

Fat Hogs for Summer Curing.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR,—We take this early opportunity of reminding our farmers that there is certain to be a brisk and large demand for fat hogs the coming summer at high prices. The best guarantee for this is furnished by the fact that the English market was so scantily supplied during the past winter season with hog products from America.

I copy the following from the *Montreal Trade Review*:—"We have been favoured with a perusal of letters to a produce and commission house of this city from their Liverpool correspondents, ordering a large amount of cut meat, butter, cheese, &c. They have now on hand orders of about 25,000 or 30,000 per week for butter and cheese, and an order from a single house for 500 tons of bacon. They have also applications from various firms in England, which, if they could be filled, would amount to about 20 tons per week of summer or ice-cured bacon. Some bacon, packed by themselves, has already been sold in the English market, and the price realized was 2 to 3 per cent. over that which could be obtained for United States bacon. The extra price, they are informed, can always be obtained, provided the quantity be uniformly good. This is a point of great importance, and great care should be taken by packers here in putting up meats for the English market, in order to secure as merchantable an article as possible. The extent of British importation of bacon alone secures an outlet for all Canada can possibly have to sell for years to come."

The Hamilton packers have made full and complete arrangements for the summer business, large quantities of ice having been secured for that purpose, and all that will be needed for extensive operations will be a good supply of hogs of the right sort.

SAML. NASH, Hamilton.
J. T. DAVIES, Do.

County Norfolk Agricultural Society

To the Editor of the THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR,—The County of Norfolk Agricultural Society, after several unsuccessful appeals to the liberality of the County Council, have at length determined upon doing what they should have done long since, that is, set their own shoulders to the wheel; and they have now purchased ten acres of land contiguous to the County Town for a Show ground. The land cost \$137 50 per acre, and is beautifully situated, and admirably adapted for the purpose intended. The contract for enclosing has been given out, and will soon be commenced. My object in writing you at present, is for the purpose of obtaining, if possible, sound suggestions as to the style and kind of buildings we should erect. Perhaps some of your readers may be able to give us a good plan, for which we will be most grateful. An effort is to be made soon, in our various townships, to obtain the consent of the County Council to assist the society by a grant in aid of their funds, and we hope that during the next Session of Parliament, a Bill will be passed authorizing these societies to purchase and hold lands—at present the conveyance of the land we have purchased, is made to Trustees.

Yours, &c.,
NORFOLK.

Simcoe, 19th April, 1866.

THE CHINCH BUG.—On this subject "A correspondent" writes from Bondhead as follows:—"Having seen in the CANADA FARMER for April 2nd, a theory advanced by Dr. H. Sherman as to the propagation of the chinch bug, namely, that the larva is deposited in the grain of the wheat, and that consequently whenever infected grain is sown, there is a probability that there will be a visitation of the bug. I send you the result of some inquiries which I made whilst travelling in the State of Missouri last fall:

I was informed by persons in different parts of the State that the cultivation of spring wheat had been in a great measure abandoned, as whenever it was sown there was certain to be a visitation of the bug, which not only destroyed the crop, but also cut off all other grain crops in the neighbourhood, Indian corn included, and that when no spring wheat was sown, there was no chinch bug, which, I think, is a strong corroborative proof of the correctness of the Dr.'s theory. With regard to the propositions advanced as to the prevention of the bug, I think the

steeping of the seed grain in some poisonous solution to kill the larva the most feasible for this country, should there be any danger of a visitation of the bug. The other plan of not sowing infected grain may suit well enough for the Western farmer, to whom the raising of spring wheat is of comparatively less importance than to the Canadian farmer.

A solution of white arsenic or blue vitriol (sulphate of copper,) would, I think, answer the purpose. Both these substances are, I believe, sometimes used for the prevention of smut in fall wheat."

"ACTS APOSTLES PEYDON."—"A Subscriber" writes: "In the last number of your excellent periodical, I observe the following paragraph: A farmer bearing the name 'Acts Apostles Peydon' recently died in Kent, England." This, though funny, is an absolute fact—when the baby was brought up to be christened, the parson said, "Name this child;" "Acts," said the father." "What?" said the priest, "You see your reverence," replied the parent, "we have called our four sons, 'Matthew,' 'Mark,' 'Luke,' and 'John,' and as we wished to compliment the Apostles a bit, we thought we would call this one 'Acts.'" So the little dab of mortality was named as above."

CHICKEN FACTORY AND TILLAGE IN GRIMSBY.—"A Ridge Farmer" writes:—"The erection of a Chicken Factory in this place, which is in course of construction, will completely change the mode of managing farms in the neighbourhood, and be more profitable to the farmer. Seed down your land and procure cows, is now the rule. The custom here of growing grain exclusively, almost renders some such course necessary. Most farmers cannot or do not make manure enough to do five acres properly; yet regardless of the poverty of the soil, and enemies to the crops, they continue to grow on a farm of one hundred acres, from fifty to seventy-five of grain. The result at harvest is but little over half what it should be,

To accomplish this amount of work, extra teams are required, which must be kept and fed the whole year to do a few weeks work of seeding, which must be done in a hurry. Men are hired for six or eight months just to secure them for the harvest, when now by the use of labour-saving implements, a man and boy can harvest a large crop of hay. By stocking the farm with cows, and supplying the factory with the milk, much labour will be saved both on the farm and in the kitchen. The land will greatly improve by laying to grass, many enemies to the present crop may disappear, the hurry and confusion of seed, time and harvest be avoided, and the work more evenly apportioned throughout the year. In my opinion it is a safer, easier, and faster way of making money."

