

## Contributors, &amp;c., to the "Canadian Farmer."

## HORTICULTURE.

T. O. Robinson, Owen Sound.  
G. L. Whitney, Lecturer Michigan State Grange, Muskegon, Mich.  
P. H. Henderson, Bertie Vineyards, Stevensville, Ont.

## POULTRY.

Geo Elliott, a taker of eight prizes at the Provincial Poultry Show—Port Robinson Ont.

## APIARY.

D. A. Jones, of the Beekeepers Association of Ontario, Beeton Ont.  
R. McKnight, Bee-Keepers Association, Owen Sound.

## MAPLE SYRUP, SUGAR, &amp;c.

Levi R. Whitman, an extensive manufacturer Knowlton, Quebec.

## GRAPE CULTURE.

Dr. Joy, Tilsonburg, Ont.

## VETERINARY.

G. Elliott, V. S., St. Catharines, member Ontario Veterinary College.

## GENERAL FARM SUBJECTS.

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S. T. Pettit, Belmont, Ont.  
E. S. Oreed, Newport, N. B.  
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## The Canadian Farmer.

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In Iowa the farmers catch fish in nets by the waggon load, and use them as fertilizers on their farms.

We have received the premium list of the Indiana State Fair, to be held at Indianapolis from Sept 29th to Oct. 4th. It promises to be a great gathering.

Ohio has something new in the show line, viz.: strawberry shows. They are reported to be a grand success. One was recently held at Barnsville, Ohio. About this town nearly one hundred acres is planted to strawberries alone, and it is estimated that this year the crop will exceed 12,000 bushels.

## WHAT OUR FRIENDS SAY.

The FARMER this year has so greatly improved that I hasten to remit you the amount for the coming year. THOS. B. MURRAY, Aveling.

## THE CANDIDATES.

In another column we give the portraits of James G. Blaine and John A. Logan, the Republican candidates for President and Vice President of the United States. Next week we will present portraits of Grover Cleveland and Thomas A. Hendricks, the men selected as the candidates by the National Democratic Convention, held last week.

## THE SWINDLERS AROUND.

Word has reached us that in a couple of districts in Ontario the swindling lightning rod agents are again at work trying to dupe the honest and industrious farmers of the country. The oft tried and oft successful plan is being worked, viz., to get the farmer to sign a receipt for the lightning rod, — receipt which afterwards turns out to be a promissory note of quite an amount. One of our subscribers writes us that he has been "taken in" to the extent of \$23.50. We do sincerely hope that our friends have received lessons enough in this matter. What with lightening rod agents, force pump agents and crop report swindlers, together with a thousand other scoundrels, surely the

farmers have been warned enough. We are surprised that at this late day any of the old tricks could be successfully played upon any of our intelligent agriculturists. As the summer advances you will, no doubt be called upon by numbers of them. Our advice is to have nothing to do with them. A safe plan is to keep a good watch dog.

## THE AMERICAN STRUGGLE.

The Democrats have placed their men in the field and now the presidential fight rattles down squarely, with Blaine and Logan on the one side and Cleveland and Hendricks on the other. There is no doubt that the struggle will be one of the most exciting which has ever taken place in the Republic, and just at present it seems difficult to predict with any degree of certainty what may be the result. The Democrats are desperate and will fight bitterly. They have a strong candidate in Cleveland, for no one can say ought against him, either as a man or as a legislator. It is a pity that the party were not as free from stain as the Governor. In heading the Democrats Cleveland is really standing as a pearl before swine, and we fear that the history of his party will more than counterbalance his own sterling unquestioned character, and that there is every chance of his being defeated by a man many of whose traits of character are much less acceptable than those of the Democratic nominee. Blaine is not, to our mind, a desirable candidate. He is full of jingo and will, we are strongly inclined to think, be possessed of a hostile and insolent policy towards other nations. Yet he is the candidate of the Republican party, a party under whose rule the United States have become grandly prosperous, and that party will doubtless place him in the Presidential chair. If Cleveland were connected with a party of fixed policy and acceptable character there would be no doubt of his election, but, as it is, we fear he will be sacrificed, although of course, the Republican party are not as united as they might be on The Plumed Knight of Maine.

The candidates for Vice-President are just as unequally matched. The Republicans have a man of good character and who is possessed of great popularity; the Democrats have a man who has been a chronic nomination seeker, and who will inspire no enthusiasm in the party. He will be a drag on Grover Cleveland's candidacy. The eyes of the world will from now to November be upon our sister nation. We hope the best choice may be made.

## HAY COVERS.

When the editor of the FARMER was on his recent tour through Illinois, he witnessed what was to him rather a novel sight. When some hundred and fifty miles or so beyond Chicago, on the Chicago & Rock Island R. R., a field passed into view where the hay had been put up in neat cocks, which were covered with neat white covers. Every cock in the field was thus covered and certainly to one unacquainted with the custom, it was a strange sight in a hay field. Upon inquiry we learned, that the plan is not a usual one, but that some few, who have plenty of money, and find difficulty in spending it, have taken a fancy in that direction. To our mind very little benefit could possibly result. The covers were not sufficiently extensive to protect only the mere top, and besides, in a storm, they are very liable to be mis-

placed. We expressed our opinion before upon the same matter, and we express it again now, that the better way to protect hay is to be judicious in the cutting, and to draw into shelter as soon as it is properly cured. If proper caution be used in the one direction, and proper activity in the other, there will be but little need for hay covers.



