

SEEDS.

Since the commencement of the seed season, we have had a busy time and have sent our seeds over a greater extent of country than we did last year, and we feel confident of giving general satisfaction. Our arrangements have been greatly improved, consequently persons have received them in quicker time. Our testing of grain was not as complete last year as we could wish. This season very great improvements have been made. The division of labor has done much to aid us, as we found it impossible to keep all things on our farm. We have now the aid of H. Johnstone, the reeve of Delaware, who has taken the Fall Wheat to test and report to us about. We have on his farm, upwards of twenty varieties, most of which are looking well. Some varieties have been winter killed, but the particulars of each will be reported to you in the autumn.

We have twelve varieties of Spring Wheat under the care of Mr. Thomas Hodgins of London township. The various varieties of Barley are in charge of Mr. Geo. Jarvis, of Westminster; Alex. Pontey, of Westminster is cultivating thirty varieties of Potatoes for us. Our Corn, Peas, Beans, Vegetables and Flowers are in different persons hands, each cultivator being selected by us to take charge of such as they are best adapted for, or their inclination is inclined most to cultivate.

There are so many deceptions practiced to gain money, gain a name, or gain power and every cent comes from our pockets. We speak practically as a farmer as that is our avocation. This editorial business is but to show our requirements and aid us from losses, either from degeneracy of seed, attacks of insects or impositions practiced.

POTATOES.—We have received a present from Mr. H. Balmer of this city, of a few Recently imported potatoes, viz: the Flounders the Bishop's seedling and Prince Regent. We have shown them to one of our best judges of potatoes, and our united opinion is that the Prince Regent is the most valuable of all three. We shall have them tested, and if deserving further notice will report on them. Mr. Balmer will accept our thanks for his kindness.

ADULTERATION OF SEEDS.

The purity of seeds sown or purchased, is a question of vital importance to farmers. There is no doubt but many farmers persist in sowing seeds of inferior kinds, covering an equal space, requiring similar cultivation, absorbing capital, and producing an article inferior in size, quantity and quality. Varieties are constantly being thrown upon the market, some possessing real merit and others worthless. Even when an article is proven to be good, by testing, such a demand is created that seedsmen are tempted to pretend to supply it, although the stock on hand is far from being sufficient. Ever since we have

established a depot for seeds in connection with the Emporium, this fact has been before us. We have sent nothing forth with our unqualified approval without a thorough testing. In some instances we have been deceived, but this, to a great extent, was caused by the imperfect means of testing seeds by actual cropping attendant upon a new venture. Our arrangements for the future are so completed that we trust few mistakes will occur. Our aim is to establish a name for reliability, and if labor and careful attention will secure this end, we will succeed. The impurity of seeds is attracting the serious attention of European farmers. The Royal Horticultural Society of England has been investigating the charges of adulteration in seeds. They quietly bought up packages from the leading wholesale houses, and had the packages tested, publishing the proportion of good seeds to bad from each package from each house. In many cases only ten per cent were good, and very few went over fifty per cent. The most common forms of trickery appear to be, that when the stock on hand is short, and the demand good, some worthless kind is roasted enough to destroy the germ and mixed with a few of the desired thing—which, of course, is the only lot that grows. The purchaser gets his "pound of seed," but only an ounce or two comes up. These adulterations are defended on the ground that the public will have the lowest price seeds, and that all have to do "what others do," in order to be able to sell at all. There are a few, it appears, who sell good seed, and these have, after a struggle at first, found that Honesty is, after all, the best policy.

HUMBUGS.

There ever have been, and will be persons ready to be humbugged, and those are not wanting who are ready to practice it. We cautioned our readers previously about the Japan Wheat, the Surprise Oats, and Agricultural machines of which parties are selling the patent rights. There is money to be made in these ways, but we caution our Agricultural readers to avoid this mode of procuring wealth. The chances are ten to one but you will be a looser instead of a gainer. You may bet at the gambling table or at the horse-race if you are over-burdened with cash. A hue and cry has been got up in some places about the ever-bearing Strawberry and the Surprise Oats. We have yet to learn that either are an improvement, or even new varieties. We only supply any untried thing with caution. Farmers would be greater gainers by reading more, and giving less support to the venders of useless wares.

Beet Culture And Beet Sugar in Canada.

The subject of beet sugar is attracting considerable attention in the United States: and many of our exchanges are urging the importance of cultivating sugar beets for the purpose of manufacturing sugar. We think the subject is worthy the attention of the Board of Agriculture as well as the Board of Arts and Manufactures. It would be an easy matter to test the economic value of the sugar. But in Canada a large prize, say \$50, for the best cask of beet syrup, ready for the refinery and \$50 for the best sample of sugar, might be offered. Warm sun is necessary for the

full development of the saccharine element in the beet; and it is a question whether our short summers would be favorable. The quality of the sugar beet may be much improved, and it may interest our readers to know the mode adopted to perfect the sugar beet of to-day. Mr. Vilmerin, the celebrated seedsman, found that beets differed in their "sweetness." It was important to sow only the seeds of the sweetest, in order to gradually increase the quantity of sugar in each root. He constructed a "saccharometer," by which he could ascertain the exact quantity of sugar in an ounce of beet pulp. He then went through a field of sugar beets, and scooped out of growing plants an ounce of pulp. He tried one thousand samples, testing them by the saccharometer; and such roots as contained the largest quantity of sugar he reserved for seed. By repeating these operations for several years, he at last produced an "improved sugar beet," and it is now cultivated for sugar in Europe. It also makes excellent food for cattle. We mention these facts to show what can be done in improving vegetables. We think if the government was to favor the manufacture of sugar from beets, for three years, by large prizes in every county, the capabilities of Canada for sugar growing would be well tested. The growers who were sent out to America to select a tract of land to grow sugar beets have chosen Kentucky as the best locality, the more northern States being too cold, and the summer too short, for the production of good sugar beets. One thing is certain, we have seen larger beets at our exhibitions than in France. In California, beets have been grown of forty-two pounds weight. It is not, however, so much size as sweetness that is required. We think the best way to test the question and profit, is to offer large prizes at our Provincial Exhibitions for the beet syrup for the refinery, and refined beet sugar. This mode of encouraging the production of beet sugar would have the effect of testing the question of the economic value of beets for sugar, and it would be done at little expense to government; at the same time the prizes would afford some remuneration to the farmer for the loss attending a new enterprise. After one year's trial, if successful, private enterprise would soon make the sugar beet one of the staple productions of the country.—Witness.

CURE FOR SHEEP-CHASING DOGS.

Your correspondent "Straightforward," tells us how he has cured some dogs addicted to chasing sheep. He recommends much patience; in this I quite agree, but to cure a confirmed "chaser" requires more than most men possess. Your correspondent fears a Newfoundland or any other large breed after he has tasted blood is incurable. I can assure him to the contrary. A large deerhound of mine, or rather of my father's (a prize winner at Birmingham,) with not being well looked after, got into the habit of chasing sheep, and killing them too, when ever he had an opportunity. He was sharply corrected and kept chained up for some days, but when again taken out was as bad as ever. My father happily remembered how he had cured a large retriever of the same sin five-and-thirty years before, and we have, I am pleased to say, made a perfect cure of my deerhound. After one of his chases he was taken up to the sheep farm, securely tied between two old Scotch rams, and then let loose in the yard. No sooner were they let loose, than all three being good jumpers, they cleared the wall, and the dog was dragged about the park till all three were dead tired. The poor fellow was then taken home, and I can assure you "sheep chasing" is now the very last thing of all others that he ever thinks of.—LONDON FIELD.