

Mowers and Reapers.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—As the period is fast approaching when manual labour will be called into full requisition by the husbandman in securing the abundant growing crop, and it is to be feared that in some localities it will be inadequate to the task, it is important to utilize machinery as far as practicable. All admit, that were it not for the ingenuity and enterprise that has been employed in adapting machinery to the most laborious part of field labour, the agriculture of Canada would have been far below its present condition. Twenty years ago, in our palmiest days of wheat-growing, many farmers (the writer among the rest) would have grown it more extensively but for the difficulties of harvesting it. The "Canadian Reaper" has removed those difficulties, and makes what was before the severest labour almost a pleasure. There is still an effort being made to improve on these old and well-tried machines, by the addition of a self-raking apparatus. I would suggest to my brother farmers to see them tested before purchasing. The loss of valuable time in the middle of harvest with imperfect machinery is a serious drawback. With regard to Mowing Machines, they are no less useful, though not as yet come into such general use. Various unsuccessful attempts were made in the construction of this machine, and even after the cutting principle was brought to a tolerably good state, their prodigious weight and side draught made them a horse-killing implement to work, and prejudiced the mind against them. Perseverance has overcome the difficulty, and some of the Mowing Machines now manufactured might, I think, be termed almost perfect; and among that class you may number the "Cayuga Chief Junior," manufactured by Patterson & Bro., of Richmond Hill. This machine, for its adaptability to cutting all kinds of grass on the most rough and uneven surfaces, for strength, lightness of draught, and absence of side draught, surpasses all others that I have ever used or seen used, and I have been a close observer and anxious enquirer after truth in these matters. The old-fashioned "Canadian Reaper," and the "Cayuga Chief Junior Mower," furnish the farmer with two first-class machines, on which he may safely depend. Such is my opinion, based upon experience, and if of any advantage to my fellow agriculturists, I cheerfully tender it.

JNO. P. BULL.

York Township, June 5th, 1868.

WEEVIL.—A Communication from "A. J. B.," with a specimen of clay and insects, has been received, but too late for insertion in the present issue. It will appear in the next number, with remarks on the specimens, after we have examined them under the microscope.

AN OLD MAN'S HINTS.—A correspondent from Athol, who informs us that, though he has lived more than three-score years and ten, he now ventures to write with a view to publication for the first time, sends us the following hints:

THE THISTLE PLAGUE.—I have fought them for nearly fifty years, and am fully persuaded that all thistles cut when in full blossom, or rather just past bloom, are killed, and ploughing for the purpose of destroying them should be done at the same time. No seed, no thistle: three years without seed, and they would be exterminated.

THE USE OR ABUSE OF SALT.—I have seen a piece going the rounds headed, "Brine a Poison," and a French author quoted to prove it. Many of my neighbours also endorse the statement, saying that old brine should never be used. Now, my experience is that salt or brine may be used with safety under the exercise of proper judgment; but that it will kill anything that lives, whether man or beast, tree, shrub or plant, if improperly used. My father killed the first cow that I can remember with pickles saved in salt. A neighbour took a pail of brine, and gave his cattle a little sup; a large steer, being too greedy,

got too much and died. Two others gave it to their sheep, and two to their pigs, with the same result, and so on to the end of the chapter. It is only the immoderate and injudicious use of brine or pickling salt that need be avoided. I use my old brine or pickle thus: Any spare brine in winter, I put on coarse fodder in summer; on nettles, thistles, elder-bushes, or anything I want to kill, and let the sheep grub them off. My best brine I boil, skim, and cool, then put on new pork, with the best results.

BLACK KNOT IN THE PLUM TREE.—A correspondent from Richmond Hill writes: "I am told that leached ashes are a certain cure for black knot. Mr. Welsh, of Thornhill, first observed that all his plum trees were affected with black knot, except one, around which some leached ashes had accidentally been thrown. Taking a hint from this, he placed leached ashes around the roots of all the trees, which are now smooth and healthy. As this is a time when thrifty housewives will be making soap, or will have just made it, I thought this a timely item for your invaluable paper."

WELLS.—A correspondent from Colborne enquires if we know any more economical way of obtaining water from below the ground than the old-fashioned way of digging and walling. "I have heard," he says, "of iron tubes being driven in the ground till water is obtained, but have never seen them in use." Can any of our readers give information to the point? We have seen accounts of the plan referred to in American papers, and have known the method adopted in the soft and uniform soil of the Western prairies, but have never heard of its introduction into Canada.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, CANADA, JUNE 15, 1868.

The Provincial Exhibition.

