

towards the fertile valley of the Red River of the North in an irresistible wave which nothing can now stop. The evidences of the wonderful fertility of our soil and healthfulness of our climate are so numerous and spontaneous that all objections are borne away by the logic of facts, and it is now certain that the mass of those who will seek a wider and richer field of investment and enterprise, during the next ten years, will take up their abode in Manitoba, and along the Saskatchewan and other valleys of the new North-west, and after that decade scarcely a Canadian will be left in the western States.

The greatest surety of the continuance of this wonderful and apparently spontaneous movement is to be found in the fact that it is entirely the result of enquiries answered by the private citizens, of which we ourselves answered some 900 during last year, and the voluntary information given by happy and prosperous locatees in writing to friends and neighbors in their former homes.

Since the opening of navigation up to our going to press over 4,000 hearty, well-to-do people have arrived at the wharves in this city, the greater part of whom have selected lands, and either settled upon them or returned for their families, and it is safe now to say that the close of this season will see our white population doubled, and each one settled being an advocate for this country with their old friends and neighbors that rate of progress can not well lessen in the future. Then will the Dominion be settled from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and its fields, manufactories, and mines, producing vast wealth, will make it one of the first nations of the world within a century.

Winnipeg, Manitoba.

A. W. B.

Fall Show of the Assinack Agricultural Society.

SIR,—The Fall Show of the Assinack Agricultural Society was held at Manitowaning on the 10th Oct., under most unfavorable circumstances, on account of a heavy fall of rain, accompanied by high wind, which continued throughout the day, and which has been the cause of scarcely more than two-thirds of the articles entered being brought in for exhibition. Nevertheless there were excellent samples of grains, roots, vegetables and seeds of all kinds, which I doubt very much could be surpassed by any grown in any part of the Dominion this year; indeed, at two of the recent shows, viz., Owen Sound and Orangeville, there were several specimens of vegetables and garden stuff sent from here, and I am told that there was nothing could come up to them. Wheat there was an excellent sample, Glasgow and Red Chaff particularly (the yield large, in fact I do not expect it will be necessary to import flour into the is and this year, as has been obliged to do. In another year or two there will be quite a quantity of wheat for exportation). Potatoes a wonderful show, many being over 4 lbs. Tomatoes good, and very large; [the same citrons]. Squash, pumpkins, beet roots, onions, turnips, cabbage were all large and well grown. Horses and farm stock were very good.

E. J. W.

Manitowaning, Manitoulin Island, Oct. 13th '77.

Planting a Hawthorn Hedge.

SIR,—Will you through the columns of the ADVOCATE inform a subscriber which time it is best to transplant young Hawthorn plants—Fall or Spring—the best way of setting out a hedge, and how far apart each plant should be from each other, or if you could let me know sooner than the paper comes, as it is getting late in the fall, if it would not trespass too much on your time, you would confer a favor.

J. S. W., Holbrook.

[Hawthorn plants may be safely transplanted either in Fall or Spring, but it is now so late in the season that we would prefer waiting till early spring. The Hawthorn has not generally done well here in Ontario, though we have seen it in some places growing for over twenty years. In the old country we had it planted any time in the fall or spring, and we planted thousands of plants of it. We planted them from 12 to 18 inches apart, and when planting, cut the stem short and after a couple of years cut them down again that they might branch out near the surface of the ground and form a close hedge. When grown up no animal could force his way through, though

they were so tall that the best horse and most daring rider would turn aside from them.

The buckthorn is said to be the best hedge plant in this country. The common crab would, we think, form a good hedge, it is easily propagated and very hardy. We had it planted alternately in some instances in Britain and found it to answer the purpose well.]

The Feeding Qualities of Yellow Aberdeen and Stone Turnips.

SIR,—I wish to ask a few questions, which if you answer in the next number of the ADVOCATE, I shall feel quite favored.

1st—Will the late turnips, Yellow Aberdeen and the Grey Stone, be as good for feeding cattle and making beef as the Swede turnip?

2nd—Will either of the above-mentioned turnips keep to be good feed during the spring months, like the Swede turnip?

3rd—Does the little red ant hurt vegetation? If so, what is the best mode of destroying it? Here it is very thick; the ground during the hot summer is punctured by them every few inches. By answering you will oblige

AN OLD SUBSCRIBER, Waterford.

1st—There is no other turnip equal to the Swede for feeding cattle and making beef. Yellow Aberdeen holds the second place; it is a good, nutritive turnip, and in the first months of winter will, with good, early-cut and well-saved hay, "make beef"—better, however, with other food added, such as corn meal, oats or barley. Stained barley would be put to better use if so fed on the farm, than when sold for the low prices it brings in the market.

2nd—Neither of the above-mentioned turnips keep so well or so late in the spring as the Swedes; they should be fed off in the early months.

3rd—Fall plowing is the easiest and most efficient way to get rid of the red ants. Break up their winter quarters and expose them to the frost, and you will have little trouble with them afterwards.

