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RURAL NOTES.

Throwing fodder on the ground for sheep is a wasteful practice. Racks will more than pay for themselves in a single winter, and any handy farmer can make his own. Ewes that are to drop lambs need warm and separate pens.

Mr. L. J. Hess, President of the Union County, Illinois, Agricultural Board, says the ice storm seems to have benefited the growing wheat, as it now looks green and fresh, while before the storm all wheat looked dead. Fruit not damaged.

"THERE are three classes of animals in which I have great faith," says John Dryden, M.P.P. for South Ontario. "These are Shorthorn cattle, Clydesdale horses, and Shropshire sheep. For mutton and wool the Shropshires can't be beaten."

THE farmer who holds his grain keeps back just so much money from circulation, while the grain itself shrinks in weight and furnishes a ready store of food for rats. It is not the best economy to keep one's granary full, even though prices are low.

It is a mistake to suppose that exposure to severe weather makes animals hardy. They are far better off under cover during storms, but the buildings in which they are housed should be provided with thorough means of ventilation. Wholesome air is a primo requisite of health.

THANKS to the statistics of grain productions collected by the Bureau of Industries, Ontario is now being thoroughly advertised throughout Great Britain. Agricultural and other journals are giving those statistics a wide publicity, and our Province is likely to be a large gainer in consequence.

A LITTLE linseed meal is excellent for horses and colts, and any team will do better with a sprinkling of it in their oats every day. Sheep will fatten faster with a mixture of it, and their wool will be brighter and better. Linseed improves the look of the coat, whether it be hair or wool.

A FARMER who has had much experience in draining land says that, when quicksand or unsound ground occurs, drains should be cut wider and in some cases deeper, with their sods trampled down along the bottom before either tiles or stone conduits are introduced. Sods thus placed always admit water freely, and the substrata in consequence very soon becomes solid.

It is a pretty well established fact that the greatest profits in fattening cattle are made on young animals. At the Chicago Fat Stock Show a statement was made that a two-year-old steer gave a profit of nearly fifty dollars on its second years feeding, while the next year gave only a profit of seven dollars. The profit lies in pushing young animals constantly until they are ready for market, and selling them as soon as they are ready.

THE Chicago Farmers' Review says the herd of Galloways owned by Mr. Thomas McOrao & Son, of

Guelph, is the largest on this side of the ocean. The senior partner, the *Leciew* says, has been breeding Galloways longer than any other man in the United States or Canada. Last spring he purchased in Scotland forty-eight of the choicest animals procurable. This is the largest importation of them ever made to America.

In a report of the transactions of the Michigan Horticultural Society, two years ago, it was stated that the application of dry slaked lime to apple trees while in blossom was an effective remedy for the codling moth pest. A Maine farmer has tried it with very satisfactory results. The lime, he says, should be applied two or three times - thrown all through the top of the tree and upon all sides of it. If applied when the blossoms are wet, all the better. Prof. Beal, of Michigan, claims better results are obtained if Paris green is mixed with the lime.

Now there is a good chance for our farmers to improve the appearance of their farms, and at the same time to considerably increase their value. The Ontario Tree-planting Fund, created by an Act of the Legislature, only requires the co-operation of township municipalities to encourage every farmer to plant all the borders of his farm with trees. In a few years those trees would give a measure of shelter to his wheat fields, would beautify his farm, and in time would furnish a supply of valuable timber for many needed purposes. For a wooded country Ontario is being rapidly denuded of its forests, and another generation may see the elder settled portions of it with as low a percentage of wooded to cleared land as Old England itself.

It is doubtful if any other remedy can be used for the pea bug pest with half the good results of starvation. So long as farmers continue to grow pea-food the bug will live on and prosper, perpetuating his kind from year to year. One field in a township is enough to save him from extinction, and without common action on the part of farmers there seems to be no hope of getting rid of him effectually. There are laws for stamping out disease in animals, and why not for starving out the pea-bug? An Act which would authorize township or county councils to prohibit the growing of peas for one or more years, when considered necessary in the public interest, would probably answer the purpose. It is a matter of no small consequence to save the country against annually recurring losses of three or four hundred thousand dollars.

In the native woods of Ontario walnut trees have not been found north of a line drawn from the neighbourhood of Hamilton to the mouth of St. Clair River. So states Dr. Bell, of the Geological Survey Service. But it is a fact that walnut can be grown considerably further north. Trees planted in the neighbourhood of Lindsay are thriving well. At the same time we should prefer to confine the experiment of growing this or any other species of tree within the limits of its habitat. They may grow and flourish beyond for a time, but they are liable to be injured any winter by a few days of intense cold. One of the great mistakes made in planting apple orchards in the northern tiers of counties has been, the selection of popular varieties

grown in the warm region of the Lake Erie counties. A more careful selection of hardy varieties is needed to save farmers from yearly losses and discouragements in this particular.

For a long time it was considered that a good quality of sugar could not be produced from the sorghum cane, but with improved processes and intelligent management the question is no longer a debatable one. There are sugar works at Champaign, Illinois, that turn out batch after batch of sugar from sorghum with precisely the same certainty that the Southern planter does from the sugar cane. This sugar is said to have no sorghum flavour nor gummy character, and will sell in the same market at the same price as the New Orleans article, giving the same satisfaction. A West Indies sugar-maker is this year going to try the experiment in the county of Essex, in the western part of this Province, and he is confident of success. He has already made arrangements for the planting of over two hundred acres with sorghum, and the sugar works will be erected at Essex Centre. His experiment will be watched with lively interest.

THE *Mark Lane Express*, in a review of the British grain trade for the week ending Jan. 27th, says: The prospects of the growing wheat crop are about the same as last week, but the outlook for Spring cultivation gets materially worse as the season advances. There was a weaker feeling in English wheat at the close of the week. Flour is weaker. Trade in foreign wheat restricted by higher rates. The supply of wheat in London comprises 17,376 bushels from India, 40,072 bushels from Germany, 28,504 bushels from American Atlantic ports, and 20,332 bushels from Russia. American maize is cheaper. Barley firm, but quiet. Trade in wheat cargoes off coast small. Red Winter unchanged. California higher. Demand for wheat cargoes afloat or for shipment slackened the past week and business done chiefly in Russian grades. Sales of English wheat during the week were 500,280 bushels at \$1.26 per bushel, against 399,104 bushels at \$1.44 for the corresponding period last year.

THE Ontario Legislature has this year made an appropriation of \$3,000 for the purchase of new varieties of seed grain, the intention being to make use of Agricultural Societies as agencies for its distribution. There is much need of introducing new varieties of spring wheat and potatoes, but great care should be taken in making selections. Fraud is easily practised in the seed business; and not a few people who consider themselves as honest as the patriarchs think it is no crime to cheat the Government. A good idea would be to offer liberal prizes to our hybridists for any new varieties of seed of established merit which they may originate. The Vermont farmer who originated the Early Rose potato rendered a most valuable service to the farmers of the United States and Canada. Hybridizing is an interest that deserves to be encouraged. There is no reason to believe that the best possible varieties of fruits, roots or grains are being cultivated now in Ontario, and heretofore our farmers have been relying almost exclusively on foreign hybridists for "new blood." We would like to see more attention given to originating new varieties at home.