

advantage of an isolated education. Agriculture is pre-eminently the occupation of the Canadian people. Our whole prosperity and advancement depends upon its skilful prosecution, for all other avocations rest upon its success. We have splendid farms, frugal, industrious and intelligent farmers, and excellent farm-stock of all kinds—but what is yet wanted is a thorough knowledge spread all over the country, how best to use in the most effectual and profitable manner, the great advantages for good farming we so abundantly possess. If the Guelph Model Farm shall contribute efficiently towards this end, it will amply repay all the money expended upon it—were it vastly greater than it possibly can be.

The second leading end to be kept in mind in the management of the institution, will we trust be to make accurate experiments on practical points directly affecting the daily practice of the Canadian farmer, and publish them to the world.

Book Farming.

Nothing more irrational can be imagined than the prejudice, which so largely prevails among farmers, against what is styled "Book farming." Without the aid of agricultural publications, would not the practical experience of practical agriculturists be entirely lost, except in their own immediate neighborhoods? Without the aid of scientific research, would not a thousand questions of the highest practical importance to the farmer have been left unsettled? Without books and papers, what should we know of crops and herds and tillage in other countries? Why is it that in every other occupation, except farming, every new light, every suggestion for its advancement, is hailed by those engaged in it with interest and cordiality? No man of sense would dream of a farmer adopting every new plan, however good, commended by an agricultural journal. On the contrary the circumstances under which farmers carry on their operations are so diversified by a thousand causes, that no absolute rule, on almost any point, can be made of universal application. All that any sensible man can hope for is that agriculturists shall read carefully and earnestly, ponder well all apparently good suggestions, and adopt such of them as, from their own several points of view, commend themselves to their approbation as practically advantageous. Although very much that a farmer reads may not, from peculiar circumstances, fit his particular case, or be expedient to adopt with a limited capital—still there is much in every agricultural paper that issues from the press, which the most experienced agriculturist may read with profit, either by the suggestion of new ideas, the modification of old ones, or the revival of forgotten ones. Agricultural articles are necessarily on all sorts of subjects, and in a new country like Canada, the raw beginner has to be written for as well as the accomplished farmer; and thus articles that prove of great value to some, seem quite impracticable to others. "Book-farming" by no means undervalues the practical knowledge of practical workers; on the contrary its main mission is to gather the practical lessons which practical men have learned, and publish them far and wide for the advantage of the world. Nor should any farmer start off in disgust because a thing is recommended which to him seems unremunerative, or (if remunerative) beyond the means of ordinary farmers to accomplish. The thing may be right and profitable in itself, notwithstanding, and though beyond the means or the courage of very many farmers, it may be highly desirable and advantageous to have it tried fully and fairly.

EGGS FOR HATCHING.—A correspondent wishes to know where he can purchase pure dark Brahma and Aylesbury duck eggs. Some of our friends having these for sale, might do well to let it be known through the advertising columns of THE CANADA FARMER.

The Downing Gooseberry.

In the last number of the "FARMER" we gave our readers a very good representation of this variety of the gooseberry, and laid before them what Mr. Hooker had to say concerning it and other American gooseberries, great difficulty has been experienced by those who have endeavored to raise gooseberries, by reason of the mildew that attacks both the fruit and foliage of all the English varieties. There are a few favored localities where the mildew is not troublesome, but on the whole there has been very little success in the cultivation of this fruit. We have grown the Downing Gooseberry for some fifteen years, and with very satisfactory results, while in the same grounds the English varieties mildew so badly that they are in fact worthless.

The berries of the Downing are not as large as those of the English kinds, though they are much larger and much finer in appearance than the Houghton. The color when ripe is a very pale green, and the flavor is much like that of the Houghton. But the chief value of this variety is the basis which it furnishes for our experimenters and hybridists, from which to raise some larger fruited berry, which shall be as free from mildew as this. In the hope that some may be stimulated to further experiment, and to make our people acquainted with the best variety of American Gooseberry in cultivation, the Directors of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario have decided to send out to its members a plant of this variety next year. By this means it will have a very wide dissemination, as the society has now a very large membership scattered through all parts of the Province, and in a few years we will have ascertained whether this variety proves to be generally as valuable as a substitute for the larger English sorts as it now promises.

It is to be hoped also that attention will be turned to the production of new varieties from this and other American sorts, and that we shall give up the hopeless task of trying to grow the English Gooseberries when it is so evident that they can not be grown.

American Short-horn Record.

