

LANDS FOR SETTLEMENT.—"English Farmer" writes: "I would feel greatly obliged if you would inform me through *THE FARMER*, of the best portion of Upper Canada now open for settlement, for a person who has about a thousand dollars."

ANS.—We advise our correspondent to apply either to the Canada Company, Toronto, or to C. T. Bloomfield, Secretary of the Canadian Land and Emigration Company, Toronto. The latter offers good land in Dysart at one dollar per acre.

A HEAVY PORKER.—"James Tarzowell" of Erin, writes:—"Please excuse me for trespassing a little on your space, to inform the farming community and all parties interested in hog flesh, of the fact of my having killed a hog on the 17th November that was pigged on the first of March last, and which weighed when dressed, 285 lbs. Now Sir I consider that doing pretty well for a spring pig about eight and one-half months old, and it shows that in Erin we can raise as good bacon as in any other place. At all events I have heard of nothing in this vicinity to beat it, if there is I should be happy to hear it."

PLATT'S MIDGE PROOF WHEAT.—"Giles Mernbery" of Adolphustown, writes:—"Canada is now blessed with some of the finest (Spring) Wheat in the world—It is called the Platt Midge Proof; I believe Mr. Platt imported some wheat from France four years ago, and sowed it, and when harvested he discovered one beautiful looking head of different wheat, he rubbed it out and found it superior to any wheat he had ever seen. The following Spring he sowed it in the garden and thence in the field, which in four years produced 1,200 bushels. A measured bushel weighs 66lbs., and the flour is superior to Fall wheat. I purchased 2½ bushels of Mr. Platt last Spring and sowed it over three acres of pea stubble. I now have it threshed, and it measures 138½ bushels."

PHOTOGRAPHS OF PRIZE ANIMALS.—"Galloway," of St. Toys, asks:—"Can I procure any photographs, of the prize animals at the late Provincial Exhibition in Toronto, and what place? I wish to procure the Veterinary works of Percival, please state price and where to be had in your next."

ANS. We are not aware of any photographs of prize animals having been taken by any artist. We can supply extra numbers of the "CANADA FARMER" containing the engravings of prize animals. We cannot answer our correspondent's second enquiry. He should apply to some bookseller who imports English works.

WORKS ON MARKET GARDENING AND FRUIT GROWING.—"R. D. Colgrove," of Lobo, enquires:—"Can you inform me where I may obtain a good work on market gardening suitable for Canada West, also a work on fruit-growing, especially noticing grapes, strawberries and other small fruits. I hope you will before long give a few plain directions in *THE CANADA FARMER* for grape planting, growing and pruning. Could you not induce Mr. De Courtenay to write on this subject, he must be eminently qualified for the work, and would, I think, almost consider it a "labour of love."

ANS.—There is no work specially on market gardening adapted to this climate with which we are acquainted. Buist's "Kitchen Garden," or Burr's "Field and Garden Vegetables of America," would probably supply the information desired. The first-named book is a low priced one, costing about \$1, the second is more expensive, costing \$3 50, but it is a very full and valuable work on the subject. Barry's "Fruit Garden" would probably give the information desired about fruit-growing. "Ten Acres Enough" shows what may be done in the way of raising fruit on a small piece of ground. We gave in the earlier numbers of our second volume a series of illustrated articles on grape culture, but as the subject is one of present and pressing interest, we shall be happy to return to it before long: perhaps at the outset of our forthcoming new volume for 1867.

"THE FARMER'S GATE."—A correspondent writes: "I can corroborate what you say of 'The Farmer's Gate' in *THE CANADA FARMER* of Nov. 15th, page 348. Observing the advertisement in the last number of your paper for 1865, I remitted one dollar to 'Box 96, Guelph P. O.," and received in return plans and specifications for making gates of all sizes, from a

small wicket gate to an 11 foot waggon gate. I found no difficulty whatever in making them according to the directions given. Any farmer who is at all handy can make them. Beside the rails and pickets, the only expense is for a couple of dozen of screws per gate, and that is not much. Those I have had in operation the past season have worked exceedingly well, and in my opinion any farmer stands in his own light who allows himself to be tormented with "bars," when for the small outlay of one dollar, he can obtain instructions enabling him to make any number of gates he may need."

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—The gate in question is a good one at all seasons, but its chief value is in winter when other gates get blocked up with snow. From its peculiar construction, "The Farmer's Gate" can never be so obstructed. In our climate, this is in itself a great recommendation of a gate.

To the Readers of "The Canada Farmer."

Subscribers to "The Canada Farmer" will please observe that this Issue is the last of the year, and that the next paper will not be sent to any one who does not remit for 1867. Our Club terms will be found advertised elsewhere. Persons engaged in getting up Clubs are requested to close up their work at once, so that subscribers may receive their papers without delay.

