

By the 10th of August, the heads, which were from one to six inches in length, were all turned of a golden yellow color; and the blades, which were very soft, long, and thick, and set on the straw from the ground to the head, were of the same hue. I then cut it and bound it in sheaves, like wheat or oats. After it had cured a few days, I threshed off the seed, cleaned them neat and clear of chaff, and measured them. I had sixty-three pints of seed from one pint sown. I am confident that not more than half of the seed came up, and consequently the sixty-three pints were the product of half a pint of seed.

I gave some of the hay to my horses and cattle; they all seemed as fond of it as of sheaf oats. The seed was very heavy, and, I think, far superior to threshed oats for feed, as they appear to be more oily and nutritious. The hay, without the seed, will probably be excellent feed for horses, cattle, and sheep. Unthreshed, it will likely be superior as feed to the best of sheaf oats.

In Tennessee, it should be sown about the first week in May, on clean and loose ground, harrowed smooth before sowing, and then harrowed or brushed after. One bushel of seed, I think, will sow three acres. It should not be cut till the heads get yellow, if the seed is to be sown. I recommend the Hungarian grass to be the best and most nutritious of all grasses, and I shall rejoice when our State is well supplied with its seed.

From O. H. KELLEY, Corresponding Secretary of the Northwood Farmers' Club, Wright county, Minnesota.

The distribution of seeds, received from the Patent Office the past season, has resulted in the formation of one of the most efficient organizations of farmers of which our new State can boast. Having been chosen as corresponding secretary of the same, I will describe the plan which has been adopted for future distribution of seeds. Owing to the small quantities contained in the parcels of wheat, oats, &c., making it considerable labor to save enough for subsequent trials, all that may be received, say of wheat of one variety, is given to one farmer, another variety to a second, and so on. At the end of the season, and after the grain is threshed, it is to be left at the secretary's office for the inspection of all the members of the club. If the result is favorable, the same person has the privilege of sowing the whole another season, and half the product then becomes the property of the club, and is distributed as they see fit. So with corn, and all seeds that may mix by being planted in too close proximity with seeds we now raise. By this method we can keep the seed pure; and, as nearly all our members are practical farmers, we shall take great pains to give each variety of seeds a fair and impartial trial.

We now number some thirty members, and intend to hold meetings, during the winter, one evening of each week, for discussions upon agricultural topics. Samples of every kind of grain and other crops are left with the secretary, at his office, for public inspection.

With most of the seeds received the past season, our success has been good, and may be summed up as follows:

Melons.—The ice-cream watermelon proved to be very fine, and is well worth cultivation.

The Green Citron.—This did not produce so well as we wished; but will give it further trial. We have had a very poor season, as far as the weather is concerned, for ripening melons, owing to much rain.

China Beans.—These did very well, ripening early.

The distribution of King Philip corn and Chinese sugar-cane has given to the farmers of Minnesota two of the most valuable crops we can raise. Of the corn we must speak in the highest terms; it matures the last of August or the first week of September, and we finished husking the first of October. With proper attention, it yields an average of seventy bushels per acre, on sandy soil; husks very easy; and the meal is considered far superior to any other kind, for making bread. It is sure to be out of the way of early frosts, and can be all housed long before cold weather sets in.

The sugar-cane must prove a valuable gift to us. Most of it raised this season was planted too late to allow the seed to mature; though I secured about a quart from my lot, well ripened. The result of an experiment with the cane, as made by Mr. Cooley, is as follows:

He planted one acre and one fourth with cane. The greater part of the seed was sorghum, and the rest imphee. He gives a decided preference to the imphee. His product of syrup was about 350 gallons.

A large number of our farmers will send to Chicago this winter for seed of the sugar-cane, and we anticipate a large crop next season; so that, in all probability, syrup will sell in the fall of 1859 for twenty-five cents per gallon—a price which will pay the manufacturer, as the consumption of the article will very much increase. At the present rates of from fifty to seventy-five cents, it is cheaper than Louisiana molasses has been with us for several years.

Whatever prejudice may exist against the distribution of seeds from the Patent Office, many of us in Minnesota feel under great obligations to your Office for such valuable gifts.

Chufas, or Earth Almonds.—These prove to be indigenous to our soil and climate, being found in rich bottom lands, and on the borders of some of our marshes. The cultivated, however, are much larger than the wild, and are eagerly sought by the gophers, which devoured the larger share of my crop. As a substitute for coffee, they are good; though I consider peas to be equal, and they are harvested much cheaper. Chufas, moreover, will probably prove to be a bad plant to spread in cultivated ground.*

Koll Rabi.—This species of the turnip is certainly a beautiful plant when growing, and will be valuable for feeding to stock.

