

MILL FOR GRINDING FLAX SEED.—"J. B. T.," of London, writes:—"Can you inform me where I can procure a machine for grinding flax seed for farm use, and the price? It is well known that if you feed flax seed, even boiled, to stock, a great portion will pass through the animal undigested, and therefore a small, cheap flax-grinding machine will soon pay for itself in the saving of seed."

ANS.—We cannot say where such a mill can be had. Our American neighbours manufacture portable mills for grinding coarsely feed, but we doubt these would not answer the purpose. Flax seed is of such an oily nature that we should fear mills of the description we have referred to would soon become clogged up, and thus be rendered useless. Flax seed is found to answer well mixed with steamed food, and we should think that steaming or boiling the seed would, to some extent, obviate the difficulty spoken of by our correspondent. The best plan of all, however, when that is practicable, is to have the seed crushed at an oil mill, and to feed out the refuse—the oil-cake, as it is termed.

QUERIES ABOUT TURNIP CULTURE.—"Henry N. Brush," of Brush's Mills, N. Y., asks:—"Will you please inform a subscriber in the United States, through THE FARMER, the way in which farmers in the British Provinces preserve their large crops of turnips through the winter; also the best season for sowing ruta baga and other field turnips, with the sorts most approved of by the best cultivators?"

ANS.—Our farmers store their turnips either in root cellars or in out-door pits. In either case all that is necessary is just to exclude the frost, and provide ample ventilation. The ruta baga or Swede turnip is sown in this country about the middle or latter end of June. The improved Purple-top, Skirvings, Laing's, Malson's, and King of Swedes, are the leading varieties. The Yellow Aberdeen and large White Globe may be sown somewhat later than the Swedes. They are useful to re-sow patches that have failed, but they will not keep through the winter as the Swedes do. Our correspondent will gather many interesting particulars respecting turnip culture in this country from an article in our last, headed "Great Turnip Match."

SALMON IN LAKE ONTARIO.—"F. H. Lynch Staunton," of Saugeen, writes as follows on this subject:—"In your issue of November 1, I notice that 'H. P. H.' doubts the possibility of introducing salmon in Lake Ontario. I am not an old Canadian, and consequently speak under correction; but I am informed that not very long since the fish did ascend so far, and that in considerable numbers. If this is true, of course it settles the question, for 'H. P. H.' gives no reason why the thing should not be successful, except that the salt water, essential to salmon, is distant 1,000 miles. It is nothing of the sort; but if it were, what is 1,000 miles to a salmon? Why the little herring swims three times that distance when he visits the coasts of Britain, and that, apparently, without any such plain inducement as the salmon's, and through a stormy sea. 'H. P. H.' seems to think it necessary to tell us that the salmon must go to the salt water. This is true; but the fresh is, at least, equally essential. He spends three months of his time in it, and therefore has abundant time to perform the longest journeys. I do not know the price of salmon now in London. If it has fallen to 3d. per lb., it is wonderful; but as it must be due to the increased productiveness of the Scotch and Irish fisheries, we should see in this a further reason for exerting ourselves to obtain such advantages for Canada."

HEDGES.—"D. Y. McMullen," of Picton, C. W., writes that he wishes some information respecting the growing of hedges in Canada. On page 28 of the present volume he will find some remarks on this subject, to which we cannot now add much that will materially aid him. The truth is, very few hedges have been planted in Canada, and until some further experiments have been made, and the value of the several plants for this purpose tested by actual attempts to form them into hedges, we shall remain where we now are, in great uncertainty.

The buckthorn has been used for the purpose, and a sample of such a hedge may be seen on the grounds of Mr. George Leslie, near Toronto. How well it will succeed in other localities remains to be tested, but from the well known habits and hardihood of the plant we have every confidence that it will answer a very good purpose. We know of some experiments being made with the berberry for hedging, and believe that this also will be found to be very useful

for this purpose, but the experiments are too recent to establish anything for or against.

The hawthorn has been tried more than any other plant, and in every instance that has come to our knowledge it has disappointed the expectations of the planter. We have no hope that it will meet the wants of the Canadians as a hedge-plant, and cannot advise any one to set it. We are not aware that young plants can be procured anywhere on this side of the Atlantic. The seed will grow, but it must first lie in the ground for two years. Plants of the buckthorn and berberry can be obtained at low prices from all our principal nurserymen.

The "Canada Farmer."

Subscribers to THE CANADA FARMER will please observe that the year closes with the issue of the 15th December. No papers will be sent after that date unless paid for in advance. Parties who are getting up Clubs, as well as single subscribers, will please note the fact and govern themselves accordingly. The "Canada Farmer" is the cheapest Agricultural Paper in the world, and we find it a necessity arising from the low price at which it is furnished, that it should be invariably paid for in advance. For Club terms, see advertisement in another part of the paper.

Bound Volumes.

