

Country Road Making.

When the country was new the plan of making roads by statute labor was, perhaps, the best, and the only available one. Our municipal and legislative bodies were not then existing, or in their infancy, and the hardy settlers knew it was pre-eminently to their advantage to build the roads as fast and as well as possible. Besides this they could not have been made by a money tax on the settlers, as they were too few and too poor; but now, in the older sections of Ontario, where the land has been thickly settled and improved for many years, this system is no longer found to be the best. Our statute labor, though a large amount is supposed to be done, amounts to very little in comparison to what it would if all were to pay a road tax in proportion to their amount of statute labor. This could then be expended by the council in each respective section where most needed, all jobs being let by tender. A greater amount of work could thus be done for the same expenditure, and in a better way. As the system now exists, men, in a majority of cases, go on the roads because the law compels them, and they put in a few days as easily as they can. Besides this, pathmasters are often changed every year, and what one may have done this year next year's pathmaster may entirely disapprove of, and have done over again. Thus, to a great extent, a year's work is lost. And often men are chosen as pathmasters who are not competent to direct the making of a good road. The men are thus set to work at a disadvantage or to do work which is not needed, and much of the year's work is wasted. There is an argument used in favor of the present system, viz., the country being divided into sections, each man works in the vicinity of his own farm, and the better the roads are made the more valuable is his property. This should be an incentive sufficient to cause them to exert themselves to their utmost, but experience has shown that the reverse is the case. Men, as a general thing, never do so little work in a day as when doing statute labor. Some of these men who now do road work are tenant farmers, whose leases are of short duration. These men cannot be expected to take a very deep interest in a vicinity where, in all probability, they will not be living more than four or five years. We believe our present system has outlived its usefulness, and that changes should at once be made, particularly in the older sections of the country.

Packing Fruit for the Market.

Fruit-growers are well aware of the advantages of having packages for fruit prepared in time, so that they be on hand when needed—small baskets for berries, and barrels and boxes for later and more abundant fruit. In preparing early fruits for market, as strawberries and others, it is necessary to pick them before they be soft, the state of the weather and the character of the fruit requiring that they be not allowed to remain on the vines till dead ripe. To get a good price, the fruit should be carefully assorted, any inferior fruit lowering the price of the whole package. The inferior fruit may be sold separately at a lower price; the high figures obtained for what has been selected will more than make good the loss on the culls. The packages, especially for choice early fruit, should be such that there will be no risk of damage in handling or marketing. A good sale depends much on the appearance of the packages, as well as the quality of the fruit, and good care should be taken that not one fruit bruised, damaged, or in way inferior, be found in what is offered for sale as a prime article. If a fruit-grower has established a reputation for having good, well-selected fruit he will have no difficulty in selling at the highest prices.

Diseases of Farm Stock.

We are pleased to report that the Dominion Government has enacted laws with the view of endeavoring to prevent the introduction of diseases among our stock. Stock in transit through our country are to be closely inspected, and are not to be in any way allowed to come in contact with our stock. Even Canadian cattle are not to be shipped in cars that are used for the American trade; and many necessary sanitary clauses are embodied in the Act. Although these laws appear to cover and prevent the danger of infecting our cattle, yet, despite the well-prepared Act, there appears to be some understanding or arrangement that admits of Americans sending to Canada hogs that may be infected with Trichina, or those that have been in contact with hogs infected with Hog Cholera. The importation of still-fed hogs, and Southern or soft pork, if we are rightly informed, may be still carried on. This class of swine can be sent into our country notwithstanding the published law, and such animals can still be cut up into "Wiltshire cuts," "Lancashire sides," and "Westphalia hams," or any other brand desired, and shipped in such a manner that the buyers and consumers are induced to believe that this meat is either English, Irish or Canadian. Canadian pork is of a firmer and better quality than the average American pork; Canadian hogs are not diseased, while many American hogs are. If Canadian farmers are to obtain the full value for their good meat, we must not let inferior American pork be packed and shipped from Canada as Canadian or British productions. We should be pleased to have correct information about this subject from any of the members of the Board of Agriculture and Arts, or any members of the Agricultural Commission, if this information is not correct.

Improved Berkshire Swine.

