



Something More About Pianos.

To the Editor of the THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR—My attention has been drawn to an article in THE CANADA FARMER of July 16th, headed "Something About Pianos"—and as that article reflects upon the honor and integrity of musical professors, allow me to say a few words in reply.

In looking at the spirit of the article referred to, I cannot help feeling that it is prompted rather in the interest of dealers, who wish to pocket a professor's rightful commission, than with a wish to guide as to the best course to pursue when a Piano is to be purchased. The article copied by you from the *Boston Journal* truly says, that "as there are truly a number of Pianoforte makers who all profess to make the best instrument, it is very difficult for a buyer (except advised by a thorough and high standing musician or mechanic who cannot be influenced by mercenary considerations) to choose between them. It should be a well known fact, that the most respectable Pianoforte manufacturers, both English and American have printed price lists, descriptive of the several kinds of Piano made by them, the price of each being marked in plain figures. These manufacturers invariably allow a commission to all professors, agents, and dealers for all sales effected by them, or by their influence, even if they have not been seen in the matter. No extra price is paid by the buyer on account of this commission, as is stated in the article referred to; but the reduction is made to professors, agents and dealers upon the same principle which is practiced in every branch of trade and commerce. A shoemaker can buy leather cheaper than a private individual. Surveyors, lawyers, and brokers have commissions and fees for all they do, and why should not musicians and music dealers have the same privilege in the exercise of their profession? Those who will buy pianofortes without professional advice, must run the same risks as those who will buy land without having the title examined, they may think they are buying of a respectable firm or individual, but they may be taken in. It is the duty of a musical professor to be acquainted with the different styles of pianofortes manufactured by the several makers, and his experience enables him to look for and discover the good and bad qualities of a musical instrument. It is the professor's judgment alone which can be relied on if a good piano is to be secured, and if he be an honorable man, he will protect the purchaser from imposition, while if he be inclined to act a dishonest part, he cannot succeed in a matter of this kind without the collusion of the dealer, who if he will impose with the aid of a professor, will not be the less likely to do so if there be none. If there be any doubt in the matter, the safeguard is in the printed price list, which should be always referred to, if the price of each instrument is not marked upon it, as it should be, in plain figures. No respectable firm will charge an additional dollar to pay a professor or dealer a commission, the manufacturers allow liberally for this, and it is only an imposition to state the contrary.

Yours, &c.,

JOHN CARTER,
Organist, St. James' Cathedral.

Toronto, August 23, 1866.

PRIZES FOR CHEESE AT THE PROVINCIAL FAIR.—The appended remarks of Mr. J. W. Fearman, of Hamilton, with respect to the awards offered to cheeses at the coming Provincial Exhibition are entitled to consideration:—"I noticed in the prizelist of the Provincial Agricultural Association that there is no prize offered for small sized factory cheese. I consider there should be as my experience of over 20 years in the cheese trade is that good small cheese sell the best. I would also take the liberty to suggest that a prize be given for pine apple cheese, also English dairy. The large size of the factory cheese excludes them from a great portion of the grocery trade of this country."

FLAX PULLING MACHINE.—The Rev. Dr. Freeland enquires where he can purchase a Flax Pulling Machine. He desires further to ascertain its cost; the number of acres per day that can be harvested by it; the number of hands required to work it; and whether it accomplishes its task satisfactorily.

Ans. Such a machine is a desideratum, we do not know of one.

LARGE BLACK SPANISH EGG.—Mr. James Splers of Beachville has forwarded to us an unusually large egg, laid by a Black Spanish hen. It measured 7½ inches the longest circumference, and 6½ inches the shortest circumference. Weight 4 ounces. On breaking it, we found that it contained a double yolk. Such unusually large eggs are generally double-yolked. We may observe that the Black Spanish breed of fowls though rather small sized birds, lay on an average the largest eggs of any fowls known. The Cochins or Brahmas will outnumber them, but the Spanish will produce the greatest weight of egg meat.

SCOPHOSPHATE OF LIME.—"Briar" writes as follows: "At page 161 present year, you say, farmers should manufacture their superphosphate at home. I have not any doubt that many would be willing to do so if they knew how. Would you recommend the adoption of the process there given from an eastern exchange? I shall feel obliged if you will say if you think it worth trying. Here we have for 1,200 lbs. superphosphate, 20 lbs. acid, 40 lbs. bones, two barrels charcoal, dust or dry peat, and the difference seemingly made up of hen manure. Should we find the same difference in every other respect as in the price of the acid, it will materially enhance the cost, but even then it would be within the reach of all, whereas Coe's or Snow's as directed to be used will cost \$7 per acre. Sulphuric acid is stated to be 5 cents, in Ottawa it will cost 8½ cents to which may be added nearly as much more on the first occasion for vessels. For breaking small bones a hammer may do, but with large ones some other means must be adopted. Should the bones for the purpose be fresh or are old and weather beaten ones, good?"

