

"A YORNO FARMER" assures us that the figures in reference to the profits of his flock of sheep were correctly stated in our third number, and expresses his readiness to give the details. We think it would be well for him to do so.

**BEANS.** J. Ewing, of Greenbank, asks. On page 34 of THE CANADA FARMER, do you mean the small white Beans or the dwarf kind? [ANS.—Yes.] He proceeds to say, "With respect to the Bean grown in England as a field crop, I have tried it again and again. One year I got the seed direct from England, but the crop was a failure. The stalks wilted away at the top, producing little more than two pods each and those of a diminutive size."

**SKELETON FORMS.**—A correspondent suggests the preparation of skeleton forms to be published in THE CANADA FARMER, showing the particulars which require to be noted in making experiments with various crops. We think the suggestion a good one, and shall be glad to receive from him or others a draft of such forms, embracing the various points which it is desirable to have registered for general information.

**COE'S SUPERPHOSPHATE OF LIME.**—"R. W." of Euphemla, wishes to know the price of this fertilizer, how much it takes for an acre of wheat or roots, how it should be applied in both cases, and whether it will benefit spring as well as fall wheat.

**ANS.**—\$50 per ton in barrels containing about 250 lbs. each. Small quantities for experiment can be had in boxes containing 50 lbs., at \$1.50 per box. From two to three hundred lbs. per acre is considered by the manufacturer a sufficient dose. Apply to wheat by sowing broadcast; to turnips and other green crops, by putting it in the drills. It is beneficial to spring as well as fall wheat.

**COMPLETE VOLUMES OF THE CANADA FARMER.**—Peter Shisler, of Stevensville, writes:—"It being my desire to have each volume of THE FARMER bound, I wish you to state through its columns whether you will have at the close of the year all the numbers of THE FARMER in reserve, and also what they will cost? Those I am receiving are read by some of my neighbours, and get soiled; therefore, I should like to procure them fresh at the close of the year."

**ANS.**—It is our intention to keep a full supply of back numbers on hand, and to preserve the stereotype plates, so as to reproduce any number that may run out. Our correspondent may, therefore, rely on being able to get the complete volume at the year's end. The price will be the same as for a year in advance—One Dollar. If bound, the cost of binding will be additional.

**"BUSINESSMAN'S BILL."**—We have at length found time to read your manuscript carefully from beginning to end; no small feat, considering that it consists of fourteen closely written foolscap pages! You have certainly brought out a great many racy, common-sense ideas by which we have been both amused and instructed; but of course you never expected we could find room for an epistle of such prodigious length. It does not appear to admit of condensation or extract-making, so that all we can do is to thank you for the trouble you have been at, and request you to send us future communications, brief, pithy, and pointed,—such as you are evidently able to produce,—and we shall be glad to insert them.

**A BOY'S QUESTIONS.**—"R. J. C.," of Cramahe, sends a couple of questions, and says, "I do not know whether you allow boys to ask questions."

**ANS.**—Certainly, we are highly pleased to have them take interest enough in farming matters to do so.

**Sore Mouth in Sheep.**—Our young friend asks "What ails a flock of sheep with sore and swollen mouths?"

**ANS.**—If he will send us a more particular account of the symptoms and appearance of the soreness, the way the sheep have been fed, &c., we will try to solve his puzzle.

**Wolf Teeth.**—Our young correspondent further enquires, "Will horses thrive that have wolf teeth?"

**ANS.**—Yes, if you give them plenty to eat; but as the wolf teeth are useless, and sometimes troublesome, it is considered better to take them out.

**NOT A SUBSOIL PLOUGH.**—We have received a reply to the question of "G. Y.," in our last, in which the party describes a plough of his manufacture, which, he says, is "a double plough; the first turns the grass or stubble into the furrow, the second plough following in the same track, will plough to any desired depth and turn the subsoil to the top, giving to the field a beautiful appearance for receiving the seed." Now, such a plough, though an exceedingly good one for ploughing old sod land, is not, properly speaking, a subsoil plough. A subsoil plough stirs the subsoil, but does not throw it to the surface. The implement described by our correspondent is a Double Michigan plough.

**GALLOWAY HERD BOOK.**—A correspondent asks, "whether the Galloway Herd Book for Canada West has been issued from the press?"—[ANS.—We find upon inquiry that a considerable number of cattle of this breed, as also of the Devon, has been entered on the Canada Register of pure bred stock kept at the office of the Board of Agriculture in this city. A good sized volume of Short-horn pedigrees will shortly be ready for the press; but we have no information that the Board have any present intention of publishing a Galloway Herd Book; the number on record, we presume, is not sufficient to call for or warrant such a step. Indeed, it is only within the last few years that any recorded pedigrees of this breed, or of Devons and Herefords, have been published in England.]

