

settlers who wished to erect in Canada a manufactory such as the farmers wanted. He stated that he had offered the party a good water-power, rent free for five years and was prepared to make the same offer to any person who would put up such a manufactory. He also stated that in the event of no person doing so, he was willing to put up a scutching machine at his own expense, provided the farmers would raise the flax. Benjamin Jackson, Esq., considered it necessary that the farmers of the Township should mutually agree to raise a certain number of acres of flax each year, in order to induce a person to enter into such an arrangement.

In accordance with the above suggestion a number of farmers signed an agreement to that effect.

Several others expressed themselves strongly in favour of using every effort to induce some party to erect buildings and machinery for the manufacturing of flax, expressing themselves willing that even pecuniary assistance should be given by the Municipal Council to secure a market for flax.

It was then moved by Mr. John Mulholland, seconded by Mr. Thurston Fish, and

Resolved,—That this meeting is of the opinion that the cultivation of flax would be beneficial to the interests of this Township, and that a committee be named to further the objects of this meeting, and if deemed necessary to wait upon the Corporation of this Township to solicit pecuniary aid to induce a practical operator in the dressing and manufacture of flax to erect suitable buildings for the same.

The following gentlemen were then appointed as a committee for the above object:—Jas. G. Rogers, Esq., Joseph Flynn, Esq., John Mulholland, Esq., Platt Hinman, Esq., and Mr. Dudman.

Moved by James G. Rogers, seconded by Platt Hinman, "That John Fisher, Esq., Reeve of Haldimand, be requested to communicate with any party who would be likely to engage in the manufacture of flax in this Township."

Moved and seconded that the Secretary forward a copy of the proceedings of this meeting to the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER for insertion in that paper.

THOMAS H. McALEER, Sec'y.

Grafton Township of Haldimand,
Co. Northumberland, August 18, 1861.

Notes on Sundry Topics.

[BY H. P. H.]

WILLOW The most absurd project I ever heard of is that of using willow for a hedge. I should as soon think of planting some old umbrella, or kidney bean sticks. A hedge implies a fence to keep cattle within bounds, &c. The most enterprising nurseryman in Canada, George Leslie of Toronto, has some acres of the real sort. At Stouffville there are several acres planted by J. A. Sangster, formerly basket maker to Mr. Angus Dallas. The only willow in this country, adapted for basket making, is imported from England in slips; there we call them "withy pitchers." It is the *Salix viminalis*. All our indigenous willows are too brittle or too sappy for basket work. The *S. alba*, recommended by your Delaware correspondent, grows to the height of 50 to 50 feet—rather unsuitable dimensions for a fence.

GROOMING HORSES.—If your Markham correspondent will go to the barracks on the common here, and speak to one of the artillery train, he will explain the reason why artillery horses are groomed beginning at the tail instead of the head.

WILD LUPINES.—Can any of your readers inform me where, and at what price per peck, I would get some wild lupine seed? There is abundance in the woods near the Hamlet and Port Credit.

BRETONNE COWS.—Who will join the writer in importing a small herd of these valuable animals?

HAZELS AND FILBERTS.—For centuries past in Europe, the hazel has been protected and guarded on account of the manifold agricultural benefits it confers. To state these in detail, would occupy more space than you could afford now. The filbert is cultivated more for dessert, &c. Mr. Turner of 105 Sherborne street, Toronto, had a splendid filbert hedge, of many years growth. There are many others in Canada who grow them with success. With very little trouble, and a few years patience, the Meaford lady's children, might go nutting in their own orchard, and get a rare lot of Kentish filberts; let her try, and record the results. Hazels and filberts also grow in the Lower Province. The common nut is of fine flavour, though small, and would doubtless rapidly improve by culture.

BETTER USE FOR PRIZE MONEY.—How much better it would be if the Provincial Agricultural Society would encourage the growth of a variety of useful things, instead of giving away hundreds of dollars every year for needle work, confectionary, or drawings, which have been exhibited for years, and which should have been burnt then. If some of our Squires' could have heard the shouts of laughter in which some English gentlemen indulged, at the last London (C. W.) show, at the rubbish displayed, it might cause some reform.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—Our correspondent is rather hasty in passing judgment on the fence willow. Has he ever seen it tried? Its tendency to grow to the height of 50 or 80 feet is, we are told, checked and corrected by pruning. Opinions formed in advance of actual experiment often prove erroneous.

Ice-Houses.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—As the season for constructing ice-houses is approaching, your views and remarks as to the making of such, I have no doubt, would be very acceptable to the readers of THE CANADA FARMER, particularly to those residing in country places, who have not the opportunity of contracting with dealers in ice for a supply for the season, and who must preserve ice themselves, if they desire the luxury. In order to direct your attention to the matter, allow me to ask you if the following will answer the purpose of an ice-house:

LOCATION.—Take a corner, say 10x12 feet, in a dwelling-house cellar, the walls of which are stone and the floor brick, having in said corner a drain; height of cellar, say eight feet, well aired, well lighted, and as free from damp as the generality of underground cellars.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE ICE-HOUSE.—Lay 4x2-inch scantling on the brick floor; on the scantling lay inch boards or plank, unjointed, and sufficiently open to allow waste ice-water to escape to the cellar-floor and drain.

