

AGRICULTURE.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

RUFUS RUSTIC ON FRUITS.

That special individual whichever, she, he or Nomad, who undertakes to grow either small fruits or large, under the felicitous impressions of the mind that all things will work together smoothly at every crook and curve, possibly by close personal observation; that interested person would be much surprised at the weighty and exhaustive nerve force required to sustain such pleasing emotions. Fruit may be grown on bog-more or fallow, endorsed by nature's peculiar collaterals, cosmic phenomena, air and water.

With the onward march of time, a due regard to the seasons is not only necessary but profitable. One of the first and most imperative operations of the fruit grower is a thorough preparation of the ground before committing seeds and plants to its care. The higher we advance in civilization the greater pains are required in cultivating the earth.

Our present method of dealing with the soil appears to be habitual, sufficient pains are not taken to make the earth yield her increase. Many culturists follow the original practice of the country, a practice no doubt employed by our great ancestors when there were less mouths to feed and less luxuries known. The ancients did good work in their days. Evidently we are a practical set, and as practice is said to make perfect, we at this period of the world's history should be full of practical information. (Time necessary to attain practical perfection not given.)

Ask the first pomologist you meet, what he considers the best fertilizer for fruit trees. The reply will be ashes. The kind you are left in doubt of—pursue the enquiry and—ten to one the answer will be the same with variations. Our forefathers knew the value of ashes, not only for trees but as a panacea to all crops. William Sniffen, him that lives to Hill town remarked that ashes suited him. That the family record of the Sniffens comprised a period of nineteen generations and a half, and at the expiration of his date the old parchment would be outlawed. That frequent mention of ashes in that ancient evidence, and the only entry he was disposed to avail at was set down by his great grandfather, stating that "unleached wood-pile ashes was a simple manure." That he had known his grandmother and grandfather—he mentioned his grandmother first, he said, as she was generally allowed to be the best half—go the matter of six and eight miles in the old family grass-hopper spring chaise to get a bushel of Elm ashes to put in the wash tub when about to make the family soap, price half a crown per bushel.

In those days they set great store by Elm ashes. A horse shoe was of no account in making soap when they were to be had. Unleached wood-pile ashes, as Sniffen argues, are something more than a simple manure. The special *Nostrums* of the day so liberally endorsed are no where in comparison. The great drawback to wood ashes are their scarcity; they are not to be had in sufficient quantity to be of much account. A man who can apply a hundred and fifty bushels to a five acre enclosure of apple trees will have no occasion to blush for his fruit.

Where fowls are kept for raising chickens for market, the Plymouth Rock and Light Brahmas are the best. If intended for the English market, Dorkings, or a cross of them with Plymouth Rocks, would suit the best, and give white flesh, which is preferred there.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT EGGS.—Five million dozen of eggs are annually imported from the Dominion, the greater portion from Quebec and Ontario. The egg import from Europe is also large, but the lions of the Canadas are by far the largest factors in this trade, and the trade increases every year. Eggs pay no duty, and when we reflect, that this product comes from millions of humble sources—the poultry yards of small farmers—and that it is only the surplus that goes to market, we may well wonder, where and how the billions of eggs consumed in the United States are produced. It is an interest that may be rated at many tens of million dollars. Yet it is not among the enumerations of the National Census. Let us hope, that the next census, the eleventh, will cover this important field. It is probable that the egg consumption of our fifty five million inhabitants is not less than three billion a year, at a valuation of from twenty five to thirty millions of dollars. There are "egg trains" on the railroads of the northern frontier and the cities and villages of New England draw most of their eggs from the border, to which they are brought by the railroads of Canada. The import of eggs at Ogdensburg alone, was valued at one hundred and fifty thousand dollars for the last fiscal year. As many are entered in several other collection districts; at Buffalo, and in two districts in Maine, nearly three times this traffic in imported eggs is done. These eggs are taken from the original packages, carefully examined by candle or lamp light, and then repacked, the defective eggs being laid aside. If transportation is not immediate, the eggs are placed in cold storage warehouses, where the temperature is a few degrees above freezing, and there kept until shipped. The world must be fed, and while the imperial West feeds famishing Europe with grain, and the South sends cotton and tobacco, the favored people of the United States need not begrudge the hard-working farmer of Canada the contribution they are able to make to our needs from their little farms.—C. P. DEWEY in *American Agriculturist*.