## The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, APRIL 1, 1864.

### The Anti-Canada Thistle Bill

A MEASURE is now before our Provincial Parliament having in view a highly needful and most laudable object, viz: to prevent the spreading of the Canada Thistle in Upper Canada. This pernicious and troublesome weed has become so widely diffused and so deeply rooted in various parts of our Province that it may well be regarded as an evil that must be eradicated,—a nuisance that must be abated. The most serious consequences threaten some of the most valuable agricultural sections of the country, unless something effectual be done in the direction of this proposed enactment. It may perhaps be urged that self-interest, without legislative interference, will prompt the Canadian farmer to do all in his power to get rid of this weed. But as a matter of fact this incitement is not found to be potent enough. For years the mischief has been diffusing itself and very little effectual check has been interposed. From the nature of the plant in question, effective measures must, of necessity, be simultaneous. The seeds of the Canada Thistle are so light and downy that the winds readily convey them great distances. Nine-tenths of the farmers in a given locality may be vigilant and active in their eradication, but if their neighbour is negligent, they labour in vain. We have now in mind the case of a most enterprising and intelligent farmer who has fought this enemy with praiseworthy perseverance for years, but his next neighbour makes no exertions whatever. When the crop of thistles is fully ripe, and the west wind blows, the dreaded seeds come over the boundary line like a miniature snow-storm, and on an average it takes three men a fortnight annually to destroy the young plants that come from this seeding. Our lines of railway are in danger of becoming, to a large extent, seed-beds for this weed. In various localities, each side of the track is one dense mass of Canada Thistles. The value of farm property is beginning to be affected in some localities by the existence of this pest, and we know of neglected domains that are quite unsaleable because so overrun with this weed. It is manifest that the only way in which the country can be tided over

this very serious drawback to its agricultural progress, is by "a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether." We cannot perceive any method by which this is to be accomplished except by legislation of some sort, and Mr. Sturten's Bill which we give entire in another column, seems to us not only a move in the right direction, but calculated if properly carried out, to go very far towards securing the desired results.

### Disastrous Fire and destruction of Buildings, Grain, and Stock.

We greatly regret to have to record the occurrence of a most serious calamity by fire which has befallen Mr. George Miller, of Markham, one of our most enterprising stock farmers. On Saturday morning, the 19th ult. about day-break, while the family were at breakfast, smoke was observed to be issuing from the horse-stable, and in a few minutes the entire building was in flames. The fire rapidly spread to the adjacent buildings, and the entire pile was quickly consumed. Along with them, melancholy to relate, a quantity of most valuable stock was destroyed. Ten horses, including "Bird Catcher," the Irish blood Stallion imported two years ago by Mr. S. Beattie, 18 head of thorough-bred cattle, 40 pure bred sheep, 12 or 13 pigs; and a number of choice fowls perished in the flames. Besides the animals lost, 700 bushels of oats, 500 bushels of barley, 360 bushels of wheat, 15 or 20 tons of hay, two reaping machines, one thrasher, wagons, sleighs, and a large number of valuable implements were consumed. The stock is indeed a serious loss not only to Mr. Miller, but to the country at large. It consisted almost wholly of breeding animals, and comprised some of Mr. M.'s best specimens, such indeed as cannot be easily replaced. The cash value of the property destroyed is estimated at \$12,000, on which there was only the trifling insurance of \$1,850. We understand the fire is supposed to have been caused by some of the men smoking while feeding the stock before breakfast. This calamity teaches at least three important lessons. 1. The wisdom of effecting full insurance on valuable farm property. 2. The importance of so constructing farm buildings, as to admit of ready egress of horses and cattle in case of fire. 3. The impropriety of smoking in barns and stables. We might perhaps add the value of presence of mind, of which we are told there was great lack at the fire in question. Mr. Miller himself has been on crutches for some time past in consequence of an accident, and was therefore unable to direct and aid in the extrication of his stock, or doubtless much more of it would have been saved. We sincerely sympathize with our enterprising friend, and are glad to know that notwithstanding his heavy loss, he has still a large amount of valuable stock left, and ample means to replenish it. We expect he will soon rise Phoenix-like from the ashes, in more than his former glory.

### Meeting of the Board of Agriculture.

A MEETING of the Board of Agriculture took place at the Agricultural Hall, Toronto, on Tuesday 29th ult. Present Messrs. E. W. Thomson, Hon. G. Alexander, Hon. Asa A. Burnham, Hon. D. Christie, R. L. Denison, Dr. Richmond, Professor Buckland, and J. Johnson, President of the Agricultural Association. The Secretary submitted a copy of the *Official Gazette* showing that the following gentlemen had been elected members of the Board for the ensuing term of two years, viz.:—Hon. G. Alexander, E. W. Thomson, Esq., R. L. Denison, Esq., and Hon. H. Ruttan. The Board then proceeded to organize for the current year, Col. Thomson being re-elected President, and the Hon. D. Christie re-elected Vice-President. The minutes of the previous meeting were then read and confirmed, and the Secretary submitted several communications and reports, after which it was

**Resolved.**—That assistance be given to Mr. B. Walker, of St. Thomas, in his project of lecturing on