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, MAY 1, 1866

Precautions against Destructive Insects.

Now that spring is fairly upon us, and everyone is as busy as possible in his farm, or in his garden, a few hints may not be amiss, with regard to some precautions that may readily be taken against some of our common insect pests. For not only has man set to work to make the best possible use of the fleeting summer months, but the whole world of nature is rousing itself up for the same purpose. Each and every individual has his own allotted sphere of duty, his own proper avocation; and this is true as well of the tiniest insect as of the laborious beast of burden, or even man himself, with all his high intellectual powers, and his proud dominion over the natural world. While we cannot wonder, then, that each destructive insect forthwith begins its proper work of devastation, in accordance with the law of its nature and instincts, the duty remains the same to us of providing against its ravages, and defending our property against its attacks.

Let us, accordingly, consider briefly how this may be done most simply and easily, at this particular stage of the season's work. To begin with the farm, and with the farmer's most important product—WHEAT.

Of all insects, those that attack the wheat crops in this country are the most widely known, and the

most justly dreaded. The bare mention of their names is generally almost enough to make the farmer shudder, and fill him with trepidation as to the fate of his tender fields of grain. For all of these insect foes, the best and surest remedy, and, at the same time, the most profitable one in other respects, is a good and proper system of intelligent farming. This we have always contended to be the grand panacea—if there be such a thing,—for all ordinary agricultural disorders. A suitable so for the grain, a liberal application of manure, drag ploughing, a judicious rotation of crops, and the best seed that can be got, will do more to prevent the attacks of the Hessian fly and other insects than anything else in the world. And this stands to reason. For let a farmer have a field hardly injured by the fly or midge this year, and let him give it a shallow ploughing in the autumn, and put in a similar crop to what he had before, without adding to the soil a sufficiency of manure to supply the materials that his grain has taken out of it,—what better method could he possibly adopt to have it almost utterly destroyed the following year, and to give his insect enemies all the assistance in his power? He first of all covers up the pupa of the insect in the fall with a few inches of earth, just what it wants for protection against the winter's cold, while not enough to prevent its being early reached by the warmth of spring; then he takes care to grow a good supply of food for it as soon as it emerges from the ground, of the only kind, indeed, of which it is able to eat; and, to crown all, he raises a weak and sickly crop which has not strength of straw, or rapidity of growth sufficient to resist the attacks made upon it. A good farmer, on the other hand, while he properly tills and enriches his soil, buries so deeply down in the fall the pupa of his insect enemies, that they do not obtain the heat of the sun sufficiently early in the spring to do any danger, and if a few do emerge at all from the ground it is only to find that they must go somewhere else for their proper food, as the fields from which they derived their sustenance the previous year now bear something which it is utterly out of their power to consume.

Where spring wheat is sown, the best additional precaution that can be taken against insect foes, is to use a variety that can be soon late enough to escape the Hessian fly, and the midge further on in the season. The only variety we know of that is considered capable of accomplishing these ends is the "Fife Wheat." Many of our farmer friends have used this kind with almost complete immunity from the insects that have so much troubled their neighbours.

With regard to field crops, such as barley, oats, &c., but very few of their insect enemies have come under our notice, nor have they even in this country become sufficiently numerous to cause much destruction. The pea-weevil sometimes inflicts a good deal of damage; an account of the precautions to be employed against it will be found in our issue of March 10th, page 57. The depredation of our turnip fields can hardly be guarded against until they begin to make their appearance on the leaves or at the roots. One, however, the earliest of them, is the tiny flea beetle which begins its attack almost as soon as the plant appears above the ground, and very soon completely riddles its leaves. The surest remedy against this destroyer is, to be very careful in sowing good clean seed. Its ordinary food is mustard or charlock, and other crucifers; these come up very early in the spring, and at once become tenanted by colonies of flea-beetles, which desert them for the more useful turnip plants, as soon as their leaves are large enough to supply them with food.

Such are some of the farmer's commonest pests, we hope and trust that he may not have occasion to become very familiarly acquainted with them this year. Should any of them, however, make their appearance, we beg that our readers will furnish us with specimens, and we shall do all in our power to supply as much information respecting them as we can derive from the investigations of ourselves and others. We must defer to another number any consideration of insects injurious to gardens and orchards, of which, unfortunately, there are only too plentiful a crop.

NEW MUSIC.—We have received from the Messrs. Nordheimer of this city copies of two pieces of music recently published by them: "The Old Piney Woods," a universal favourite, and "Truth in Absence," one of a selection of five "gems of English song."