. The Fultz wheat, the Silver Chaff and Arnold's Victor are each very highly spoken of by parties who have grown them. It might be well to sow a small quantity of each of them, to ascertain if they will answer in your section better than the varieties that are better known, as a change will assuredly be wanted in your section before long.

### Cross-Joint-Worm—Potato Blight.

The harvest is finished and a great part of the fall wheat threshed and marketed. The yield of fall wheat was larger than has been known for years, in fact we doubt if there has ever been a larger aggregate yield in Canada. Thirty and thirty-five bushels to the acre has been a common yield, and as high as 40 have been threshed per acre. The sample however is not so good as might be expected; it is very much shrunken in places, especially where it was allowed to stand too long before cutting. No doubt neglect in reaping at the proper period, with the hot weather when the wheat was in the milky state has been the cause of the shrinkage. Through the columns of the ADVOCATE we have frequently urged cutting on the green side. The period of ripening of grain is that at which it contains the largest portion of nutriment. Indeed a considerable part of the ripening process should take place in the mow. If it is allowed to ripen while standing the grain loses much of its nutritive properties and shrinks; the yield of flour from such wheat being much less than from the wheat cut green. From a series of experiments made for the purpose, it appears that two weeks before fully ripe is the proper time for cutting wheat.

### SPRING CROPS

Have not done well, taking them all through. Spring wheat has suffered from the joint-worm. This destructive insect works in the first joint from the bottom, and the effects of its work may be known from the straws breaking down near the ground and the whole field being flat. This insect has done a great deal of damage in different parts of Ontario. We saw several fields in the County of Lambton that were badly affected, and from information we have received from other sources especially, and from this we are inclined to believe that more damage has been done by this pest than farmers are aware of. The grain was so badly injured that in cutting the heads lay so near the ground that fully one-half were cut off in reaping and left upon the ground. The fly of this joint-worm is often mistaken for the Hessian fly, but it is larger than either the midge fly or the Hessian, and has four wings instead of two. The young of

the Hessian fly is a cylindrical, reddish white maggot, and lives embedded in little cavities, either in the top of the roots, or just above the lowermost joint of the stalk. By their pressure upon the plant they cause it when five or six inches high to turn yellow, wither and die.

The joint-worm causes the stem to swell and form tumors like a joint, and hence its name, while the maggots of the midge live in the head of the wheat.

We have mentioned these differences from the fact that they are often confounded together by people.

### A POTATO BLIGHT.

There is a peculiar blight come over potatoes. In a few days the lower leaves turn black, and the potato prematurely ripens. The stalks give off an odor like new made hay. The tuber itself does not appear to be affected, only as far as stopping the growth. When potatoes ripen naturally the stalk and leaf assume a golden tinge and then gradually die, but in the present case the whole top dies at once before the potato is quite matured. It is evidently not the old potato rot, for the tuber is perfectly sound and has no appearance of fungus on the skin which is characteristic of this potato rot. All through there have been peculiarities connected with potato culture, from the time of planting until now, which can hardly be accounted for. Seed of the best quality and of different varieties, never vegetated at all—simply rotted in the ground.

### PEAS.

From all parts of Ontario we hear the same cry, that the peas are full of bugs, besides being damaged by a small worm. Except a few late sown peas there will be very few fit for shipping. Peas have been raised so extensively of late years, that there is no doubt but they will be a failure for years.

Corn is an excellent crop, and farmers will have to turn their attention to raising this crop instead of so many peas. Corn will be ready to cut the early part of September, which is remarkably early for this latitude.

### THE ROOT CROP

Will be a failure, generally speaking, not that the season has been unfavorable to growth, but because no attention has been paid to their cultivation, owing to the pressure of the harvest. The weeds have been allowed to attain such a height that the growth of the plant has been completely checked.

It is now too late to begin to clean root crops, as the weeds have got such a strong root hold that in pulling them up, they pull plant and all.

### PASTURES

Are good; the aftermath has attained a large growth, and according as clover seed ruled last year, not much clover will be cut this fall for seed. The second growth will be pastured, and there is every prospect of a good make of fall cheese and butter.

### Are Farm Laborers Scarce?

There has been considerable delay in the saving and in the gathering of the wheat crop this year from the difficulty experienced by farmers in getting harvest hands in several parts of the country. In some places as high as \$2.00 to \$2.50 per day wages was offered, and even at that high rate they could not get the workmen they needed. Are farm laborers not to be had in Canada. There has been great immigration to all parts of Canada for years, and yet farmers are unable to obtain the necessary help when needed.

The farmers cannot give constant employment to hired men and consequently emigrants, even if they were farm laborers prefer the town to the country, and very many of them being unable to

get constant employment in town or country leave Canada for the United States. In order to retain a working population there must be some means for them to support themselves by their labor. If men who leave their old home to obtain employment in Canada fail in getting that employment they will go elsewhere.

The complaint is general that there are many unemployed men, and there are efforts made to procure small farms for the unemployed to enable them to support themselves and families. In Montreal a Colonization Society are endeavouring to have some of the desitute established upon vacant Provincial lands. In London, Ont., and in other places some similar efforts are being made. By this means, homes might be provided for some of the more destitute, and they would be enabled to provide a sustenance. Were such small colonies established in different places in good farming localities, the men and their families so located might in a measure supply the want of farm laborers when needed, besides laboring their own small holdings. This would prove a mutual benefit, and advantage to those who would in the busy season require help, and to those whose time would be only practically required on their own small holdings.

### A Prize Farm.

In the *Agricultural Gazette*, of England, we have an interesting account of the farming of Mr. Steed, of Red House Farm, Somersetshire, who had the high honour of the 1st prize being awarded him by the judges of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. The farm is rather over 250 acres of land, generally rather a shallow and free calcareous soil, but strong enough for beans and wheat and light enough for barley. One quarter of it is under tillage, and the remainder good, sweet grass land, full of white clover and bearing this year an unusual quantity of produce. One quarter of the tilled land is in mangels, potatoes and beans taken after clover and followed by wheat, after which the barley crop is taken, being sown down with red and white clover, which is mown and folded, and broken up for beans, mangels and potatoes; thus beginning the four year's course again.

The barley this year was a perfectly even, well-planted, well-headed crop. The wheat was a heavy crop as thick as it could stand. The mangels were excellent. The beans which had grey stone turnips sown among them in June, to be grown and folded after the crop is off gave fair promise. The clover was a magnificent aftermath, on which the flock of 130 Hampshire ewes were feeding, their lambs having been all fattened and sold. The dairy stock were fifty tolerably large formed common dairy shorthorns, generally red or white and roan, and twelve or thirteen of them are 2 year olds having had their first calf this spring. There were 13 yearling heifers, with calf and as many calves. Besides all these there are 6 or 7 breeding sows and their produce.

In order to feed such a large stock on the farm Mr. Steed finds it necessary to purchase large quantities of food. This includes grains, cake, and maize, besides home grown beans. Much of the straw is consumed as chaff and there is a large quantity of hay saved for winter consumption. The mangels are fed for the most part by sheep during winter.

There is also a large expenditure for manure, almost exclusively soot, nearly 2,000 bushels of soot being purchased annually for application to grain crops and potatoes. From the farm build ings, cow-houses, pig styes, and stables, manure enough is made for the mangels, potatoes and beans, about 12 acres in all.

The whole horse labor of the farm is done by three horses. There is a good deal of carriage of