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 Township of Hamilton.

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Passing from stock to crops, in which a large portion of our farmers are more directly interested, we would notice first, Fall Wheat. The method pursued with this crop when it was cultivated extensively, was either to summer-fallow the land, giving it generally three ploughings; or else to sow it after a pea crop, giving one or two ploughings, as was found convenient, or the state of the ground required. In early settlements of the township, fall wheat was the only kind grown, and when so much of the country was covered with wood there was the danger of winter-killing—the fly had not been heard of; the rust was the enemy most dreaded by the farmer. We have frequently heard old settlers remarking how much easier they could get a good crop of wheat then than they could now—“every thing they put in the ground seemed to grow well; if they could only get the seed sown they were sure of a good crop &c., &c. With the clearing away of our woods, the ground became more exposed, so that the snow, (the great natural protector of wheat and of our fields in winter), disappeared more rapidly under the influence of the wind and the sun, and the wheat plants were weakened or destroyed by the early frosts. Then the plants that were left in the ground too much—became too rank in their growth, and the rust and mildew finished the work.

Notwithstanding all the increased skill and care of our farmers so much did this become the case that the cultivation of fall wheat has given up in the front part of the township, and is now grown in the middle and rear parts in only decreasing quantities; the land in the rear parts being higher and dryer, and the climate milder than the front.

varieties grown here have been various. The first came to the township the White was a favourite kind; then the bald red white wheat was common; then the blue stem white became the favourite for some time, but we think the Soule's white wheat has become the most valuable variety, and its introduction, has almost driven all the other varieties out of cultivation. The blue stem has been grown to some extent, and has done well. The Mediterranean and the Ken- May wheat have been tried, but with no success. The second prize for the blue stem, and the first prize for the two other varieties have been taken in the township at the Agricultural Exhibition.

repeated failures of fall wheat no doubt induced our farmers to try spring wheat; and many new things it was tried but sparingly, but as its cultivation became better un-

derstood and better varieties were introduced, it became more popular. By the last census it appears that four acres of spring are now grown for one of fall wheat in this township.

Spring wheat is sown after all kinds of root crops and Indian corn—it is sown after peas. The land is generally ploughed twice in the fall, when the manure, if any is used, is put on, and then cultivated in the spring, or else simply harrowed in. In this way good crops of wheat are often obtained, and this method is extensively practised. Sometimes land is *rag* or *bastard* fallowed—that is, the land is ploughed and harrowed immediately after the hay crop is taken off, and then allowed to lie till after harvest, when it is cross-ploughed and harrowed; it is then ridged up before the frost sets in, and sown in the spring, without any further preparation, or else cultivated and sown—manure may be applied at any of the ploughings, as is convenient; when applied before the first or second ploughing it becomes well mixed with the soil. Sometimes a field that has been mown for one or two years is ploughed up with a Michigan Sod-and-Subsoil plough, and sown with wheat; but this method seldom produces such good crops as the other, but there is less labour by this way. Spring wheat is often sown after fall wheat; on land that had been summer-fallowed for the fall wheat the crop is often very fair; it is sometimes sown on the same ground two or three years in succession, but this is not often profitable, as it seldom yields well to sow wheat after wheat; sometimes land, when very dirty, is summer-fallowed for spring wheat; the crop in this case is apt to be too strong. The great breadth of land under root crops in late years, and the increased quantity of peas grown, render the use of other preparations for spring wheat almost unnecessary.

Varieties—The kind first grown here, as far as we know, was the Italian Spring Wheat—a heavily bearded variety, which though it hardly yielded so well to the acre as some varieties that came after, was, on the whole, a good hardy wheat, and made good flour. The variety next introduced was the Siberian—a fine bald or very slightly bearded variety, with a bold plump berry, so much so that it was sometimes mistaken for fall wheat. This kind gave a great impetus to the growth of spring wheat, for the first few years after it was introduced it yielded extremely well, and its fine sample made it much sought after,—but, after a few years, it became very subject to rust, which, in the season of 1848, caused a great failure of this kind, and led to the abandonment of this variety.

About the time the Siberian spring wheat was failing, two other kinds were introduced—one called the Bald and the other the Bearded Club. The Bald Club is an excellent variety, still much grown on our light soils, where it can be sown early, so as to escape rust and fly. It is