

Green and Dry Wood for Fuel.

Fuel is fast becoming one of our most important considerations, from a money point of view, in Canada. Indeed, it has almost become a truism now that, in all settled districts, he who has the largest bush or the greatest amount of timber on his farm, is the richest farmer. Now it is a very common habit with many farmers to burn their wood green. We have seen them repeatedly take their oxen away to the bush, chop down a tree, draw it home, and cut it up for the stove before breakfast or after supper time. Perhaps they were not aware of the loss they were sustaining from an ignorance of the vast amount of latent heat consumed to drive off the water their wood contained. When perfectly green, wood loses about one-fifth of its weight by thorough seasoning, which is equal to about 25 cubic feet in every compact cord. Now all this must be evaporated before the wood burns. The heat thus made latent and lost being five times as great as to heat the water to boiling, is equal to enough for boiling 750 gallons in every cord of wood. He, therefore, who burns twelve cords of green wood in a winter, could have secured the same heat benefit from eight had they been dry. Here is a strong argument then for burning only seasoned firewood. It also accounts for the fact that in the market green wood, however good the quality, commands a lower price than dry. It is not because, as many suppose, it does not burn so well, or because it wastes a great deal more time to attend to it. These considerations, of course, help to lessen its value, but the real point is, as we have stated, a dead loss of about one-ninth in latent heats.

Great Cheese Show and Fair at Kilmarnock.

The annual exhibition of cheese, butter, grain, held under the auspices of the Ayrshire Agricultural Association, took place last month. The number of entries in the cheese section was 473, butter 344, grain 67, roots 125, and extras 18—total 1,029, as compared with a total of 1,100 last year. This decrease is attributable, we understand, to the fact that hitherto a large proportion of the entries came from exhibitors who competed under their landlord's subscriptions, but this year, so far as Ayrshire was concerned, competition was restricted to members only. This year there was also charged an entry money of 5s.

The Cheddar lots, says *The N. B. Agriculturist*, as a whole, were uniform and pleasing in appearance. With regard to quality, there was a slight falling off. In class 1, the whole of the first five lots were superior, and the cheese was very fine. In class 2, the judges found two extremes—a good section and a bad section. All of the prize lots were found to be rich, but as regards flavor there was a deficiency. The Danlops, the original triumphs of the dairymaids of Ayrshire, were found to be scarcely up to the standard of former years, and this is to be accounted for by the fact that that system is gradually being discarded in favor of the Cheddar method.

The loaf cheese, made according to the Cheddar or other imitation English method, were excellent, and a marked improvement on the exhibits of the previous year was readily noticeable. Uncolored cheese are now not readily marketable, and so the specimens shown do not represent the full range of the competitors, who only make a cheese without using annatto occasionally during the season, with which to try and secure the premium offered. Minus the color, they were exactly similar to the cheese shown in the previous class. The loaf cheese, made according to the Cheddar method, were, as in class 4, an improvement upon those exhibited at former shows, but were depreciated by a slight brittleness, which was not to be identified with the hardness necessary for keeping. Class 8, is altogether identified with Ayrshire dairies, as to the farmers of that county competition is limited. As was expected by dairymen, there was a marked falling off, and this was to be accounted for by the peculiarity of the season. Grass, as has been said, was never good at any time, and the temperature was not favorable for ripening. On this account the flavor was too high, which shows that the milk-giving cattle

had been fed on artificial food stuffs. A number of the specimens were also found to be "fire-fanged," or forced too much by the cheese-house stove.

The show of butter was not so great as last year, but the quality was better. This latter characteristic was especially observable in the open classes of fresh butter. The judges, however, insisted, as in former years, that the dairymaids did not seem to understand fully the distinction between powdered and salt butter. Powdered butter should be, they said, only slightly flavored with salt, and not cured; whereas a large number of the samples exhibited as powdered butter were salted sufficiently to keep for months. Many of the samples of fresh butter also had lost their delicate aroma by being iced.

The seeds and roots were a splendid display. There was a good many lots of beans exhibited, but nearly all the samples showed signs of over-dressing.

In the cheese fair about 50 tons more than last year were offered. A good trade was done during the day at fair prices. The ton lots sold at about £2 per ton under last year's rates, but the general tone of the market was up to that of last Show. About 6,000 cwt. were offered for sale, compared with 5,050 in 1873 and 4,000 in 1872, and the value of the cheese would reach about £12,000.

THE FIRST SNOW of the season fell in Toronto on the 22nd ult.

IN AUSTRALIA every farmer can raise three crops a year, but two of the crops are snakes and the other very poor cereals.

THE WATERVILLE correspondent of the *Sherbrooke News* states the finding of a bed of terra-cotta, equal to any found in Tuscany, on Mr. Page's farm.

THE SALE of the Sittyton (Scotland) Short-horns takes place on the 3rd inst. Fifty young bulls of more than average quality will be disposed of.

MR. DELONG, of Ameliasburg, brought to Belleville market on Wednesday two pigs of extraordinary weight. One (one year and ten months old) weighed 520 lbs.; the other (one year old) weighed 381 lbs. They were of the Berkshire breed.

MR. NAPOLEON PINEO, of Rustico, P. E. I., a fisherman in the employ of Mr. Howard, Churchill, caught during the past season 33,700 mackerel—a catch that has never been equalled on the Island by any one fisherman.

AN IRISH TELEGRAM to the *Pall Mall Gazette* states that more than forty sheep have been killed in the Mullingar district by one or two wolves, which are said to have escaped from a menagerie in the north of Ireland. Patrols of police are scouring the country in search of the animals.

