

mained on Mr. Deadman's fruit till the last day of the Exhibition. Mr. Deadman proved by a number of fruit growers that there were no just grounds for the reversion of the decision given by the judges.

Mr. Deadman, considering that he had been improperly treated, brought an action to recover the prize taken from him; he gained the case. The Board appealed for a new trial, hoping to come out better next time.

The Rev'd Mr. Burnett was the person who had altered the award of the judges, and on whom the Board depended for council in this matter. He attended both the suits. This worthy stated before the Board at their meeting in December that Mr. Deadman's apples were incorrectly named—that one was named the pear apple. This, if correct, would have been sufficient to have thrown him out of the prize, but at the last trial in Delaware, his Reverence perhaps forgot his former remarks before the Board; he also swore that he had torn up Mr. Deadman's ticket on Thursday, and that he always destroyed the ticket when alterations were made. Three witnesses distinctly swore that the ticket said to have been torn up on Thursday was remaining on Mr. Deadman's apples on Friday. Mr. Burnett also swore that a protest had been given in against the award of the judges; the Secretary to the Board had the other protests that had been given in, but had not this one, nor did he remember having seen it.

One witness, Mr. W. Buttery, swore he had taken his ticket home, which Mr. Burnett said had been destroyed. It has been our impression that the Board of Agriculture should consist of men elected by farmers. His Reverence has obtained a seat at that Board without the voice of the farmers placing him there. Whatever may have been his motive in trying to take the prize from Mr. Deadman is unknown to us. Many other fruit growers have been greatly annoyed by the withholding of the prizes that had been awarded to them, and felt they have been dishonorably dealt with.

But this case may give the public a little more encouragement, as some exhibitors have said that because of the injustice done them they would exhibit no more. In the above case the jury gave a verdict for Mr. Deadman. The Board has already paid one prize of \$8 to another exhibitor; they will now have to pay Mr. Deadman \$8 also; the expenses, we presume, will come to \$50. It was not for the value of \$8 that Mr. Deadman brought this action, but to try and put a check to this practice, as many western fruit growers have been much annoyed by it.

Reciprocity.

It is said that there is a probability of a Reciprocity Treaty being agreed to between the Dominion of Canada and the United States, to comprehend the following articles:

1. The waiver of the money compensated by the United States for the fisheries under the Washington Treaty.
2. That the Canadian canals, from Lake Erie to Montreal, shall be enlarged within three years, at the cost of Canada, so as to admit the passage of vessels 260 feet in length and 45 feet in breadth, and with a depth equal to the capacity of the lake harbors.
3. That during the continuance of the treaty, all the Canadian canals, and the Erie, Whitehall, Saulte Ste. Marie, and Lake St. Clair Canal, shall be open to the vessels and boats of both countries on the same conditions and terms.
4. That the free navigation of Lake Michigan be put on the same terms as the free navigation of the St. Lawrence River.
5. That the navigation of the St. Clair Flats shall be maintained at the expense of both countries, in proportion to their commerce thereon.
6. That the products of the farm, forest, mines and waters, and also animals, meats and products of the dairy be admitted into both countries duty free, as was provided in

the treaty of 1854. This list may possibly be extended so as to include agricultural implements, manufactures of iron and steel, and of wood, mineral oils, salt, and a few other articles. There may be other things which the contracting parties may consider proper and just to include in this treaty, and which would be equally satisfactory.

Prize Essay.

The essay for which we will award the prize this month will be, "The Rearing of Calves Without Milk." Essays must be in by the 20th of June.

Agricultural Items.

The *Mark Lane Express* of a recent date says that the weather of the past week, though generally fine, has been colder than expected; but this further check of vegetation may be beneficial. This is, however, gradually advancing, and we here of nothing adverse as respects the crops on the ground, and farmers seem as likely to be lucky with their spring time as they were in the autumn. In some localities rain begins to be wanted. A holiday week seldom shows any advance in prices; but the tendency has certainly been that way, the late reduction of values having been justified by the foreign arrivals; while home supplies show on the week's sales a further diminution of 11,493 qrs. from those of 1873; and we here from English factors how there is very little left of English growth, and that is in the hands of large wealthy farmers. It is early yet to exhibit signs of exhaustion; but if we had little more than half a crop, we certainly ought to begin to feel it. If the small farmers are getting cleared out, notwithstanding the liberal aid received from abroad, and we are left to the consideration of those who have the power of the purse, our future necessities, calculated hitherto at one million qrs. monthly, are as likely to be below the mark as above it. Indeed, unless the general harvest be one month forward, there may yet be a sharp demand for wheat, at advanced rates, as we near the gatherings.