The *Poultry Monthly* gives the results of some experiments made to test the effect different conditions as to moisture would have upon the hatching of eggs. Two hens were set on 130 eggs in a basement on the damp ground with just enough straw to hold the eggs together; ten other hens were set on the upper floor on 130 eggs, with only straw enough to keep the eggs from breaking. The result was almost exactly 100 chicks from each lot of hens. So it concludes that, with good eggs, the surroundings make but little difference.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

THE SALVATION ARMY.

The sneers of those who are ready to hold up to ridicule the methods employed by the Salvation Army to save sinners, are as unchristian as they are unseemly. The Salvation Army aims at the conversion of a class which our Christian ministers have, so far, failed to reach. Its officers publicly state that their work is not carried on among church-goers, but among those who have for years neglected to attend any place of public worship. That the Army is doing a grand work in this city among the lower grades of society will not, I presume, be questioned by those who have listened to the heartfelt testimonies of the converts; but if this work is to have any permanent effect, our ministers must lay aside their cloak of exclusiveness, and enter the field, prepared to share in the harvest which is at hand. The question is frequently asked as to the disposal of the funds which are raised by collection at the meetings held in the Reform Club Hall. In answer, I may state that the rent of the Hall, the cost of its lighting, and the board of the officers are paid from funds thus collected, but that the greater portion of the money is applied to the immediate relief of the poor, the clothing of the naked, and other like charitable objects. In many instances, the new converts are relieved from pressing pecuniary embarrassment, consequent upon the indulgence in strong drink, and they are thus enabled to commence anew the battle of life with zeal and determination, no longer being weighted in the struggle with vicious habits and oppressing debts. Some city ministers have extended the right hand of fellowship to the evangelists, Meikle and Gerritor; let them no longer stand aloof from an organization which, aside from the good it is otherwise doing, has reawakened the zeal and strengthened the faith of those who Sunday after Sunday frequent the city churches.

SPECTATOR.

THE NORTH-WEST REBELLION.

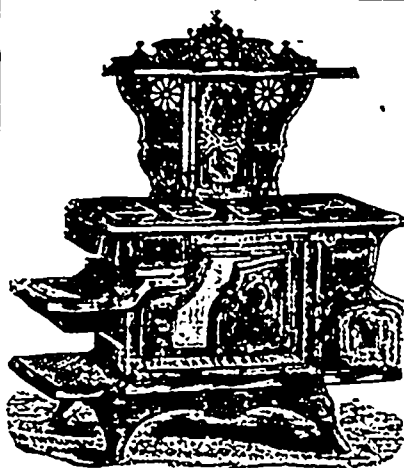
PRINCE ALBERT, N. W. T., Sept. 22th.

To the Editor of the Critic:—

SIR,—It may be of interest to your readers to note a few facts with respect to the Rebellion through which we have lately passed. The poor half breeds had grievances which the Government appeared to disregard. Kiel was sent for by the white settlers, and he succeeded in egging on the half breeds to take up arms. The half breeds had never expected to fight, and expected to get their claims settled. They had no more idea of the power of Canada than the Indians, some of them had never seen a railway. The poor devils ran now badly off; they have lost what little they had, and no white man will now employ them. I have seen and talked with several half breeds who were in the Rebellion, and they have assured me that they never intended firing a shot. If it were not for the miseries these people will be called upon to endure, and the loss of valuable lives, the Rebellion might be considered a blessing in disguise. Through it a large sum of money has been put in circulation in the country, which was greatly needed, and the prestige of Canada has likewise been greatly improved in the eyes of the world. I did not meet your Halifax boys, but they are reported as among the most soldierly of the men sent from the East.

Yours,

J



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IN CONNECTION WITH

THE PROVINCIAL NORMAL SCHOOL, TRURO,

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Circulars containing information as to conditions of admission, course of study, &c., may be obtained on application to the undersigned, or to the Principal of the Normal School, Truro

DAVID ALLISON,
Superintendent of Education.
Education Office, Sep. 25, 1885.