

The following paragraph appeared in a recent issue of the *Irish Farmers' Gazette*.

"At a meeting of the Cattle Plague Committee, held at the Mansion House, on Thursday last, the Lord Mayor referred to a conversation he had had with Professor Ferguson, respecting the reported cases of *Rinderpest* in the county Down, to the effect that—'If any member of the committee doubted the next case of *Rinderpest* that appeared in the Drumra district, he would be glad the gentleman would put it to the test by placing one of his own stock beside the animal.' We (that is, the proprietors of the *Farmers' Gazette*), accept Professor Ferguson's proposal, and undertake to forward to any part of Ireland a healthy cow from our own herd, to be placed beside any animal that Professor Ferguson may select as a case of *Rinderpest*; and we shall send our own man to attend upon the cow, night and day, until the case has been fully tested. And further, in the event of the death of our cow, we shall contribute the sum of £20 towards getting over Professor Gamgee, Professor Simonds, or Dr. Smart of Edinburgh, to make the post-mortem examination, provided the Government sanction the same, and let the decision of any of those eminent men be final."

From more recent British files we gather that the investigations of Dr. Browne and others, places the fact that the cattle plague exists in Ireland beyond a doubt.

**VERMONT FARMER.**—The *Vermont Record*, an excellent weekly published by D. L. Milliken, Brattleboro, Vt., has recently been changed from a 16-page quarto to an 8-page double quarto (about the size of the *Rural*), and part of the paper is now devoted to Agriculture under the heading of *Vermont Farmer*, with this affix to the title—"Vermont is the leading Agricultural State in New England, producing the most Horses, Sheep, Cattle, Butter, Cheese, Wheat, Oats, Hay, Hops, Wool and Maple Sugar." The portion of the paper thus devoted to Agriculture is well filled, and we wish the combined *Record and Farmer* augmented prosperity. \$3 a year.

## Agricultural Intelligence.

### The Crops.

**NORTH OXFORD.**—The prospects are that the farmers will have the satisfaction of reaping an abundant harvest this season. The oldest farmers in this locality say that the crops are better this year than they have ever known them to be in Canada before. —*Woodstock Sentinel*.

**EMILY.**—The crops in Emily are thus far very promising. Spring wheat and barley look exceedingly well, and equally with all other spring crops promise a yield far in advance of previous seasons. The fall wheat, though much improved, will fall short of an average crop. The copious rains of the 10th have refreshed and invigorated all growth. —*Lindsay Post*.

**GRANBY, C.E.**—The *Gazette* of the 13th says:—The late refreshing rains have had a very beneficial effect upon all growing crops, which look exceedingly promising. A recent trip in the township convinced us that vegetation is maturing fast, and we shall soon hear the cheerful swarth of the scythe and the merry sound of the reapers gathering in the abundant crops. Some of our farmers informed us that they should commence haying next week.

**CORNWALL.**—Everywhere in this locality the crops of all kinds have a most luxuriant appearance. Finer wheat and barley are rarely, if ever, seen in Canada. Potatoes, for a long time backward, are now coming on finely; and, although a few of the early planted perished before growth set in, yet the appearance at present indicates an abundant crop. Other root crops, not having suffered from the cold spring, are in a very thriving condition. The hay crop, too, could not be excelled by the standard of average growth. In fact a good time generally is looked for by the farmers, and certain it is that no one grudges it to them. —*Cornwall Freeholder*.

**FERGUS.**—We hear of a few of our farmers in the neighbourhood who have begun to cut their hay crop. In some cases it will be light, but generally will be better than prospects in the early part of the season seemed to indicate. —*Fergus Constitution*.

**CAYAGO.**—It is with unfeigned pleasure that we refer to the excellent reports which we are receiving from all parts of the country concerning the crops. From present indications there seems no reason to doubt that this year's yield will be far more abundant than that of 1865. We could fill two or three columns with extracts from our contemporaries, all of which, with but very few exceptions, contain most gratifying intelligence. The only crop about which any doubt has existed is the Fall Wheat, and even that has been wonderfully improved by the genial sunshine and growing showers of the past few weeks. The prospects of Canada for the future are indeed most encouraging, and call for renewed gratitude and thankfulness on the part of its inhabitants. —*Cayago Sentinel*.

**HASTINGS.**—Not for six years has there been such a prospect of good spring crops as the present season. There has been a large breadth of ground sown to spring grain, and from every quarter we hear the most flattering accounts of its appearance. Fruit too, promises to be an abundant crop. The season has thus far been favourable for hay and vegetables, and altogether there is every prospect of a bountiful harvest. —*Belleville Intelligencer*.