The current volume of "The Canada Farmer," consisting of 24 numbers, and comprising 384 pages of reading matter, will be issued in a bound form so soon as the 24th number is completed. The binding will be charged 30 cents in addition to the subscription price, making \$1 30 in all for the bound volume.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, DEC. 1, 1864.

Learning to Farm.

As compared with the facilities connected with other avocations, we are sadly deficient in means and opportunities whereby our young men may learn how to farm. There are, indeed, books and periodicals from which the theory of agriculture and many of its manipulations may be learned; but only very partial use is made of these, and multitudes of farmers are quite content to go through the routine of husbandry operations, without understanding principles themselves, or explaining them to their labourers and sons. Many of the existing treatises on agriculture are not sufficiently simple, and popular in their language to be generally useful. They are too scientific and technical for the purpose. A working farmer needs something interesting and entertaining to read when his day's toil is done. A heavy scientific work will soon send him to sleep. An English labourer, we are told, who can neither read nor write, will even after a hard day's work, listen with delight to the writings of such a man as Dickens. Though disquisitions on farming cannot be written so as to possess the witchery of a clever story, it is manifest that they might be far more simple, lively, and entertaining than they are. Such books as "My Farm of four acres," "My Farm of Edgewood," &c. show that very much can be done in that direction, when suitably gifted writers take up the subject. A cheap series of sprightly agricultural works for the million would be a great boon. Meantime journals devoted to farming are doing much to supply a felt deficiency, and are acting to some extent very efficiently the part of educators of the people in the theory and practice of agriculture.

But books and periodicals, however adapted to the desired end, and however eagerly and carefully read, cannot fully meet the necessities of the case. Before embarking in farming as a business, it is very desirable that some practical knowledge of it should be

acquired, and there seems no good reason why there should not be agricultural as well as commercial colleges, and apprenticeships to farming, as well as to other avocations. Our American neighbours are setting us a fine example in the matter of Agricultural Colleges. Nearly all the Northern States have institutions of this kind, either in actual operation, or in process of establishment. In England one or two of these colleges have been started, and we observe by recent papers that the Rev. J. L. Brereton has commenced the Devon County School of Agriculture, which appears to be a subscription school, supported by the landed proprietors of the County of Devon. This institution is specially designed to impart agricultural education, but to what extent we are not informed. It is being strongly urged in England that examinations of scholars in these Colleges and Schools of Agriculture, should be followed by "badges of proficiency," and "degrees." But at these institutions, were they ever so widely diffused, the young farmer can only obtain as it were, the key for future progress in the science, history, and practice of his art. Some time ought to be given, under the guidance of a competent instructor, to the actual business of the farm. In Britain, where high rents and taxes require the most rigid system and the highest culture, it is very common for experienced and intelligent farmers to receive pupils for one or more years, and sometimes considerable fees are paid for the tuition received. Mr. Stephens, in his "Book of the Farm," highly recommends this system, and gives it as his opinion that three years' apprenticeship is little enough to give a pupil an adequate knowledge of farming. In this country there are many intelligent farmers quite competent to take young men for training, and from the comparatively higher price of labour in this country than in England, instead of fees being required, wages would be given. The idea is but too prevalent that anybody, however stupid and ignorant, can farm, and we are persuaded, that to elevate the agricultural classes to their true position, to raise farming to its proper place in public estimation, and to develop the resources of the soil, it is absolutely necessary our young farmers should have some opportunities for thorough training. Could they behold and take part in the operations of a well-managed farm, have the reasons of the various methods pointed out to them, master the principles on which the various processes are founded, and witness the results of thorough culture, the advantage they would derive would be incalculable. They would learn to respect and love their calling, prosecute it with enthusiastic zest, and be spared much mortifying disappointment, and any disheartening failures.

IMPROVED STOCK FOR PONTIAC.—We are glad to find that at the last meeting of the County of Pontiac Agricultural Society, it was decided that two bulls and a cow of improved breed should be purchased by the Society. This is a step in the right direction.

SALE OF SHORT HORNS IN N. Y. STATE.—The sale of Durham cattle, the property of Mr. T. L. Harrison and the late Col. Rotch, which was recently advertised in our columns, came off on the 16th ult. and was well attended. Thirty-four animals were sold, at an average of about \$150 per head, the highest figure reached being \$525 for the two-year old heifer, "Lady Susan." The aggregate amount realized by the entire sale was \$5,035. Messrs John Ashworth of Quebec, John Pipe, of Guelph, and John Peters, of London, made purchases of choice animals.

NEW SCUTCHING MILL.—We learn from the *Cobourg World* that Mr. J. H. A. Hervey has undertaken to erect a Scutching Mill and Machinery in the Township of Haldimand; and our contemporary is urging the farmers in that region to do their part to supply the raw material the coming season. Mr. Hervey already has a manufactory at Maitland, C. W., where three hundred acres of flax have been grown the past season. The experiment has succeeded so well that instead of three hundred acres being devoted to flax next year, the prospect is that fully a thousand will be sown to that crop.