Cabbages.—The numerous varieties received did well, with the exception of the *Cowé tronchuda*. This yielded a stalk upward of two feet high, profusely covered with leaves, but did not head. The *Early York* ripens very early, and is much esteemed. The *Ox-Heart* is a variety true to its name, and very plump and sound; it is a good cab-

* Mr. Kelley has erroneously connected the wild nut-grass (*Cyperus repens*) with the esculent from the south of Spain, (*Cyperus esculentus*.) The chufa belongs to the same genus but does not possess the power of spreading itself voluntarily.

bage. The *Savoys*, however, are the general favorites for winter use.
New White Globe Onion.—This is a finely-flavored onion, but did not succeed very well. It is, perhaps, better adapted to a more southern latitude.

Salsify.—Will give this another trial next season. The root, this year, was much smaller than an ordinary-sized parsnip.

Celery.—This will receive another trial; needs forcing in a hot-bed.

Lettuce and Cucumbers.—All did well. Consider the curled variety the best.

Peas.—The Early Emperor and Champion of England are decidedly the best varieties we have yet raised; the latter being a late variety with us.

Victoria Pie Plant.—This produced stalks from the seed this season, some as large as those from roots in the garden seven years old.

Crimson Clover.—This was sown rather late, but grew well, and the seed matured finely. It has a large, cone-shaped head, and is of a bright crimson color. By its rapid growth, it must gain favor wherever introduced.

Some attention is now given to the raising of tame grasses, as experience of ten years here has plainly shown that it is folly for the farmers to depend upon the marshes for wild hay. It will sometimes, in certain localities, bear cutting two and three years in succession; but the second crop is generally much lighter than the first, whereas, in other places, the first cutting is followed by a thrifty crop of thistles and weeds of endless variety.

The new organization, the Northwood Farmers' Club, is composed of several of the members of the old Benton County Agricultural Society, which has sunk into oblivion, owing to the county having been divided into four new counties. To attend the meetings of that society, many of the members were obliged to travel fifty miles each way. By having clubs scattered through the counties, where members can meet more frequently, and in their own neighborhoods, much more beneficial results will follow. The office of our club will be kept open during business hours, and we intend to have several papers on file, and a corrected list of wholesale and retail prices of products of the farm. Each member will also register, in a book kept by the secretary, the amount of grain he wishes to dispose of, or if he desires to purchase any stock, making it, at the same time, a ready place to purchase and sell anything appertaining to the farm.

Hereafter, the success or failure with seeds from your Office will be made out in full, at regular meetings of the club, and printed copies will be forwarded to you.

From JOHN DANFORTH, of New London, Connecticut.

I received from the Patent Office some California pumpkin seeds, which I planted in my garden early in the spring, with two rows of green corn of thirty-six hills. The pumpkin seeds came up soon and well, ran from forty to sixty feet, and blossomed and set well; growing as fast as cucumbers in the month of September. The green corn was

cut up at the roots, and the sun admitted to the vines; they were taken in and harvested before frost. I had over one hundred of the finest and best California pumpkins that were ever seen together in any of our Northern States. Their weight was about four tons, some single ones weighing over one hundred pounds. It takes about six months to raise them in our climate. The ground must be rich and good. I put a wheelbarrow-load of the best hog manure into each hill of corn and pumpkins. I also planted some of the seed where an old hog-pen had stood. They were neither hoed nor weeded, yet ran sixty feet, and I took pumpkins from the vines weighing over one hundred pounds. They sell readily in our market at two cents per pound. I will furnish the seeds by return mail to any applicant who will send post office stamps.

I also received from the Patent Office a paper of Boston marrowfat squash seeds, which I planted in my garden, and raised about a dozen of the largest and finest squashes that I ever saw; the largest of them weighing from forty to fifty pounds. When they were cut open, they would smell like a ripe musk-melon. I have sold some of them at three cents per pound. The ground was rich and manured in the hill, which had a southeastern exposure.

From O. B. NICHOLS, Corresponding Secretary of Clinton County Agricultural and Mechanical Association, at Carlyle, Illinois.

DECEMBER 10, 1859.

I received from the Patent Office a parcel of Tuscan wheat, for experiment, in the fall of 1858. I put it in drills, 10 inches apart, and cultivated with the hoe. On the 27th of May the rust made its appearance, and rendered it worthless; May red, which stood only about 30 feet from it, was not affected. I also tried some white wheat, with the same result. I did not cut either variety. An experience of 22 years of wheat raising in the prairie satisfies me that, as a general rule to insure success, we must sow the earliest varieties to be procured from the south. Of 22 crops, I have never lost but one, and that was sowed on the 30th of January.

Not one farmer among the six who tried the Tuscan wheat succeeded.

The turnip seed proved worthless, except the Yellow Malta and the Snow Ball. The Ox-heart and Drumhead Cabbage proved first rate, and also all three of the varieties of beets, namely, the Large Scarlet, the White Sugar, and the Small Early Castelnaudry. Mangold wurzel and beans were fine; the squashes not good; but the best of all was the delicious nutmeg and ice-cream watermelon.

