

Correspondence.

Crops in Vespra.

To the Editor.

SIR.—As far as wheat is concerned, I am sorry to say that your remarks concerning the crop prospects of the country are not applicable to this and some of the neighbouring townships, where, I was going to say, we have the prospect—but in fact we have the reality—of the worst crop of wheat that has been raised here for years. It promised a fair yield until late in July, when it was struck with the rust and ruined. There are plenty of fields which will not pay for harvesting and threshing. Fortunately some fields have escaped, and will yield well; but they are few and far between, and what is singular, they are in the flattest parts of the township, in parts which in ordinary seasons, if there be any rust flying, are sure to catch it. Then again, the highest parts of the township, where rust is seldom seen, are the worst damaged by it this year. Can you explain this phenomenon to us?

The early sown spring wheat is full of midge, and will be little good. I think our farmers will learn a lesson from this year's experience, not to trust too much to one kind of grain, particularly fall wheat, for if they do, they are sure to get bitten sooner or later. The failure will be very severely felt, as a large breadth of land is under that crop, in fact, some farms are nearly all under wheat, to the exclusion of all other grain. Barley, peas and oats never promised a better yield. The hay crop just got in is over an average, but somewhat damaged by the wet weather. To all appearance, potatoes and turnips will be an extraordinary crop.

I read in one of your issues, not long since, of a gentleman of some place in the Dominion exulting over digging forty pounds of Early Rose potatoes, the produce of seventeen ounces of seed. He may hide his face. Mr. Martin Johnson, of this township, procured one pound of that variety of potatoes from Mr. Simmers' seed store, last spring, cut it into about fifty sets, planted them on the 3rd day of May, and on or about the 3rd of the present month dug up one-eighth part of them to plant for a second crop, and the produce was eighteen pounds and eight ounces, or at the rate of one hundred and forty-eight pounds for the one pound planted. If any one can beat this let him speak. I am doubtful whether friend Johnson can raise a second crop of potatoes in the same year in these northern latitudes. If he can, it will be something wonderful to us, and we shall have to believe the Early Rose potato all it is lauded to be. I will let you know the result of his experiment.

FARMER.

Vespra, August 18, 1869.

Artesian Wells.

To the Editor.

SIR.—Allow me to ask you to give me through your journal some information about the artesian wells so much talked about. We are here very badly off for water, and I think that if I could have one of these artificial springs on my farm it would be adding fifty per cent. to its value. I want to know how these wells are worked, and if there are any companies, to your knowledge, that undertake such work, and at the same time the probable cost. My farm, like most of the others here, is a kind of black ground mixed with clay, about one foot deep. Underneath is a bed of pure clay about 30 to 40 feet deep. Here we reach the solid rock. We can get plenty of water with the common wells, but that is bad, and animals do not like it.

A.M. BEAUDET, M.D.

Ste. Martha Co., Vaudreuil,
Province of Quebec.

ANS.—Our correspondent will not need to be informed of the principle of these wells, which require certain geological conditions to render them practicable. There must be below the surface a stratum of water whose source is elevated. When this under current is tapped from above, the water will rise as a spring through the bore, to a height corresponding with the elevation of its source. They are often uncertain, and usually expensive contrivances. No doubt there are plenty of parties about Petrolia, or the oil regions, who would undertake to bore one. But we would advise the construction of large rain-water cisterns, provided with filters, and the water will be found most wholesome and palatable. We have used such ourselves, both for domestic purposes and for stock. If all the roofs about a dwelling and farm steading are utilized, it is astonishing what an amount of water may be collected and stored. With proper purifying filters, the water in such reservoirs will remain pure for a very long time.

Tree Planting.

(To the Editor.

SIR.—The citizens of Toronto are justly proud of their many elegant streets, and of the beautiful shade-trees which give them such a sylvan appearance; but it occurs to the present writer that an additional beauty might be given by a greater variety in the trees that adorn these streets. Graceful as are the horse-chestnuts and maples, of which they principally consist, are they not of too dwarfed a habit for street growth, obstructing as they do the free circulation of air, darkening too much the houses near the street and entirely obscuring the street lamps at night? The noble American elm, and the linden, with which the streets of many American cities are planted, are free from these objections. They grow up with a clear trunk for thirty or forty feet, and then branch out with a broad

umbrageous top, over-arching the street, and frequently interlacing with the branches of the opposite trees, thus making a leafy canopy like the nave of a vast cathedral, through which hardly a glint of sunlight can pass. We may mention, as examples, the "Long Walk" on Boston Common, the streets of Cambridge, and the College grounds of Harvard, those of Yale, and the streets of New Haven, Portland, and many other places. The beautiful avenues which lead to the Queen's Park in this city are indeed noble drives, but how inconceivably nobler would the vista be if, instead of the low growing trees of which they are formed, they were composed of the majestic elms which grow so numerously in the open fields around the city! Some of the broad streets, notably Brock street, and others at the west end, now unsightly wastes, would, if planted thus, make as noble avenues as any on the continent, or as the celebrated Prater and the Under den Linden of Vienna, or the many other famous boulevards of Europe. The expense of planting would be but trifling, while the ultimate advantage would be incalculable.

ARBORARIUS.

Gorse.

To the Editor.

SIR.—My neighbour, Mr. Joseph Moore, has a *whin bush* in blossom in his garden; he wished me to write you regarding it, and to let you know, as he thinks there is not (perhaps) such another in the Province. He brought the seed from Ireland, when he visited his native country eight years ago. Therefore the bush is seven years old; it grows in a box about eighteen inches square, and twelve inches deep; he puts it in the cellar every fall in November and takes it out to his garden in April, therefore the bush has no light for five months, and it seems to be healthy. It is about five feet high, and the stalk is strong, being two and a half inches in circumference at the base. I should be glad of any information, especially on the following points. Is not the whin a native of Europe and not of America? Would it have any chance of living here in winter in the open air? Are you aware of any one who has whins growing, and are they raised in any part of America? I have not seen a whin bush in blossom since I came to Canada from Scotland, twenty-four years ago.

H. McPHAIL.

Cartwright, June, 1869

NOTE BY ED.—The Gorse (*Ulex Europæus*), sometimes also called Whin, or Furze, is a native of Europe, and has not, so far as we are aware, been acclimated on this continent. The sandy and gravelly soils of England seem to be its favourite localities. There are two species and several varieties in that country. It is used, where it is abundant, for rough fodder, and also for fuel. We have lately seen several plants in this country; but none of them have been exposed, we believe, during the winter. It is not likely that they would endure the severity of the season in Canada without protection and shelter.