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RURAL NOTES.

A PRIZE is to be awarded at the Chicago Fair this fall, for the fastest walking horse. This is a move in the right direction, and should be copied by all agricultural societies.

THE Toronto Earth Closet Company are advertising a cheaper article, which they offer for \$10. But a home-made one will answer every purpose for dwellers in the country.

No portion of the country is suffering from drought the present season. But there are sections where the moisture is in excess, and where drainage would be of untold value to the growing crops.

FLOUR of sulphur is the best remedy for lice, on hogs. The sulphur may be sprinkled on the hogs and in their beds. While it will kill the lice, it will not hurt the hogs; indeed, they are said to be the healthier for such a dusting of their coats.

A DAB of soft soap in the crotch of a fruit tree during a dropping season like this, will save much time and trouble in getting rid of bark lice and borers. The rains will wash the soapy liquid into the interstices of the bark, and prevent insect nesting, incubation and hatching.

THE Agricultural College at Cirencester, England, has been a failure in the education of farmers, and the cause is suspected to be its almost exclusive class-room teaching. Another institution has been commenced which is to combine practical with scientific instruction. This is much more likely to succeed.

THE best time to kill weeds is as soon as they appear above the surface of the ground, or even before they do so. A slight brush with a garden rake, or in the field with a light harrow, will destroy them at this early and tender stage of their existence, thereby saving much needless toil on the part of the cultivator.

GEORGE GEDDES, of New York, has a field which for more than three-quarters of a century has been manured with nothing except clover grown upon it and ploughed in, upon which has been grown wheat, corn, oats, barley and grass. For fifty years plaster has been used upon the clover, and the land shows no diminution of fertility.

"My cows preferred this ensilage to meal," is the latest exaggerated eulogy of the new fodder we have met with. It is modified, however, by the remark, "at least they would eat the fodder out from under the meal, leaving the latter to be

licked up last." Here is one ensilogist, at any rate, who is anxious to speak the exact truth about the matter.

MICHIGAN has a very stringent law for the protection of small birds, which forbids the killing of a robin, nighthawk, whippoorwill, finch, thrush, lark, sparrow, cherry bird, brown thrasher, wren, martin, oriole, woodpecker, bobolink, or any other song bird, under a penalty of \$5 for each bird killed; and for each nest robbed, ten days in the county jail.

THE New York Sun gives an account of a curious machine which cleans horses by steam, and is in daily use at the Third Avenue street railway stables. Its regular rate is ten horses per hour, but at a recent trial, when extra steam was put on, it cleaned one hundred and twenty-two horses from 7:30 a.m. to 5:40 p.m., with an hour's intermission for dinner. The work is not only done quicker, but more effectually than by hand.

IN the five months ending May, British India sent to England 4,470,867 cwt. of wheat against 4,886,761 cwt. which came from the Atlantic States in the same period. The Indian wheat export has quadrupled in two years, and the best judges say it needs only a few light railways to enable North-Western India to become the chief wheat-exporting country in the world. Britain will doubtless encourage the new industry to the full extent of her power, for the ability of India to consume British goods is only limited by the ability to pay for them.

SOWED lawns are usually failures because the seeding is too thin. Two examples have come under our notice the present season. In the one case, ten pounds of blue grass seed were thinly scattered over an acre of land, the result being nil. In the other case, a bushel was put on a quarter of an acre. The result is, in five weeks, a beautiful green carpet. Charles Downing says, "If you would walk on velvet, sow from four to six bushels of seed to the acre." At this rate, the cost is about one-tenth of what that of sodding would be.

THERE seems to be virtue as well as diversion in whistling. An old farmer says it has been his rule not to have a hired man on his farm who was not addicted to this habit. A whistler is cheerful, good-natured, kind to animals, not apt to find fault with his food, or to complain of a little extra work. Sometimes girls take to whistling. Mrs. Grundy pronounces it unlady-like; but as every Jack has his Jill, whistling may indicate the possession of good womanly qualities, perhaps.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Farmers' Review* says:—"Save manure by making a cover over it. Mine is made after an idea that I got from the awnings in villages. I used fourteen-foot boards, matched and painted them; had braces from the plate to the side of barn, and rods over the roof to the posts or plate of the barn, instead of posts, which would be in the way of hauling out the manure. About one-half of the farmers throw the manure under the drip of the eaves, and from one-fourth to one-half the value of it goes into the nearest stream."

THE following varieties of apples were reported by the American Pomological Society at the session of 1881, for cultivation in Minnesota:—Ben Davis, Duchess of Oldenburg, Eggar Red Streak, English Russet, Fall Queen or Hass-Gross Pommier, Fameuse, Golden Russet of Western New York, Late Strawberry, Maiden's Blush, Plumb's Cider, Rambo, Red Astrachan, St. Lawrence, Sops of Wine, Tetofsky, Tolman's Sweet, Utter, Wealthy and Willow Twig. While all of these varieties have fruited in the State, the Wealthy, Duchess of Oldenburg, and Tetofsky are the most reliable.

A PARAGRAPH of anonymous authorship is "going the rounds," assuring those who have been annoyed by the irrepressible dandelion on their lawns, that they may take heart. The pest will pester them no more. Gardeners now cultivate this weed for greens, and it finds ready market. Having thus become a useful plant, bugs will eat it off above the ground, grubs will saw its roots in two, the sun will scorch it to death, the rains will drown it, the hail will thrash it to strips, and boys will dig it out and steal it. If this is to be the result of the adoption of the dandelion into the family of useful vegetables, it is a pity that a similar process could not be initiated in regard to the Canada thistle.

SOMEBODY has condensed a whole volume of wisdom concerning wheat culture into a very few maxims, which are put on this first page of the *RURAL CANADIAN* that they may attract the eye of every reader:—1. The best soil for wheat is rich clay loam. 2. Wheat likes a good, deep, soft bed. 3. Clover turned under makes just such a bed. 4. The best seed is oily, heavy, plump and clean. 5. About two inches is the best depth for sowing the seed. 6. The drill puts in the seed better and cheaper than broadcasting. 7. From the middle of September to the last of October is the best time for sowing. 8. Drilled, one bushel of seed per acre; if sown broadcast, two bushels per acre. 9. One heavy rolling after sowing does much good. 10. For flour, cut when the grain begins to harden; for seed, not until it has hardened.