Bound Volumes.

The current volume of "The Canada Farmer" is now ready, consisting of 24 numbers, and comprising 334 pages of reading matter in a bound form. The binding will be charged 30 cents in addition to the subscription price, making \$1 30 in all for the volume. Parties desirous of having their Nos. for the present year bound, will please send them to us prepaid, securely packed, with their name and address, together with 30 cents in stamps or otherwise, and we will return them bound. Vols. I and II, containing the numbers for the years 1864 and 1865, may also be had at \$1 30 per volume.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, DEC. 15, 1866.

Report of the Minister of Agriculture.

THE report of the Minister of Agriculture for Canada, for the year 1865, is at last to hand. It is a volume of formidable dimensions, containing details on a great many subjects, besides that which its title would indicate. The Bureau of Agriculture is connected with that of Immigration and Statistics, and under the latter head a great mass of figures is collected, from many other departmental services. Under the special head of "Agriculture," we are informed "that no other service more needs revision and extension than this." Of practical suggestions on this subject we have none in the report—the importance of agriculture, and the inefficiency of our laws in reference to it are the chief features of this part of the report. The examples of Great Britain, France and the United States are quoted for our encouragement, and confidence is expressed that in time this department will become more valuable and efficient than it is now. Perhaps the Minister of Agriculture scarcely does justice in this report to the efforts of the Legislature and people of the Province for the past few years. While candidly admitting the defects in our system, the progress made in the past might justly claim recognition, and practical suggestions for future improvement might not inappropriately have been thrown out. A paragraph is devoted to the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty. The anxiety which the prospect of this measure excited is spoken of, and some reasons are given for thinking that the effects would not be so serious as was antici-

pated. The season that has passed away between the date of this report, January, 1866, and its publication, has more than justified the most hopeful views, that were entertained on this question. So far, at least, we have hardly felt the abrogation of the treaty to which we attach so great an importance, and which was, undoubtedly, very valuable to the Province during its operation.

The Agricultural School at St. Anne's is spoken of in very high terms, its operations detailed very approvingly, and we are told that its beneficial influence is felt over the whole of Lower Canada. The cultivation of flax, the report says, "has attained a very great relative importance," and "is susceptible of almost indefinite extension." The "Vine Growers' Association," at Cooksville, is hopefully referred to, and recommended to favourable "consideration at the hands of the Legislature." Larger appropriations are asked for the "Boards of Arts and Manufactures," and their past efforts and the work accomplished by them spoken of in high terms of commendation. Reference is made, with a justifiable pride, to the position attained by Canada at the "Dublin Exhibition," and the assurance is given that the expenses will not be found to exceed the moderate appropriation of five thousand dollars, which was made to that object. The eighth place on the roll of honour at the Exhibition was attained by Canada.

On the subject of immigration we have the return of 50,188 immigrants arriving in the country; but the returns of those remaining in the Province are so uncertain, that no attempt is made to fix the number. Details of the United States system of immigration have been secured, which cannot fail to be of great value to those who wish to improve our own system. In this connection we are reminded that "our neighbours have far outstripped us in the liberality of their land and settlement policy." Under the provisions of their Homestead Law, over a million of acres were taken up in 1864. Five years continuous residence is required to perfect a title under this Act, and the cost to the settler is merely an amount sufficient to cover the expense of survey and disposal of the land. A minimum price is also put upon the land, by payment of which the settler can at any time complete his title without waiting the expiration of the five years. Secretary Harlan estimates that forty or fifty per cent of those who have located lands under the Homestead Law will pay the minimum price to perfect a title immediately. The hope expressed in this report that our country will review its land policy, and make it equally liberal with that of the United States, will meet with a hearty response from every liberal man in Canada. The importance of inaugurating a new and better policy in reference to our public lands, will, we trust, engage the attention of our Legislature at the earliest possible period. The revenue from this source can by no means be put in comparison with the advantages to be attained by encouraging settlement of our unoccupied lands.

Agricultural Implements and Products for the Paris Exhibition.

In some departments, at least, Upper Canada is likely to be well represented at the Paris Exhibition. The Agricultural Society has devoted special attention to the preparation of a number of implements and products which will reflect credit upon the country. Most of these are now ready, and in a few days will be despatched to the capital of France. Below we give a list of the articles intended to represent Upper Canadian agricultural resources and industry at the International Exhibition, which opens in Paris next March. All the articles have been purchased, and the greater portion is now in the possession of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, Mr. Hugh C. Thomson, who is preparing them for shipment in time for the opening of the Exhibition. A large portion of the collection was selected from