MR. JAMES BAKER, sr., has given the milk of one cow to the Fullarton cheese factory during the present season, commencing on the 13th of May and ending on the 30th of October. It may seem incredible, but it is a fact and can be proved by the books, that Mr. Baker netted \$51.70 from his cow, besides keeping the family in milk and butter.

THE HAY CROP of New Hampshire is said to be worth six times as much as its corn crop, as hay can be bought for \$12 per ton and corn for \$1 per bushel. The pasturage and hay of that State are computed to be worth \$12,000,000 annually. There can be no doubt but that by tile draining alone, the hay crop of the United States might be doubled, and if top dressed with good manure, it might be trebled.—*N. Y. World*.

HERE is another fishy story, this time from Nunda, N. Y.: A potato was recently found at Nunda, N. Y., of which the *Darville Advertiser* gives the following account: "It was dug in that town, weighed about three pounds, and contained within itself a very singular thing. A stem, like something protruding from one end was seen to move as if it had life. The potato was cut open and the stem was found to be the tail of a something inside which seemed to be half potato and half animal. It was about as large as a mouse, with a brown color, was shaped like a potato, with indentations like potato eyes, and yet seemed to be composed of animal flesh, and had life and motion. No one had seen anything at all resembling it. It was to be taken to Rochester and shown to scientists." The scientists have not yet been heard from.

THE APPEARANCE of the Phylloxera in Austria has been announced in the *Official Journal* in the following passage:—"One of the vines of the central establishment, created in Lower Austria for the culture of fruit-bearing trees, has been found to be affected by Phylloxera, which had evidently been imported with vine plants received from America in 1869." All the vines of that kind will therefore be immediately destroyed, and the authorities are taking every precaution in their power to prevent an extension of the evil.

THE ENGLISH DERRY is a race of about a mile and a half—single dash. It is for three-year-olds, and colts have to carry 122, fillies 112 pounds. The purse is made up by subscribers, each subscriber having the right to enter and start a horse, and half the subscription is forfeited by such subscribers as do not start. The entrance is 50 sovereigns. The second horse in the race gets 300, and the third 150 sovereigns. In the late Derby, won by the colt George Frederick, there were 212 entries, and 20 started. The winnings are reckoned as follows: 20 horses starting, 50 sovereigns each, 1,000 sovereigns; 192 entered that did not start, each half forfeit, or 25 sovereigns, 4,800 sovereigns, added to 1,000 makes 5,800. From this deduct 450 sovereigns, paid to the second and third horses out, and we have what George Frederick won—5,350 sovereigns, or nearly \$26,750.

ENGLISH WHEAT.—Foremost as wheat is among the cereals of the temperate zone, it is not selected for uniformity of composition; few grains, indeed, vary more according to season, soil, and situation. English wheats, however, come nearest to an average standard of best bread-making qualities; and if we do not turn out the highest-priced flour, it is entirely owing to the want of skill or judgment on the part of the miller. The wheat-corn of southern climates, and during excessively warm periods of growth, preponderate in gluten and hardness of grain over those of colder countries and cool, wet seasons. Hence the hard wheats of Venezuela, Africa, and Taganrog, Payen, who chiefly illustrates from these, declares that they yield over 20 per cent. of nitrogenous substance when chemically dry; but this is an impossible ordinary condition, and leaves the real amount very uncertain. Whatever may be the maximum percentage of flesh-forming compounds in wheat from the sunnier clime, anything exceeding 13 per cent. must be taken from the entire grain. But when the kernel of hard corn shows as much as this, it is altogether unfit for bread-making unless a large quantity of a poorer or softer wheat flour be mixed with it. We find the hard Italian wheat only suitable for making macaroni, vermicelli and similar pastes; nevertheless, good hard Russian corn, coarsely ground and dried, makes the best substitute for oatmeal in porridge, when that is found too heating to the blood of young children, as experienced Scotch physicians tell us is sometimes the case.—*The Sanitary Record*.

THE COTTON CROP OF AMERICA.—The October returns of the Department of Agriculture at Washington give the following State averages indicating the condition of the cotton crop in the United States. The crop of Virginia is too small to influence perceptibly the general result. North Carolina 85, a decline of 2 per cent. during September. South Carolina 82, a decline of 4 per cent. Georgia 80, an improvement of 3 per cent. Florida 81, an improvement of 4 per cent. Alabama 75, a decline of 6 per cent. Mississippi 74, no change. Louisiana 62, no change. Texas 70, an increase of 5 per cent. Arkansas 55, an increase of 8 per cent. Tennessee 56, an increase of 4 per cent. The crop notes show that on the Atlantic coast the causes of the decline were drought, rust, and excessive rains, in some cases accompanied by beating winds. In the Gulf Coast States a few cases of insect injuries are added to the above, but the weather also was very unfavorable to the development of destructive insect life. In some cases a continued drought of three months is reported. The top crop was dried up and the middle crop greatly reduced. The crop opens freely, and the picking generally was in rapid progress. In some cases the seed had sprouted in the ball. Along the coast of Texas heavy rains fell, accompanied by gales lasting several days. In the inland States, Arkansas and Tennessee, several counties report improvement in the condition of the growth, though in one or two no rain has fallen since May. In others the drought has not been so severe. The above averages refer only to the condition of the crop on the first day of October, including its state of development, vitality, and healthfulness. This is but one element in the calculation of the yield in quantity, which has not yet been completed.