The law of Congress for the collection and distribution of seeds should immortalize the names of every member who voted for it.

From J. A. MERTZ, Secretary of the Union County Agricultural Society, Pennsylvania.

Organized November 13, 1852, and chartered September 19, 1857, our present number of members is 150. The amount required for

life-membership is \$10. Our other modes of obtaining funds are by selling admission tickets on fair days. We at present possess 10 acres of land, valued at \$2,000. A fair or show is held once a year, in October, when from \$200 to \$400 are awarded as premiums. The largest ever offered were for the best blooded stallion, \$6; and for the best short-horned Durham, Alderney, or Devon bull, \$5. We have a course on our ground. Every fall an account of our transactions is published in the county newspapers.

The benefits resulting from our organization are manifest; a feeling of ambition has arisen, which must ultimately produce great and permanent good to every interest. Blooded animals, of the domestic breeds, have been introduced, and are now being crossed upon the common stocks. The average yield of crops has increased, and farming and the mechanic arts generally have improved.

From CHARLES A. LEAS, *United States Consul at Revel, Russia.*

JUNE 16, 1859.

I send samples of very hardy Livonian and Esthonian wheat, rye, and barley, which are cultivated to great advantage in this sixtieth degree of latitude north, in a common limestone soil, and which I think would succeed to a good growth in the northern portions of the United States. The flavor of this rye, when converted into spirits, has for many years been pronounced, in France and Germany, *most desirable* for the making of wine and Holland gin. For those purposes large quantities are annually shipped from this place.

From W. M. WEST, *of Plattsmouth, Cass county, Nebraska.*

JANUARY 1, 1859.

This county being mostly prairie, the scarcity of timber is our greatest annoyance. The soil is well adapted to the production of the various fruits and vegetables of this latitude.

The wheat crop of the past season was attacked by rust, and consequently almost a failure; the Mediterranean or Black Sea wheat being the only variety that succeeded. Corn has yielded well, and appears to be unusually nutritious. All other crops have been very good, except potatoes, which were not more than half so productive as usual. These results are attributable to the superabundant rains which have visited this country for the last seventeen months.

The various grasses introduced here have prospered, but the prairie grass answering all purposes, little care is taken to procure foreign varieties. Cultivated fruits are confined to a few varieties of grapes, plums, cherries, gooseberries, currants, and raspberries. The native grapes of this vicinity are inferior; but there is a variety of native plum, some of which are worthy a place in the most select collection. The native gooseberries are large, and entirely smooth.

The first settlement in this county was made in 1854. The first crops were raised in 1855. In 1856, an agricultural society was organized, which held the first fair in October of that year, and the exhibition of horses, mules, cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, vegetables, dairy products, and needle-work would have honored some long-settled eastern counties. Each annual fair shows rapid improvement, and we expect to stand first in the agriculture of Nebraska.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF SEEDS, CUTTINGS, &c.

The Agricultural Division of the Patent Office is indebted for seeds and cuttings to many persons, both at home and abroad. These are at all times acceptable, though some *have been* received, we regret to state, in a condition unfit for germination, while the greater part would not bear transmission to distant localities. The recent erection of propagating houses in Washington, which are under the control of this Office, will enable the department to test all contributions, to increase the amount of those proving valuable, and to distribute them in vigorous condition over the country.

It is proper, also, to acknowledge the receipt of many seeds and remarkable products presented by successful growers. Participants in the distributions should exert themselves to disseminate over their own neighborhoods seeds of the best varieties raised. Should they, on the other hand, have any new or important seeds, which they desire to make more generally known, the Agricultural Division will take pleasure in instituting experiments and distributing the product.

From abroad, the Office has to acknowledge various favors from our ministers and consuls, many of whom show increasing interest in agricultural matters, and a commendable disposition in this respect to render their residence in foreign countries materially useful to their fellow countrymen at home.

Among numerous contributions we select the following:

1858.

March 17.—Grape cuttings from Dr. Th. Koester, secretary of Comal County Agricultural Society, New Braunfels, Texas.

March 31.—Four boxes of grafts from United States consul, Basle, Switzerland.

April 2.—Sixteen varieties of flower and vegetable seeds from Professor Blunee, of Calvert College, New Windsor, Maryland.