THE prize list for the approaching exhibition at Hamilton, in the week commencing Monday, the 21st of September, has been prepared for circulation, and is now ready to be issued. The arrangements, as far as the Board of Agriculture are concerned, are well advanced, but a good deal yet remains in the hands of the local committee of what will properly fall to their share. There is plenty of time still remaining to arrange matters, and doubtless the City of Hamilton will do itself honour by making the most thorough preparations for the interesting occasion which is in prospect. The prize list, as amended this year, differs in few material points from that of 1867. The rules and regulations have been altered, and the programme changed, to adapt the latter to the year and the former to the new agricultural statute. An important variation, necessitated by the change in the law, is that entailed by the recognition of the Mechanics' Institutes and Fruit Growers' Associations, each of which will now hold its annual meeting during the exhibition week. The Fruit Growers' meeting has been arranged for Tuesday evening, the Mechanics' Institute meeting for Wednesday evening, and the annual meeting of the Association for Thursday evening of the week.

No changes have been made in the prize list for horses, but in cattle the prizes for all descriptions have advanced in the following ratio:—Cows from \$20 the first prize, \$12 second, and \$8 third, to \$24 first, \$16 second, and \$12 third; three year olds from \$16, \$10 and \$6, to \$22, \$14 and \$10; two year olds from \$12, \$3 and \$5, to \$16, \$12 and \$8; yearlings from \$10, \$6 and \$4, to \$12, \$8 and \$6; heifer calves from \$6, \$4, and \$2 to \$10, \$6 and \$4. These respectable additions will, if begetting no more competition, prove a healthy stimulus to an important branch of agriculture.

The Prince of Wales prize is given this year to the best herd of cattle, consisting of one bull and five female animals, all thorough-bred. The Fergus Cup, formerly presented by the late Hon. A. J. Ferguson Blair, has been discontinued.

In sheep classes an increase of \$55 in all has been made, \$9 being added to the prizes for shearing ewes and ewe lambs, and \$2 to the ram lamb classes.

In the Horticultural Department some details are changed, but altogether the amounts remain much as they were last year.

Some additions are made in the implement class, among them a land presser, horse pitch-fork, ditching machine, machine for sowing grass seed and for pulping roots, for all of which prizes are offered.

The Canada Company's prize for wheat is continued, the Association offering \$40 as a second, and \$20 as a third prize.

In the Arts and Manufactures department no changes of any note are made, and in the majority of instances the arrangement is continued.

The arrangement in the Fine Arts, though made last year, is not yet sufficiently known to make it unworthy of reference. For some time previous the classification of amateurs and professionals together was a matter of constant complaint. Amateurs alleged that they had no chance beside professional artists, and that if any encouragement was to be given the art of painting, and any inducement offered worth competing for, a distinction should be made. In accordance with these wishes, the Board of Arts last year separated the competitors into two classes, at the same time making sections in each for professional list, oil originals; amateur list, originals and copies; professional or amateur figure subjects; and the same in water colours. The separation proved acceptable last year, and will, we hope to see, make large additions to the exhibition under the same arrangements this year.

Judges in some of the classes of animals have been selected from the United States; the remainder will be named by the Committee of Societies.

Railway Gardens.

THE Grand Trunk Railway Station Master at Guelph, G. A. Oxnard, Esq., has set an example the present spring which we should like to see imitated all along that and the other lines of railway in the Dominion of Canada, having laid out and tastefully planted, at his own expense, a beautiful little garden adjacent to the Passenger Depot. It is astonishing what a change this has made in the whole contour and influence of the place. Whereas before the scene had only an air of business and was purely utilitarian in all its belongings and surroundings, there is now an air of refinement and an appearance of beauty and elegance, whose influence is felt by all observers. The stone station-house and brown sheds have assumed a look of enhanced respectability, being affected by the garden very much as a man is, who already dressed in a good, substantial suit, gives himself the finishing touch by putting on a good hat and a nicely fitting pair of boots. Passengers who are waiting for belated trains beguile the weary moments by admiring the shrubs and flowers, and travellers beginning or pursuing a journey, get a glimpse of rural loveliness which reminds them of home. The town artisan beholds with pleasure the little enclosure, and thinks how easy it would be to get up such a scene of beauty in front of his own cottage door. Giles from the country, where grass and trees are abundant, reflects how readily he could make a pleasure garden on a far larger scale, and beat the little railway parterre hollow by a spacious lawn, an extensive shrubbery and spreading flower-beds on his own farm. Wives and daughters besiege husbands and fathers for leave and help to do something equally pretty where they live. The little railway