

The Canada Farmer

TORONTO, CANADA, DECEMBER 15, 1876.

THE "WEEKLY GLOBE AND CANADA FARMER."

With this issue the CANADA FARMER as a separate publication ceases to exist, it having been amalgamated with the WEEKLY GLOBE. The entire staff of editors and correspondents of the CANADA FARMER will also be transferred to the staff of the combined papers which will hereafter appear under the name of "THE WEEKLY GLOBE AND CANADA FARMER."

The CANADA FARMER was brought into existence at a time when there was an urgent call for such a paper. A more general interest in, and the great necessity felt for a thorough reform of our system of agriculture had just begun to manifest itself. In these regards a very great change has been achieved and the CANADA FARMER has been of the greatest assistance in the good work, having always been among the foremost to urge the introduction of new and improved systems. Its usefulness and influence have been great in the past and they are in no whit impaired at the present day. Its circulation has been good, and especially for the last two years steadily increasing. But in these days of easy communication it is becoming more and more apparent that monthly publications are getting to be anachronisms. Farmers want their papers now at intervals no longer than a week and indeed it would surprise many persons to learn the number of farmers who take a daily paper.

But the grand reason for uniting the CANADA FARMER with the WEEKLY GLOBE was the recognition of the fact that a very large number of farmers will not subscribe for more than one paper from the capital beyond their local journal, that the option between the two publications was usually made in favor of the GLOBE, and that the valuable agricultural information given in the CANADA FARMER was thus lost to the very class who could best profit by it. Feeling that the farming interest is the first interest in the land, and that its prosperity means the prosperity of everybody in it, we consequently felt it a duty as well as a gratification to transfer our labors for the advancement of our greatest national industry to an auditory of over forty thousand subscribers and six times as many regular readers, from one not approaching to it in numbers or influence.

The mechanical difficulties which once stood in the way of illustrating the WEEKLY GLOBE—and illustrations are indispensable to agricultural journalism—have been surmounted. At the time of starting the CANADA FARMER these difficulties were insuperable and were among the chief reasons why an agricultural journal separate from the WEEKLY GLOBE became necessary. This difficulty having been overcome, and an immense improvement having been made in the form and contents of the WEEKLY GLOBE—especially as respects its agricultural pages which will now take rank with the best in the world—the CANADA FARMER is no longer indispensable. These facts the publishers have seen fit to recognize while yet the latter journal is vigorous and valuable, rather than wait to have them forced upon their attention hereafter.

Every pains will be bestowed upon the combined journals to keep them at the head of their class. Nought now remains but to acknowledge gratefully many expressions of regret from readers at the disappearance of the CANADA FARMER, and to express the hope that in its changed form it may be as welcome and as valuable to them as it has been during the twelve years of its previous life.

Dairy Trade with England.

The increasing consumption of fresh milk in the cities and towns of Great Britain is beginning to attract considerable attention. Ever since the adoption of the railway "can" system, but more especially owing to the improved methods of preserving milk in transit, the trade has been, gradually it is true, but nevertheless steadily assuming large proportions. The consequence is that already the butter and cheese interests are beginning to feel the inevitable drain, the sale of the milk proving, under favoring local circumstances, much more profitable than its manufacture into butter and cheese. To what extent the new departure will affect the general market, it is of course premature to predict. That it will affect it, in exact proportion to the development of the milk-delivery trade, there can be no question; and this is the point at which the subject becomes peculiarly interesting to the Canadian dairyman; for, anything likely to affect the quality or quantity of butter and cheese made in England becomes at once an object of interest to those engaged in the business on this side the Atlantic. Cheese-making in England is admittedly the least remunerative branch of the dairy trade, and it is the manufacture of the choice and high priced article alone that yields anything like an adequate return for the labor and capital employed. The gradual abandonment of this branch of industry in England, and our recent successful experiments in the matter of supplying the British market with fresh meat, should prove incentives to stock-raising by our Canadian farmers. For very many years to come we must continue to be exporters of precisely such edible articles as the masses of Great Britain require and must have. We cannot, therefore, afford to prove recreant to our own interest by allowing others to step in and occupy the gap which, in the very nature of things, we are so abundantly able to fill.

To Our Exchanges.

Our brother editors will please note the consolidation of the WEEKLY GLOBE AND CANADA FARMER, and those of them who do not already receive the WEEKLY GLOBE in exchange, and who wish to receive the combined journals, will oblige us by continuing to send their publications addressed "GLOBE," Toronto, Canada.

Notes from Stevensville.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER.—Allow me to make a few remarks on the purchase of low-priced articles, which will always be found dearest in the end. I don't care what you buy, always take the best, be it stock, machinery, clothing, or land; you will never regret the outlay for a good article, but will be certain of disappointment if your sole aim is to buy low. I have kept house for forty-five years and know whereof I speak. Forty-three years ago I paid ten dollars more for a clock than was paid for some others at the same time. Mine has kept good time ever since while its cheaper rivals have all "gone up," after having cost more than the difference for repairs, and then, they never were satisfactory time-keepers.