TWO PROMINENT MEN.

We present the readers of the FARMER this week with pictures of the Candidates of the Republican party, viz.: Jas. G. Blaine, of Maine, the candidate for President, and John A. Logan, of Illinois, the candidate for Vice-President. Blaine is an able man, but his policy towards foreign nations is not a conciliatory or wise one. Some of the most prominent Republican newspapers and politicians will not support him. Notwithstanding this, unless an unusual streak of fortune favor the Democrats, Blaine will be elected. General John A. Logan was in the race for the presidential nomination, and his nomination for second place on the ticket was a good stroke of policy for the Convention. He was a brave soldier, and has been a judicious and wise legislator. He is exceedingly popular with the veterans of the war, and will no doubt add greatly to the strength of the ticket.

## A CHEAP FERTILIZER.

The farmers of Canada are on the lookout for fertilizers, and naturally desire to use those which, though of small cost, may be of great benefit to the soil. Up to this time salt has been but very slightly used as an enricher of the soil but we believe that it will be extensively used hereafter. Its price has heretofore forbidden its use in this direction, but since the best salt works in Ontario have passed into the hands of the Grange, we may confidently look for cheap salt. There can be no doubt than when judiciously used, this form of mineral manure—for such it is—is of great power. The experiments made with salt in Canada are not as numerous or authentic as one would wish, yet nevertheless it has been sufficiently tried, even here, not to say anything of the experiments with it in other countries, to show that it is valuable and to warrant us in saying that it will yet be extensively used. There are certain crops which have in their make up a large amount of salt, such as Swede turnips, white turnips, mangold wurtzel, cabbage and various others. Experiments in Germany have proved that if dressing of salt upon the ground will vastly increase the crop of these articles and improve the quality of the article grown. Only last year—the winter of 1882-83—the Milwaukee and St. Paul R. R. sought to increase the tonnage of wheat to be shipped over their road. In order to do this, they agreed to carry all the salt desired by the farmers free of

charge. As a result salt was used in large quantities by the farmers of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa, and their wheat crops were fully 25 to 30 per cent heavier on the field to which salt had been applied. Nor was the gain alone in quantity, but we are told upon good authority that the quality was greatly improved. It is true, some few farmers have tried salt as a fertilizer, and pronounce it no good, but it is usually the case that such farmers have been too generous with the article. In one way it is like lime—too much is considerably worse than none at all. If sown in inordinate quantities, it acts as a destructive agent, and will destroy vegetables. One of the reasons why it is beneficial, and especially to lightish soils, is the fact that it attacks and holds a large amount of moisture, just as it does if in any situation not exposed to heat. This quality makes it a valuable aid in assisting crops to withstand prolonged drouths. Another power it has is to hold ammonia in the soil—to prevent its evaporation, and to release it until it can be used and assimilated by the growing plant. Possibly, however, its greatest value is to be found in the power it has as a solvent. It renders soluble elements of fertility locked up in the soil which otherwise must have remained unused and unavailable. In regard to quantity, the decision must vary with the soil and crop; for a wheat crop from one hundred and fifty to three hundred pounds per acre ought to be sufficient, but a crop of turnips or mangels might be given more than this. We hope to see large numbers of our farmers trying salt as a fertilizer, being convinced as we are, that they will be pleased with it. The Grange will supply large quantities at low rates. Mr. Hilborn, of Uxbridge, is manager of that department and we advise our readers to open up correspondence with him with a view to securing a cheap fertilizer.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

This page will be devoted to the exclusive use of correspondents. All of our readers are invited to write upon subjects of interest to agriculturists.

## THE LAKESIDE HOLSTEINS.

ED. CANADIAN FARMER.—So many astonishing yields of individual Holsteins have been reported during the past few months, that we feel a little modest about mentioning the records made at Lakeside.

On April 1st last, ten different cows in our herd had made yearly records ranging from 14,000 to 18,000 lbs., with an average of 15,608 lbs. 6.3 oz. These included every mature cow that we had owned long enough to make a year's record, excepting one which had been kept for family use and thus prevented from making a record. By this average, we think we can form a more correct estimate of the quality of the herd than by a single record, even though that record be an exceptional and astonishing one.

Clothilde has just closed her 4-year-old record, with a total of 17,970 lbs. 14 oz., which, considering her former performance, is one of the most wonderful records yet reported. She dropped her first calf when only 22 months old, soon after importation, and just after coming out of quarantine, and gave, in 11½ months, 8,964 lbs. 2 oz. This was immediately followed by a 3-year-old record of 60 lbs. in a day, 1,733 lbs. 10 oz. in a month, and 15,822 lbs. 2 oz. in a year, making a grand