Ans.—We have no hesitation in recommending the adoption of the process of manufacturing super-phosphate described at page 161. See also the FAMILIAR TALK on "Bone Manures" in our last issue.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, SEPT. 1. 1866.

The Harvest.

The date has arrived at which definite and positive opinions may be ventured in regard to this year's yield of farm products, and accordingly we find in most of our exchanges throughout the province, more or less copious harvest reports. To insert all the extracts we have culled and clipped would occupy too much space, and we can but endeavour to give the spirit of the press in a brief editorial of our own. Indeed to copy the reports in question would be to a great extent, to say the same thing over and over again, for there is a marked similarity about the most of them. Happily, this accord is to the effect, that we are gathering in one of the most bountiful harvests ever vouchsafed by Providence to this or any other country. One of our cotemporaries, the *Perth British Standard*, reports "an extensive harvest, which is all in all said to be as large as those of the previous four years combined." Another, at the opposite end of the province, the *Huntingdon Journal*, reports "a yield of the staple crops of surpassing excellence and abundance," and adds:—"Agriculturists have unbounded cause of thankfulness, and little to deplore in the order of nature the present season." The *Gudph Mercury* says of the counties of Grey, Bruce, and Perth, that "the yield of this year will exceed anything known

in Canada for the past fifteen years." The *Chatham Banner* says: "The harvest in this county is nearly finished, and so far as we have been able to learn, the yield exceeds anything we have had for eight or nine years past." The journal just named adds: "A very good idea of the extraordinary prosperity enjoyed by the farmers of this county may be formed from the fact, that between 140 and 150 reaping and mowing machines have been sold here this year." Our exchanges do not all paint the state of things in colours of such glowing hue, as do the journals we have named, but there is a general and pleasing agreement as to the satisfactory character of the harvest of 1866.

Of course there are exceptional cases. In some localities fall wheat was badly winter-killed, and in others both fall and spring wheat have suffered from the midge; but the fears that were entertained in the early spring as to the general failure of the fall wheat crop have not been justified by the result. In some parts where it was considered to be hopelessly winter-killed, it recovered wonderfully, and has turned out beyond all expectation. The *Mitchell Advocate* reports "a good yield of fall wheat, both in quantity and quality. One or two farmers have 40 and even over 40 bushels to the acre." In the newer counties we believe the fall wheat is almost without exception good, while in the older counties, there is more or less complaint of it, but the yield of spring wheat and other crops goes very far toward compensating for the deficiency. One of our exchanges gives a doleful recital as to the severity of the winter, the midge, the rain, and now the grasshoppers." These we are told have vented their spleen on the products of the husbandman, and have certainly diminished the yield to a great extent." We do not name the last quoted journal, for inasmuch as another newspaper account of the crops in the region referred to is of a very different character, we incline to the hope that the melancholy report was written under one of those attacks of the blues, to which Editors as well as other people are now and then subject. In several localities there has been very catching weather, and some instances of injury to out-lying crops are reported by our exchanges. The weather has, however, been cool during the prevalence of wet, and in consequence we hear of but little rust and no growing. Very favourable reports are given as to the flax crop, which is turning out well both as to seed and fibre. The *Woodstock Times* states that "one gentleman in that neighbourhood, Mr. J. H. Brown, has about one thousand acres of flax, Mr. Cottle has upwards of one hundred and ten, and Mr. Josiah Campbell of North Norwich has one hundred and twenty acres of flax under cultivation. At the lowest calculation, the seed from this crop will produce \$20 per acre, and the fibre \$30, making a total per acre of \$50,—or on the whole, \$51,500." We can only hope that these figures may be reached, though with all our faith in the remunerativeness of flax, we think the estimate too high.

As to the root crops, potatoes promise to be a splendid yield. We hear no accounts of rot in any quarter, but note several references to the particularly healthy appearance of the vines the present season. Turnips will be a light crop, and in some localities, all but a failure. For some cause or other, the past summer does not appear to have been very favourable to the growth of this root. Carrots and mangolds are well reported of.

We have observed but little information as to the fruit yield the present season. The small fruits have done well with the exception of strawberries, which turned out but poorly. Our impression is that there will be an average supply of apples, and but a meagre yield of plums. Grapes, of which a considerable number are now planted in various parts of the province, promise a large yield, unless they should be nipped by untimely frosts. This fruit deserves wider culture in Canada.