Better till one acre of land as it ought to be than five or ten in a slovenly way. This is why I have always contended that every agriculturist should take one or more good agricultural papers in order that he may learn from them how to do everything in the best manner.

Of late years, and up to the present, our hay crops have been turning out poorly. Long ago I remember my land produced two tons per acre, but lately I have had only from a quarter to a ton per acre, except this year when the yield was up to the former quantity on twelve acres. These twelve acres were summer-fallowed, the thistles all killed, and had a sprinkling of rotten manure just before sowing. The ground was also well pulverized with harrow and roller, and the seed put in with a drill. One half the plot had some ashes applied to it sixteen years before and that half yielded one ton more hay than the other. The whole was well drained. I know other fields, in every respect as good as mine, that did not turn out as successfully, simply from want of proper tillage and manuring.

I used to keep my land enriched by raising stock; but, since I rented, its crops have failed, and it is now called a poor farm not fit to pay expenses. But the cause of all this is poor management. Had it been farmed as the field

above noticed, it would be termed a good farm. Unless land under crop is enriched year by year it cannot keep up.

There is no necessity for selling your hay for less than \$12 to \$15 a ton at market, or \$10 to \$12 in your barn, as it will keep as well in the mow as \$10 bill in the safe. Nor should it be sold at any price unless the proper proportion is got back for enriching the land. I would prefer my tenant to grow five acres well tilled and manured, than fifteen in the way it is done in many instances.

One more advice: Let each boy on the farm have a small nursery of his own to transplant when required. He will thus get interested in fruit-growing and be able to prune and graft for himself when he has it to do. Also, give each of them two good lambs when he is say six years of age. These can be put out to double every three years, so that by the time the owner is of age he will have a flock of sixty-four sheep of his own. And not only so, but the very fact of ownership will induce an interest and stimulate to a knowledge that could never be reached by the ordinary principle of going when told and coming when ordered.

PETER SHISLER.

Stevensville.

The Crows.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER.—All, or at any rate, most of us Canadian farmers, know what it is to be annoyed with crows just at the seasons in which their absence would be much more acceptable than their presence. Some time ago a friend in England sent me the following note which reached him from a successful farmer in Somerset. I have not tried the experiment myself yet, but I fully intend to do so next summer, if spared, and, for the benefit of my fellow farmers, I publish it that they may go and do likewise. The writer says:—

"Having some years since published my plan of tarring corn, I not unfrequently have letters of inquiry on the subject; and as it is now so difficult, and in many places quite impossible, to get any boys to work on the land, it becomes more important to adopt any plan by which labor may be saved. I have for (I think) six or seven years adopted this plan, and never knew it to fail, except for beans. It seems that when the skin of the bean becomes soft the rooks will pick out the kernel, but with other corn they cannot do this. Last spring, having a fresh foreman, he persuaded me to drill my oats without tarring, as he did not believe the rooks would touch them. The consequence was, it cost me a pound or two to keep a man pretty much about the field with a gun, and even then the oats were much damaged, whilst a field of barley adjoining, and tarred, was not touched. The plan is this:—Dress your seed corn with blue stone or not, as you like; any way, make the wheat thoroughly wet; then mix gas tar, at the rate of 1 pint to the sack of corn, with a little hot water, throw it over the heap, and thoroughly mix it, so that every kernel is blackened. Let it lie a few hours, and then mix sufficient dry slacked lime with it to absorb any superfluous tar, and prevent the kernels sticking together. It is a good plan to put abundance of lime and then sift it out again, as if there is any stickiness, it is a great nuisance. Too much tar or too little lime cause trouble. As before stated, I have adopted the plan for several years, and never had any difficulty, and the cost of materials cannot exceed 2d a sack."

SUBSCRIBER.

N. Easthope.

On the Preservation of Ice at the Bedside.

Mr. Sampson Gamgee, Surgeon to the Queen's Hospital, Birmingham, in a short article (Lancet, June 10, 1876) calls attention to this subject. His practice for some years has been to cut a piece of flannel about nine inches square, and secure it by ligature round the mouth of an ordinary tumbler, so as to leave a cup-shaped depression of flannel within the tumbler to about half its depth. In the flannel cup so constructed pieces of ice may be preserved many hours, all the longer if a piece of flannel from four to five inches square be used as a loose cover to the ice-cup. Cheap flannel, with comparatively open meshes, is preferable, as the water easily drains through it and the ice is thus kept quite dry. When good flannel with close texture is employed, a small hole must be made in the bottom of the flannel cup, otherwise it holds the water, and facilitates the melting of the ice, which is, nevertheless, preserved much longer than in the naked cup or tumbler.

In a room 60° F., Dr. G. made the following experiment with four tumblers, placing in each two ounces of ice, broken into pieces of the average size of sucking. In tumbler No. 1 the ice was loose. It had all melted in two hours and