The American Short-horn Record, published by Mr. A. J. Alexander, of Woodburn, Kentucky, is conducted on very conservative principles. It gives in its pages all the ancestors, to the remotest generation of every animal entered in the *Record*. No female is allowed to be entered until she has proved herself a breeder, by producing a calf. There are also other improvements, which will prevent the work from ever becoming cumbersome, costly or unwieldy. Two volumes have already appeared and a third is to be issued very soon. Canadian Short-horn breeders would do well to make a note of this. The price of the *Record* per volume is about that of the *Canada Herd-book*.

Amorphallus Rivieri.

In the first number of the CANADA FARMER will be found the opinion of a correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker* concerning this new plant. For the information of our readers we may state that it can be planted out of doors in June as we now plant the Dahlia, and taken up as soon as the frost cuts the foliage or the stem dies down. It is a singular aroid, which throws up a thick white spotted stem, crowned by a large palmate leaf from two to three feet in diameter.

The Royal Dublin Spring Cattle Show.

The forty-third annual stock exhibition, held in April, was considered the best that has yet been seen. The show of Short-horns, particularly in the younger sections, was excellent. No doubt, out of 148 yearling bulls there were some, but not many, that would have been better left at home.

The exhibition of implements and machinery was the best and largest ever known here; but this was

so closely packed as to render it difficult, if not impossible, to examine and contrast the merits of no less than 101 stands. The English exhibitors were the most numerous.

The Herefords, as for some years, put in but a short appearance. Of polled Angus cattle, there were four bulls and four females. In the Devon sections, there were but one yearling and two aged bulls, two heifers, and one cow; John Peake, Mullaghmore, taking all the prizes. Of Alderneys there were nine bulls, three heifers giving milk and four cows.

Of Friesian cattle there were about fifty-five.

The show of black and white pigs was as good as could be desired, they were not numerous in their several sections, but they occupied about 40 pens, and though good and well bred, there was nothing amongst them to call for any particular notice.

The show of poultry was the best we yet have had; it embraced every new, good, useful, and ornamental variety, and all in the best plumage and condition. The entries occupied 247 pens, taking up the entire gallery round the Central Hall. The pigeon show was an interesting sight to the lovers of that class of birds. The several distinct varieties were divided into about 20 sections, occupying 158 cages.

The weather was beautifully fine, and, on the whole, The Royal Dublin Society's spring meeting for this year has been a success. The Lord Lieutenant, Lady Spencer and suite visited the show on Wednesday, and remained some hours examining all the details. — *Mark Lane Express*.

Agricultural Depression in Britain

We regret to learn from a speech recently delivered by Mr. McCombie, M.P. for West Aberdeenshire, when accompanying a deputation of Scottish members to induce the Chancellor of the Exchequer to remove the gun tax, and the tax on shepherds' dogs which are felt to be grievances by Scottish agriculturists, that the farming interest in Scotland is in a very depressed condition indeed. Mr. McCombie, whose acquaintance with tenant farmers throughout Scotland is both extensive and intimate, asserts that the year 1872 has been the most disastrous year in the century to the tenant farmers of Scotland. The average price of wheat in the Scottish market has ranged from 90 cts. to \$1.10 per bushel, with a diminished quantity—less than half—to dispose of, and with a deteriorated quality from sprout in consequence of the very wet harvest. The potato crop was completely destroyed, and the turnip crop, on which the farmer depends so largely for his profits, were scarcely half a crop. The consequence is that farmers are giving up their farms in all directions, and where, a few years ago, there used to be ten applicants for every farm to be let, now there are ten farms for every applicant. Mr. McCombie mentioned the case of a farm in his own native parish that was advertised to rent, and on the day fixed for letting it, there was not a single offer for it.

The Labor Question in England.

We are very sorry to see that the relationships between farmers and laborers are—thanks to the chief agitators, whom Sir M. Hicks-Beach has described as "Communists in politics, and infidels in religion"—week by week becoming further and further estranged. If they had been left to themselves—if the foreign element we deprecated had not been introduced, masters and men might have arranged their differences easily. The result now is that a war of classes has commenced. The masters have formed a counter combination against the men—the strikes are to be followed by a lock-out. Not content with retarding the progress of cultivation as much as they could, the National Agricultural Unionists have resolved, if possible, to prevent the harvesting of the hay and corn crops when the time comes for their cutting and their in-gathering. With this view they have sent paid agents out to stump Ireland—to warn Hibernia's sons from coming over to England. The matter is now assuming a very grave form to the community generally, and if the bitterness of strife continue—if the corn be allowed to be waste upon the ground—in spite of free trade, the industrious classes may expect to have to pay double the price for their loaf, and meat will rise altogether beyond their means. We think it is time that some notice of this important question should be taken by the legislature. — *The (London) Farmer*, 25th April 1873.