NEW SYSTEM OF POTATO CULTURE.

At a recent meeting of the Society of Arts in England, Mr. Shirley Hibberd, a distinguished authority in all rural affairs, read a paper on the cultivation of the potato, which propounded a new and singular method he has been led to adopt, as the result of considerable thought concerning the nature and habits of this important esculent, and long continued experiments in growing it. In giving the substance of his views, we shall omit altogether a somewhat lengthy discussion of the various theories which have been suggested by way of accounting for and preventing the potato disease, the continued prevalence of which in Britain is the great difficulty farmers and gardeners have to combat in their endeavors to grow the potato. Suffice it to say, that Mr. Hibberd traces the disease to excess of moisture and lack of heat. He supports his hypothesis by a description of the soil and climate of those regions where the plant is found growing in a state of nature, and also by a comparison of seasons, going to show that the best crops have uniformly been obtained in those years when dry, hot weather has most prevailed; and the poorest ones when there has been special humidity of atmosphere, and a low average of summer heat. He refers to the fact that the potato is a native of the warm, temperate regions of the Western continent, and that it is never found growing wild, in either a sub-arctic or a tropical climate.

HOW TO PROMOTE FRUITFULNESS.

The *Prairie Farmer* says:—"When it is desirable to throw a tree or an orchard into fruiting, because of wood growth being very vigorous without fruit-buds, remedies may be practised. Ceasing cultivation and sowing the ground to clover or grass often works well, but must not be continued too long. Root-pruning, hacking the trees, and pinching or shortening in the young shoots have the same effect, but practically, we should prefer ceasing cultivation and seeding down. Severe summer pruning would perhaps produce such results, but it is too severe upon the vitality of the tree. Trees not pruned at all often but earlier than others."

PLASTER AS A MANURE.

A correspondent of the *Main Farmer* writes:—"There seems to be little doubt but what plaster, as it is called by chemists, sulphate of lime, is, on some soils, an efficient and cheap manure; while on other, it seems to be of little or no value, as no difference can be detected in the crops following its use. Now, in order to tell the soil on which it will pay to use it, is a question that we shall have to decide for ourselves; for I am not aware that any man can tell by looking at the soil where it will pay to use it, or where it will not pay. Therefore, if we would know for a certainty it is best to try small quantities on different parts of the field, and the answer that you may get will likely be a true one. After you have found where it would pay, and it may be well to say here that if the crops are all consumed upon the farm, there need be no fears of ruining your farm by using plaster in a judicious manner."

HEAVY.—To give our farmer friends some idea of what can be done in the way of raising good stock, provided they take the trouble to get the right breed to start upon, we append the following weights of a lot of stock which Col. Wm. Starratt had weighed on the scales in this town on Monday last:—1 bull, 22 months old, weighed 1520 lbs.; 1, 12 months old, 1000 lbs.; 1, 12 months old, 860 lbs.; 1, 9 months old, 710 lbs.; 1 yearling heifer, 860 lbs. They are said by competent judges to be a splendid lot of cattle, and reflect credit on the owner.—*Bridgetown (N. S.) Monitor*.

THE WEATHER AND THE CROPS.—During the latter part of last week and beginning of this, we were visited with light showers that did much good to the growing crops; but the weather keeps rather too cold for much growth, but there is no reason for complaint as far as the spring crops are concerned, as they have been well put in, and are coming up evenly over the ground. The weather having been fine for a long time, a great breadth of land has been put under crop, besides a large portion of the fall wheat ground re-sown.—*Clinton New Era*.

PANS VERSUS CANS.

A correspondent in the *Rural New Yorker*, seeing it that paper a statement which seems to give the preference to shallow setting for the purpose of getting the cream from milk, writes to give the result of experiments made with pans and cans, as follows.