- July 3.—Seeds from Algiers and China from Marshal Vaillant, minister of war, France, per Alexander Vattermare.
- August 2.—Australian wheat, (2 pints of,) yield fifty to seventy-five bushels per acre, from Mr. William Dougherty, Berrien Springs, Michigan.
- August 5.—Two boxes of "Espirito santo" plant from C. A. Raymond, purser of steamship Moses Taylor.
- August 20.—Venetian sumac, received from Charles F. Loring, Austrian consul general, New York.
- Sept. 8.—178 specimens of seeds, presented by the Imperial and Central Horticultural Society of Paris, and forwarded by Alexander Vattermare.
- Sept. 11.—Plum stones, (*Prunus chiccasa*,) one quart, by Major H. C. Williams, from Santa Fé, New Mexico.
- October 6.—Seeds of white summer wild grape from farm of Dr. Sutphin, Liberty, Bedford county, Virginia.
- Nov. 1.—Four bundles of wild rice from J. Volney Swetting, Berlin, Wisconsin.
- Nov. 9.—A can of live-oak acorns from Palatka, Florida, sent by Mr. Glover.
- Dec. 1.—Seeds of Kaki, a delicious variety of persimmon, from Townsend Harris, consul general, Simoda, Japan.
- Dec. 17.—470 leaves and berries of Yaupan from Beaufort, South Carolina, per Edward Ralph, jr.
- 1859.
- April 20.—Three cans of grape cuttings from Governor Steele, of Peterborough, N. H.
- April 26.—A sample of wax, and seeds of wax tree (*Rhus succedanea*) from Japan.
- May 24.—Sample of cotton, coffee, sugar, India rubber, from Cerea, Brazil, sent by United States consul at Pernambuco, W. W. Stapp.
- May 28.—Seeds from Hon. C. R. Buckalew, resident minister, Quito.
- July 11.—Bottle of pawpaw brandy for analysis, from John Law, Evansville, Indiana.
- July 16.—Box of tea seed from Hon. R. K. Meade, envoy extraordinary, &c., Rio Janeiro, Brazil.
- July 14.—Seeds from A. J. Smith, United States consul Lagnayra, S. A.
- Aug. 1.—Samples of wheat, rye, and barley, from Esthonia, per United States consul at Revel, Russia.
- Aug. 21.—Two cans of Berkeley county grapes, from Dr. R. McSherry, Martinsburg, Va.
- Sept. 2.—Seeds of black grape, from James Topling, Liberty, Va.
- Sept. 5.—Two quarts of Roanoke wheat, from Charles Heermann, of Hundermark, Darby post office, Pa.
- Sept. 5.—Box containing bulbs, fibers, grasses, &c., from United States consul, Cape of Good Hope.
- Sept. 10.—Seeds of trees, shrubs, and plants, from W. C. Hampton, Mount Victory, Ohio.

- Sept. 29.—Bottle of Vuelta Abajo tobacco, from United States consul, Havana.
- Oct. 20.—Received one barrel and two boxes of seeds, Rev. T. J. Barclay, Jerusalem, Holy Land.
- Oct. 29.—Sixteen samples of vegetable seeds, from S. B. Tucker, St. Louis, Mo.
- Nov. 1.—One bushel bag of Algaroba beans, (Carob, or St. John's Bread,) from United States consul Barcelona, Spain.
- Nov. 9.—Can of smooth barked hickory, from H. Z. Abell, Welshfield, Ohio.
- Nov. 14.—Tree seeds from W. C. Hampton, Mount Victory, Ohio.
- Nov. 14.—Seeds from J. W. Shaffer, Fairfield, Iowa.
- Nov. 14.—Sixteen bunches of Los Angeles grapes, (2½ to 3 pounds each,) from M. Keller, Los Angeles, California.
- Nov. 28.—Strawberry watermelon seeds, from Yucatan, and spice melon seeds, from T. N. Hornsby, Fisherville, Ky.
- Nov. 30.—Velvet and crimson spinach seeds, from William Newlove, of Penn Yan, N. Y., per Charles Ketchum.
- Nov. 30.—Eleven bags of dried grapes, from Dr. Henry Connely, of Albuquerque, N. M.
- Nov. 30.—One hundred cuttings of grape vine, from William Clark, of Northampton, Mass.
- Nov. 30.—One hundred cuttings of sweet-water grape, from N. Harding, Boston, Mass.
- Dec. 1.—Plum pits, from the mountains near Downieville, Cal., from A. T. Langton, postmaster.
- Dec. 1.—Received bottle of pawpaw spirit, from Dr. Jackson, of Boston, for Hon. John Law, of Evansville, Indiana.
- Dec. 5.—Bundle of tree seeds, from Robt. Howell, of Nichols, N. Y.
- Dec. 5.—One hundred grape cuttings, (*Dracutt Amber*,) from Asa Clements, Lowell, Mass.
- Dec. 12.—Received from Beverly L. Clarke, United States minister resident at Guatemala, box containing sample of vegetable tallow, made from the "*Myristica sebacea*;" nuts accompanying.
- Dec. 14.—One hundred cuttings, and bundle of seeds of Concord grape, sent by Hon. E. W. Bull, of Concord, Mass.
- Dec. 27.—Box of osier willow, from Hartford, Conn.