WALLS.—The ice-house being in the corner of the cellar, two walls of the ice-house are ready-made, (unless these should be lined with inch boards); the other two walls are to be made eight or ten inches thick, with partition studs 8x2 inches, cased on both sides with inch boards, matched and battened; these walls to be stuffed with sawdust, and the ice-house to have a double entrance-door.

ROOF.—The roof of the cellar to be the roof of the ice-house.

VENTILATION.—By cutting a hole in the roof of the ice-house or cellar, say five inches square, the air of the ice-house will escape above the cellar. In the writer's house the ventilator would open under an inclosed stairway, the door of which is open daily.

GENERAL REMARKS.—The inside floor and walls to be covered with straw, and the ice, say ten or twelve loads, to be packed in the centre of the ice-house, to be covered with straw, loose, also in bundles. If an ice-house that will keep ice can be constructed as above, in a house-cellar, two walls and a roof in the making will be saved, while the ice will be in the most convenient place about a house for keeping butter, meat, &c., &c. J. W. K.

St. Thomas, C. W., Aug. 3, 1864.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—We have some fears whether an arrangement like the above would answer a good purpose. It would be likely to make the cellar damp. Besides, we doubt if there would be insulation enough to preserve the ice. If, however, our correspondent has faith in the plan, and will try it the coming season, we shall be happy to give publicity to the result.

Agricultural Schools.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Doubtless most of your readers are aware of the existence of an agricultural college in England, of which the late Prince Consort was the patron. The advantages of such an establishment should be plain to all agriculturists; for let us look at agriculture in the abstract. I assert, and doubt it who can, that agriculture is the primary mover of all trade. What do we work for in this world?—chiefly for food and raiment. We could not have bread and meat had we not grain and stock. In former days agriculture was looked down upon as an idle and amusing occupation.

It is a scientific and practical profession. It requires just as good abilities, and just as much head work, to become a good farmer as to rise high in the professions of law and medicine. One of the chief resources from which England draws her immense capital is agriculture. To become a good farmer a man must have an early and thorough education in the principles of agriculture. All the chief sciences bear chiefly on agriculture. Botany teaches us the natural history of plants, their various forms, and ways of living. Chemistry shows us on what natural elements the plant thrives, on what it dies. Entomology points out those insects which directly and indirectly both kill and nurture our crops. Veterinary science gives the structure and form of stock, their good and bad points, their diseases and the cure. No man can become conversant with any of these unless he acquire a good solid foundation in his early days. A school education is as essential to the farmer as the doctor or lawyer.

Considering that Canada is a new country, I would earnestly say, by all means begin now, and put not off, the founding of agricultural schools. Instead of sending their sons to wayside schools, our farmers will, without doubt, patronize such institutions. We must not imagine, as some do, that because the midge and other pests have made fearful havoc amongst our wheat, it follows that agriculture is not a paying speculation. Canada is a country at whose market-agricultural products will always find a ready sale. Let us look to the future, and profiting by past experience, defy the ravages of the midge. Depend upon it, that if we give up slovenly and untidy farming, we shall strike a blow at the very root of blight and disease. Great advantages in the way of inducing a better style of farming would accrue from the establishment of agricultural schools in Canada.

AN OLD COUNTRY MAN.

Fish Culture.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—The subject of Fish Culture is one which is sadly neglected in Upper Canada. In Lower Canada they have Fish Preservation Societies, and Game Protection Societies. Here, we have nothing of the kind.

The Emperor of the French is spending millions of francs annually in stocking the lakes and rivers of France, with a view of supplying a cheap and nutritious food for the people. Salmon and trout spawn are exported in large quantities, and at great cost, to Australia. A writer in your last number enquires whether trout spawn is imported, and where it is to be had. Why should we in Upper Canada import an article of which we have such abundance at our doors? What is better, we have millions of trout in the brooks within ten miles of Toronto! These, however, are the victims of "pothunters" before they reach the weight of four ounces. Two young men of this city went out last week and caught more than 300 of these tiny fish. The river Don and Ashbridge's Bay swarm with fish of various kinds, and among them the best kind of silver eel, a fish more sought after in England than any, except those of the rarer kinds, such as salmon, turbot, soles, &c., &c. There are 500 shops in London, England, where nothing is sold but eels, cooked in a variety of ways. Here, it is with difficulty you can procure a single fish of this nutritious species.

There are a hundred "creeks" within twenty miles of Toronto, where trout might be preserved most easily, and as "Angler" says, would conduce to the amusement and luxury, and profit of the owner. Two days labour would make a dam in some of those creeks, with a run-way for the trout to go up stream to spawn. The 300 murdered trout I wrote of just now, would in two years, weigh from one to three pounds! The water, thus dammed up, could in many cases be made available for irrigation, a subject utterly unknown or neglected in Upper Canada. Canadians, however, know nothing of angling, beyond what consists of a worm at one end and the "pothunter" at the other. Scarcely any one knows how to cast a fly. If one were always sure to have an English regiment here, a Trout Protection Society might soon be raised.

ISAAC WALTON.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—We think there are enough anglers not of the "pothunter" species, to organize a "Trout Protection Society," irrespective of the military gentlemen, who, while here, would doubtless co-operate in such a scheme. The subject is of sufficient importance, even in an economical point of view to justify effort, and we shall do our part to keep it before the public mind.