In this issue will be seen the advertisement of A. A. McArthur, of Lobo, Ont. Four years ago Mr. McArthur called and informed us of his intention of devoting his time and means to getting up the finest herd of this valuable class of swine to be found in this Dominion. We have noticed his importations and reverses (he met with various losses at first), but from continued perseverance he has now, we believe, attained the high position that is to be admired in every calling of life—able to lay a just claim to the honor of having the best in any class of farm stock, farm, or merchandise. It is our opinion that no breeder in Canada can at the present time show as large a number of fine improved Berkshire pigs raised from stock possessing as high a record as Mr. McArthur can. He has a reputation of high honor among those that know him. We are highly pleased to report about farmers that excel in their calling. In each prosperous section of Canada there are farmers that are ambitious and strive to excel one way or another. Some have their land in high order, some devote their attention to a particular class of stock, some to crops of different kinds. We like to converse or hear of the kings in each locality, and wish them every success. We hope every reader of the ADVOCATE will show that they have some grand point of excellence about their farm or household in which they show their superiority. There will always be enough of the tardy and slovenly whose farms must sooner or later be sold, but the progressive, careful and enterprising will have the pre-eminence.

TILSONBURG SUGAR FACTORY.—The construction of a new sugar factory at Tilsonburg is being rapidly pushed forward. The order for machinery has been given to manufacturers, and the prospects are that it will be in operation in October next. The farmers in the neighborhood who are interested in its success are engaged in planting upwards of 200 acres of sorghum, which is the most extensive experiment of the kind yet made in Canada.

The Apiary.**Modern Improvements.**

BY CHAS. F. DODD, NILE, ONT.

It is only a few years since the invention of movable comb hives, which has opened up a new era in bee-keeping, and placed it on the basis of a successful business pursuit. Such hives, adapted to climate, furnish every facility for intelligent management of bees, by regulating swarming, guarding against moths, and manipulating both bees and comb. The invention of the honey extractor, a machine which empties the honey from combs by centrifugal force without injury, so that the combs may be returned to the bees, marks another great step in apiculture. Thus virgin honey, free from foreign admixture, is obtained, having the flavor of the flower from which it was taken. And for comb honey, the dove-tailed section, or one pound box, of recent invention, has come to our aid, and we can now have our honey stored in boxes containing just one pound each; honey in these boxes commands the highest price, and has the readiest sale over all other kinds of boxes now in use.

The further invention of artificial comb foundation completes the requisites for placing bee-keeping on the basis of a great industry in our country.

Simultaneous with the first and all of these improvements, the introduction of Italian bees, and improved modes of rearing queens, of transporting and introducing them to colonies, have greatly improved the value of the honey gatherers.

How to hive a swarm.—A few hints to the novice on hiving may not be out of place. Have everything ready before they swarm; when they commence swarming do not go to ringing bells, beating tin pans, etc., for bees are not particularly fond of music (although the Italians have three bands). If they commence to cluster let them alone, but if they seem disposed to fly away get some water and with a dipper scatter it up among them; also, throwing loose dirt among them, or reflecting a mirror before them, will often be the means of causing them to alight. As soon as they have all clustered shake them into a tin dish (a boiler lid is best) and carry them to the hive; pour them down in front of it, and with a wing or large turkey feather brush some in, and the rest will follow. It is best to give them a card of comb containing eggs and larvæ, and there will be but little danger of them leaving the hive. As soon as you have them all in, place them where they are to remain; shade the hive (if single boarded) from the hot rays of the sun. Do not allow your bees to swarm too often, for one good swarm is worth more than two poor ones; return late after swarms to the parent hive, or unite them with other weak stocks.

The Proper Time to Cut Timber.

This is a far more important question than the majority of farmers or builders are apt to consider it. It is our impression that by due attention to this an almost incalculable saving may be effected. If we can make our posts, rails and fencing timber last double the length of time by attending to this, what a saving might be effected by our railroad companies by attention to the following small note! Our correspondent is an aged, thoughtful, practical gentleman, and knows of what he speaks:

SIR,—Your correspondent, W. R., Strathroy P. O., wishes to know the best time to cut tamarac for fence posts. The best time for all purposes is in the months of July and August. When the trees are felled they should be allowed to remain until the leaves have fallen off. These will draw all the sap out of the wood, and then the tree should be cut up, split, the bark taken off, and drawn out of the bush and piled in the sun, so as to allow them to dry quickly. The posts will also last longer if they are set with the small end downwards. S.