**MORRIS AND GREY.**—Wheat.—The Fall Wheat has been severely injured by the winter frost, so that, on the whole, wherever farmers have gone very extensively into this crop, it is certain to be a losing concern, but as this is a spring wheat growing country, the loss will not be very much felt in general. Spring Wheat promises fair for an abundant harvest. Oats.—There is every appearance of this being a good crop, and farmers who have gone into it largely appear to be well satisfied. Barley.—This crop is not sown very extensively in this part of the country. The few specimens we have seen, however, are very encouraging. Peas.—We witnessed Peas in blossom to-day. They bid exceedingly well for a fair crop. Potatoes.—This vegetable appears to produce a plentiful crop. The late rains have favoured them very much. Turnips.—These appear to have, so far escaped the ravages of the fly, and our farmer's are beginning to hope for an abundance of winter feed for cattle. Beans.—These seem to have suffered very severely in some of our gardens, from the late spring frosts. —*Goderich Star*.

**Co. SIMCOE.**—The *Simcoe News* states that from all parts of this county we hear most promising accounts of the crops generally. From other counties there come rumours of the ravages of the midge and weevil but the damage is represented as but trifling. On the whole there is every indication that we shall have an average crop in fall wheat, and more than average in spring grains and roots.

**NORTHUMBERLAND.**—The *Brighton Dispatch* says:—In conversation with farmers, all report the crops as magnificent. Never was there a better prospect of an abundant harvest in the East Riding of Northumberland. Hay is heavy, and hay making has begun. If present prices continue—and we see no chance of a heavy decline, especially when we contemplate the new markets that are in process of being opened in the Eastern Provinces for our surplus grain—the farmers have before them golden prospects, which we hope they may fully realize; and even should the decline in prices be considerable, the surplus yield must make the remuneration very gratifying.

**THE MIDGE IN DEREHAM.**—We deeply regret to learn that the midge has appeared in the wheat in the township of Dereham and in other sections of the county. In some parts the crops will prove a total failure. Oats, peas, barley, &c., never looked better. The hay crop will also be a good one. —*Ingersoll Chronicle*.

**THE MIDGE.**—We are sorry to learn that this destructive pest has appeared in some of the earlier sown Spring wheat, and in sufficient quantities to cause serious apprehensions. The high winds and frequent rains prevent the insect working to such good advantage, but still it is doing damage. A field of Spring wheat owned by Mr. James Copeland, just outside the town limits, which is extremely early, and promises a most extraordinary yield, if left alone is affected by the midge, some heads yielding hundreds of the destructive little worms. There are a few who believe that the insect will not do much damage except to the early sown wheat. —*St. Catharines Journal*.

Red squirrels seem to be unusually plentiful and bold this year. Several have been chased in open day in the streets, and they are proving particularly destructive in fruit gardens and orchards. —*Fergus Constitution*.

**BEXLEY.**—An Agricultural Society has been organized for the Townships of Bexley, Laxton and Digby. A good number of members have already enrolled their names. —*Lindsay Post*.



### Protecting Cucumbers, Melons, and Squashes.

AFTER trying various modes for protecting melons and cucumbers from the striped bug and other insects we find the following superior to any other. Two small twigs of osier or other slender wood, about a foot and a half or two feet long, are bent over the hill of young plants and the ends thrust in the ground as represented by fig. 1. A newspaper is then placed



upon these curved sticks, covering the whole, and the edges are fastened down all around by a covering of earth as shown in fig. 2. This constitutes the



whole contrivance, and affords complete protection from all insects; the paper being thin and porous, admits a sufficient supply of air and light, at the same time sheltering from cold winds. Plants thus protected have grown twice as fast as those fully exposed. Another advantage of this mode is the protection it affords from night frosts, rendering it admirably adapted to plants which have been early removed from the hot-bed. Lastly and not least, is its cheapness. A gardener will apply it to a dozen hills in as many minutes, by the watch, the material costing nothing to any one who takes a political newspaper.

Unless the paper is very thin and fragile, heavy rains will not break it. Strong plants will sometimes burst through; but a better way, when they become large, it is to tear a hole in the top, as shown in fig. 3,



the remaining paper at the sides still affording some protection, although plants of this size are usually safe from injury.

We obtained the suggestion from some paper, but improved upon it as above described. —*Ec.*

A horticulturist advertised that he would supply all sorts of fruit trees and plants, especially pie-plants of all kinds. A gentleman thereupon sent him an order for one package of mustard-pie seed, and a dozen mince-pie plants. The gentleman promptly filled the order by sending him four goose eggs and a small dog.

**BEAUTIFUL PETUNIAS.**—Every time within the last month which we have cast an appreciative eye upon those flower-beds by the side porch where we welcome the morning light and take leave of it again in the evening, we have turned to admire a couple of petunias in the lot sent us by Mr. Hanford of Columbus—the "Gen. Sherman" and "Phil. Sheridan," by name upon the labels. Gen. Sherman is the size of a large convolvulus, pure white splashed with crimson—or crimson splashed with white, there being about an equal division of colours regularly distributed in half leaves all around the flower. This is a very striking figure upon the flower bed. Phil. Sheridan is very double, almost like the largest double balsamine, of a very rich purple colour. These two splendid flowers do no discredit to their gallant namesakes. —*Ohio Farmer*.