SIR,—Will you furnish me with two more copies of the "Offer" and the "Accepted," if I send you two more subscribers?

J. L., Morpeth.

[We will continue to give those pictures to any old subscriber who sends in a new name accompanied with the cash.]

SIR,—Can you or any of your subscribers tell me where I can buy a pair of Toulouse Geese and a pair of Bronze Turkeys, also a few Leghorn chickens.

J. T., Nottawa.

[Some of our fancy poultry raisers should, if they wish to derive a profit by the sale of their stock, let the public know by advertisement where the several varieties may be had, and their prices.

Home-Made Superphosphate.

SIR,—As I was perusing the ADVOCATE of Aug., an article on converting bones into a fertilizer took my attention. Will you be pleased to give me a little more information on the subject? Do you mean to put water enough to cover the bones? How long should the bones be steamed, or into what size broken, if used in that way? How to procure the sulphuric acid cheapest and best? How to test its quality, and what should be the cost of it per gallon.

R. G. M. & Bros.,
Roger Hill, Picton, N. S.

REPLY.—Put water enough to moisten the mass of broken or of steamed bones through, and stir it thoroughly. The smaller the bones are broken the easier it will be to dissolve them. Bones broken very small are sometimes used as a fertilizer without being converted into superphosphate, and sometimes ground. When merely broken their action as a fertilizer is very slow, and consequently lasting. Steam the bones so long as they will break readily. A little practice will soon enable you to decide how long that may be. The sulphuric acid can be procured on the best terms at the Brock-Chemical Works, where it is manufactured.

SIR,—Can you inform me why the Prince of Wales' Prize has never been offered for Ayrshire cattle?

T.G., Oshawa.

[Perhaps the Secretary or some member of the Board of Directors of the Western Fair will please give the information.—Ed.]

The Provincial Exhibition.

SIR,—As I am a constant reader of your most valuable paper, I look to you for some information in regard to the management of the Provincial Exhibition, for the benefit of the agricultural class.

1st—How many constitute the Board of Directors, and how are they elected?

2nd—What salaries do the different officers get?

3rd—What salaries do the gate-keepers, ticket-sellers and care-takers get during the Exhibition?

4th—Who has the appointing of the judges, and how are they selected, and how many judges is each electoral division entitled to?

5th—What is the reason that some electoral divisions are asked for six or seven judges, and others only for two? Now, sir, for this question I am speaking for East Lambton. I believe there were only two judges asked for, one for sheep and one for cattle. Now, whoever the parties were who attended to this business, they must have thought we had no competent men to fill the office, or the same parties neglected their duty.

6th—What salaries do the representatives of each district get for their services during the four years of office, as I believe that is the length of time they hold office?

SUBSCRIBER, East Lambton.

[The letter published above we received when going to press. The questions are important in connection with the Board of Agriculture and agricultural associations. We expect the Secretary of the Board or some other competent authority will reply in the next issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.]

Poultry Yard.

Sunflower Seed for Fowls.

We have, for years, been aware of the value of sunflower seed in the fall of the year, and in winter time, too, as a food for fowls. This plant should be grown by every poultry-grower in the country who has the opportunity to raise only a few stalks, even. For its properties for glossing the plumage of exhibition birds are altogether remarkable. Buckwheat, properly fed, will operate similarly; but the latter is, by far, too heating in its nature, in comparison with the other.

This plant is a very gross grower, but it yields wondrously, and may be set in any soil where other fruits or vegetables cannot be conveniently raised—for example, along the sides of fences, or anywhere where the soil is not easily cultivated as in the open fields. If given a good chance—as other grains have—it will grow luxuriantly, and will well repay its care; for its yield is many hundred-fold, under ordinary cultivation.

The great "Russian sunflower" is a new thing with us, in this country, and a marvelous improvement upon the old-style seed. The flowers are double the average dimensions of the common South American variety, so well known among us, and, as a bearer, it far excels the latter in the number of large seeds it ripens upon its more expanding and heavier stalks.

The Russian sunflower is, to the American, what stalk and ear of the field-maize are to the pop-corn variety, in ordinary culture.

Keeping Poultry in Orchards.

This is a matter that should be practised when possible. We believe that when farmers and fruit-raisers know the benefits arising from such management, they will at once adopt it. Last fall we visited an orchard in which fowls were kept, the owner of which told us that before the fowls were confined in it the trees made little or no growth, and only a corresponding amount of fruit was obtained. But what a change was evident now. The grass was kept down, the weeds killed, and the trees presented an appearance of thrift, which the most enthusiastic horticulturist could not but admire and envy. The growth of the trees was most vigorous and their foliage remarkably luxuriant. The fruit was abundant, of large size, and free from worms and other imperfections. This excellence was accounted for by the proprietor, who remarked that "the hens ate all the worms and curculio in their reach, even the canker worm." He found less trouble with their roosting in trees than he expected, and that a picket-fence six feet high kept them within bounds. His orchard was divided into three sections, and the fowls were changed from one to another as the condition of the fowls or the orchard section seemed to require.—*Poultry World*.