This trial was made within the first ten days of August, and designed to be a thorough test of the manner of setting milk. The morning milk was used each time, the milk being divided into nearly equal parts. First experiment, 1362 lbs. in the deep can, 174 inches and 144 lbs. in the pan 32 inches deep. The water was taken from the same tank to keep the temperature of the milk standing at about 58°; it souring in the pans at 40 hours, and not changing in the can till 48 hours. The cream was churned as soon as taken from the milk, the can producing 6 lbs. of butter before salting, and the pans 5 lbs. 10 oz, or a pound of butter from 24 lbs. 6 oz. of milk, and the can a pound of butter from 22 lbs. 10 oz.

The next experiment gave precisely the same result. The third experiment, the pan had 2 lbs. more milk than the can, and the same amount of butter. These gentlemen said they had carefully tested the matter, and are fully satisfied that the best manner of setting the milk is in deep cans, and that the temperature of the milk may be kept as wanted.

THE CROPS.—Since the last fall of rain, matters in the country have become more cheerful. Grass grows greener and greener, and the prospects for the meadows have vastly improved. There are now good chances for the spring crops, and most of the seed is sown. Fall wheat and clover, though, are to be failures in most places, and there will be a loss to some farmers under these crops. Both had become so bad in condition before the rain fell, that when it did come it was too late. *Hamilton Times*.

—There is a way of preventing the gadfly laying its eggs in the backs of cattle but keeping the cattle in stables during the days in August or September, which is the season when the fly lays its eggs.

BEES NOTES.

Bees have solved a recondite problem. They have made their cells of a proper shape to hold the greatest possible amount of honey, with the least possible consumption of precious wax, in their construction.

No human workman is skillful enough to do what a crowd of bees can do—working in a dark hive—make cells of wax of the true form.

The number of humble bees in the country will depend upon the number of cats! How can that be? Because the number of bees is dependent upon the number of field mice, which eat the bees. Hence, the more cats the fewer mice, and the fewer mice the more bees.

If the whole germs of humble-bees became extinct, or very rare, the heartsease and red clover would become rare, or wholly disappear. How is that? Because bees promote the growth of those flowers. The visits of bees are necessary to the fertilization of some kinds of clover, and almost indispensable to the fertilization of the heartsease, for these bees do not visit this flower. Humble bees alone visit red clover, as other bees cannot reach the nectar.

In a word—no bees, no seed; no seed, no increase of the flower. The more visits from bees, the more seeds from the flower; the more seeds from the flower, the more flowers from the seeds.

Nearly all our orchidaceous plants absolutely require the visits of insects to remove their pollen masses and thus to fertilize them.

Twenty heads of unprotected Dutch clover yields 2,990 seeds. The same number protected from bees produced not one seed; 100 heads of unprotected red clover yielded 2,700, and the same number protected from bees not a seed.

THE SEASON IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

The rain of the past few days has had a revivifying effect upon garden and farm, although perhaps to a little extent causing a suspension of operations. The unusual length of the winter season had retarded vegetation, and the frost still remained deep in the earth, but the late warm rain will have caused it to disappear. The grass begins to assume a vernal aspect, and a few fine days will land us into all the glories of Canadian summer.

—One poultry fancier cured chicken cholera by feeding every other day for two weeks bran mash, in which was a liberal dose of the garden pepper. One old biddie was determined to die. She was crouched away in an out of the way spot. He sought her, gave her a whole pepper in doses an hour apart, kept her in a warm place, and in a few days she gave notice that she could take care of herself.

—So long as dairymen travel through the country, pick out the best milkers, and keep them for milk till they grow old, without raising a single calf, no improvement of our milking stock need be expected.

Notice.

We expect to leave for a trip to Europe, as soon as the present paper is ready to be mailed to you. We hope to gain information regarding seeds, stock, and other subjects that will be of value to our readers. Our clerk and assistants will be able to attend to the principal business connected with the office. During our absence, if anything of a special nature that requires our personal attention is needed, it might remain until our return, or be marked on the envelope, "For W. Weld Only." We expect to return about the latter part of July, any communications addressed to us up to middle of June will find us by directing thus—W. WELD, Tenterden, Kent, England.

Place a 6 cent stamp on your letter.

The present season will be a busy one for farmers, the Grange movement will progress more rapidly in the autumn, the Canadian organization will then be at work. We regret that we shall not be able to attend gatherings for some weeks on account of absence, however, if the existing grangers agree in a suitable basis before our return, we shall be pleased to aid them in anything for the advancement of any measure for the progress of the farmers. We offer to aid any other four granges in advancing the funds for the printing of the necessary documents to establish our Canadian organization.