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RURAL NOTES.

The potato crop in Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island being exceedingly large this season, prices are expected to be quite low. From the present outlook the export trade in potatoes does not promise profitable returns.

The demand for the best draft horses is in excess of the supply. English and Scotch breeds take the lead. At a recent sale of English cart-horse stallions, at the Union Stock Yards, Chicago, 21 head averaged over \$1,100 each.

Prof. Macoun, Dominion naturalist, recently returned from Gaspé, where he secured many fine specimens of birds, Alpine and sub-Alpine plants, and sea-weeds and mosses. Of these latter he has made a collection for the Dominion Museum at Ottawa.

"What is the proper time and method of applying lime to land?" [Some prefer spring, but the prevailing opinion is that it should be put on in the fall. As it sinks in the soil fast enough without help, it ought not to be ploughed under, but only lightly covered with the harrow.]

Mr. Gideon Pitts, the old and successful breeder, is represented by a correspondent of the *Michigan Farmer* as holding the sensible view that attention to "blood, pedigree and register alone will result in a disastrous fiasco." How does this statement strike readers of the *RURAL CANADIAN*?

We shall be glad to hear often from intelligent farmers, stock-raisers, dairymen and gardeners. Nothing likely to prove either interesting or useful to any of our readers will be refused a place in these columns. We seek to make the *RURAL CANADIAN* more and more indispensable to everyone in the various important classes it seeks to represent.

From a health point of view, it is of the highest importance to breeders of horses that dams and sires should be judiciously selected. Rheumatism, rickets and the various diseases of the legs of horses known as splints, spavins, ringbones and curbs, are, in a majority of cases, the outcome of inherited weakness.

The *Country Gentleman* suggests, as an effective method of ridding lawns of weeds, the use of oil of vitriol. Have a spoonful of vitriol in a small, open-mouthed bottle, fastened on the end of a two-foot handle, dip the bruised end of a small rod in it and touch the heart of a weed, or of three or four successively before dipping again, and they are done for.

Mr. Matthew Hadwen, of lot 16, concession 7, Culross, whose farm adjoins the village of Teeswater, writes that he has this year raised and harvested off an 18-acre field, after summer fallow, the large quantity of 880 bushels of fall wheat. There were about eleven hundred stooks of twelve sheaves each, which took sixty-four waggon-loads to draw in, and two and a half day to thresh by a ten-horse power. This gives a little over 46 bushels per acre. Mr. Hadwen says: "Let Manitoba beat that if it can."

Despite the frequent complaints made against wire fencing, especially against the different styles of barbed wire, its use is rapidly increasing, not only in the districts where there is little timber, but in many elsewhere, on account of its comparative cheapness, and the ease with which it can be put up. However, we consider such a fence dangerous where fine stock of horses and cattle are kept, unless there be a top rail of wood put on—say, a 2 x 8 piece. This gives the stock an opportunity to see the fence and avoid it.

Wool merchants complain of the great lack of care among the growers in putting up their wool, and offer many suggestions as to its proper preparation. Yet so long as buyers arbitrarily fix two grades, washed and unwashed, with a certain price on each grade, dirty or clean, just so long will farmers be careless in putting up their wool for market. When buyers are willing to discriminate by paying extra prices for clean, well-assorted lots, then they will find the wool-growers ready to accommodate them.

The Secretary of the Ontario Bureau of Industries, Mr. A. Blue, Toronto, has issued a circular to correspondents, announcing that the last monthly report of the Bureau will be issued about the 1st of November. It will contain tables of all agricultural statistics collected during the year, revised and corrected according to the latest data, a summary of the progress of fall work, the condition of live stock, and other information of special interest to the farmers of Ontario. A full report on the subject of underdraining is called for. The intelligent part taken by correspondents in the work is gracefully acknowledged.

It always pays to read about what others do, and say, and think, in the same line of work or business. If one does not find direct information specially applicable to his own work, yet the thoughts and methods of others incite new thoughts and plans in the reader's own mind, that lead to profitable results. The reading, thinking man makes his head help his hands. Brains tell everywhere, and in nothing more than in farming, gardening and housekeeping. And

the fewer brains one has, or thinks he has, the more anxious should he be to get all the facts and suggestions he can from other people's thinking and experience.

In Europe a method of preserving grapes is now very generally followed. The cluster is cut with a piece of the cane still attached, and the lower end of the cane is inserted in the neck of a bottle containing water. Grapes thus treated are kept in a perfect manner for a long time. The European journals have figured racks and other devices for holding the bottles in such a manner that they sustain the weight of the fruit and also to allow the clusters to hang free, and as much as they would upon the vine. We are not aware that this method has been tried with our native grapes. These, even at the holidays, when the price is highest, sell for too little to make this method of keeping profitable, but for home use the experiment seems to be worth trying.

John Snell's Sons, Edmonton, Ont., report a steady demand for good Cotswold sheep at good prices, as the following list of recent sales shows: To C. A. Buttrick, Liberty Falls, N.Y., one shearing ram, \$60; to C. S. Perry, Kinsale, Va., one shearing ram, \$55; to P. Lanyon, Belmont, Wis., one ram lamb and one ewe lamb, \$90; to J. D. Telford, Racoon, Ill., eight rams and eight ewes, \$455; to W. J. Paterson, Owen Sound, Ont., one ram lamb, \$45; to W. A. Dinwiddie, Aurora, W. Va., one shearing ram, \$75; to C. Knaggs, Oriel, Ont., one ram lamb, \$75, and one ram lamb, \$40; to J. H. Ransom, Jacksonville, Ill., one ram lamb, \$100, and one ewe lamb, \$40; to James Groves, Lynville, Ill., one ram lamb and one ewe lamb, \$100; to Col. Loyd, Tunis Mills, Md., one ram lamb, \$50; to T. W. Samuels & Sons, Deatsville, Ky., five ewes, \$275.

The grazing of land by a mixed stock of cattle, sheep and horses, results in the land being more evenly grazed than where one kind only is kept. Where, however, many sheep are grazed with cattle, as they pick out all the finest of the grasses and clovers with their narrow noses, the cattle will not thrive so well. But sheep, on the other hand, eat with avidity and impunity much which cattle dislike and avoid. Many pastures grazed only with cattle are in springtime quite yellow with buttercups, which a few sheep mixed in with the cattle would keep down. Horses, when kept in a pasture by themselves, are very uneven grazers. A few, kept in a large cattle pasture, will graze the rank places where cattle have previously left their manure, and also about gate places where the land has been trampled. Both horses and sheep will thrive much better when they are able to select their own food.