subjects, we insert the above, others having the right to differ with us in opinion. The writer furnishes his name. We publish this article although it may censure us. We would prefer giving useful information, but still discussions on the charges intimated may do good.—ED. F. A.]

SCOTT WHEAT.

I received 7 lbs. of the Stott wheat a year ago last fall. This fall I threshed from the above grain, from the 7 lbs. I received three bushels of good, plump, clean wheat; no wheat yielded near like this in this part of the country. I am highly pleased with it, I have this fall sown nearly two acres.

JOHN SIMPSON

McGillivray, Dec. 25, 1873.

I bought some Scott wheat last fall and after a full trial I am satisfied that it is Fife wheat turned into a fall wheat.

NEIL NEWAN.

Glencoe, Dec. 24, 1873.

We very much doubt Mr N's report of his conclusion. Some of you that know better, please take your pen and reply to the charge; we want you to discuss these subjects.

RAPE FOR FALL FEED.

I last fall derived much benefit from little cost. I immediately after taking off my crop of crown peas, ploughed the ground and sowed on 4 lbs. of rape seed per acre, dragged and rolled smooth. The latter part of Oct. it was about one foot high, when I turned in the horses and cows; all seemed to relish it equal to new clover. The cows are kept in their flow of milk. The young plant kept growing yielding, an excellent substance for clover, until plowed down. The ground plowed up very nicely after.

PLATT HINMAN.

Grafton Dec. 24, 1873.

CUTTING GREEN GRAIN.

Gorrie, Ont., Jan., 1874.

Please allow me to give my experience last year with my field of barley. I sowed it about the last of April, 1873, and only about one-third of the seed grew on account of the drought, until rain came in June when the remainder of the seed grew, consequently when I cut the barley the first grown was dead ripe, and the rest of the grain was no more than just past the milk, and the straw was just as green as ever. I cut it with the reaper, and left it lying on the ground in loose sheaves for some days, as I thought it would be fit for nothing but cattle feed. However I threshed it, and found I had No. 1 barley, which I sold for the highest market price at that time 95 cts. I will try and cut my barley for the future while the straw is a little green, as the grain of the past crops was the prettiest samples I ever raised.

Yours Truly,

A FARMER.

REMARKS OF AN ENGLISH READER.

Your paper is here read by several parties seeking to know of Canada, and all consider it a highly useful and very satisfactory publication highly deserving a large circulation.

Wishing you a very successful new year.

I remain, Yours Truly,

JOHN MC KAY.

London England, Jan 15, 1874.

WHEN TO PRUNE FRUIT TREES.

Sir:—

I see in this month's (Feb'y) ADVOCATE an enquiry of Mr. A. Yale, Dunnville, how to care for young fruit trees, etc. Now I will say, that observation and experience shows to all that the proper time is when the buds begin to open in the spring and in the early part of summer, but on no account in the fall or winter. Every man may observe for himself that a small wound made at that time in a healthy tree, that by examining the edge of the cut with a glass within twenty-four hours after, that the life of the bark if formed at the edge, lapping over the cut in the wood, and if but a small cut, will perfectly head the same season. Now if a wound is made or a limb cut off in the fall or winter, the edge of the cut will become dead or dried up, and the new bark will form back from the edge and will scarcely head over without effecting the branch or trunk; besides, when a wound is made in fruit trees in winter, like the sugar maple, will give its sap (its life) at the first rays of the warm sun in spring. All pruning should be done after the buds begin to open. As to how or what to cut off with the pruning knife it is hard to explain; but for the first few years the pruning should be very thorough, leaving nothing that in after years would require the amputating saw, for which every man must form his own judgment; but if in early spring the pruning is properly performed the amputating saw will never be required.

In a new country a piece of land may usually be selected for fruit trees of the "Virgin soil," that is, which has never been cultivated or turned over by the plough, and which must never be done afterwards; the grass to be kept from the trees a few feet about twice a year with a hoe—a bright sandy loam, probably, is best—a side hill or a natural sloping piece of ground must be selected on which the water can never remain. If the virgin soil can be obtained where the land is properly drained by nature, whether of a clay, sand or loam (where healthy timber once grew), and the trees properly pruned; the land never to be turned over with the plough until which time the soil will have retained its light porous nature more congenial to the luxuriant growth of the tree than all the operations of modern science upon old plowed ground, the virgin soil will forever retain all its lightness and purity until ploughed; nor will fruit on any other trees ever exhaust it.

Yours,

GANANOQUE.

FARMERS' SOCIETIES.

SIR,—I think much good might be done by an agricultural society or a body of farmers uniting to advance their interests.

I would like to see some measure brought forward that would check the numerous agents that prey on us. We, as farmers, might deal directly with manufacturers of the United States. I think that system of exporting beef and mutton to the European market in a fresh state could be carried out to advantage, and think if farmers were alive to their interests and united, some means would be adopted to equalize prices a little more. Fresh beef sells now in England at from 20 to 26 cents per lb.

Perhaps you might insert this in your paper.

GEORGE AXFORD, Tempo.

SEED AND AGENTS.

The Farrow wheat you sent into this part of the country has given the best satisfaction. There is a great nuisance in this part of the country—perhaps all over the country—that is the swarms of travelling agents. It appears to me that some plan should be devised to check the flood of non-producing, hindering, talking persons. As you profess to advance the interest of farmers, you might give this subject some consideration. E. D.

Wingham, Feb'y 14, 1874.

SEED REPORT.

SIR,—According to promise, I send you a report of our spring crops. The McCarling wheat done the best; from 2½ bushels of seed we got 20 bushels. From 2 bushels of Baltic, 12 bushels. The two bushels of Farrow wheat we did not think worth while following up, as it was poor, black and shrunken, not suited to our soil, and the season not being favorable to spring wheat. We will sow all the McCarling and part of the Baltic. The McCarling has a straw much like the Rio Grande, but the grain is better. The Baltic is like the Fife, short straw and plump, nice grain.

The package of seeds you sent me by mail done well; the white-fleshed turnip seed was good, and I believe will be a profitable root. Your paper takes well here.

THOMAS BECKTON, Strathburn.

SEED REPORT.

SIR,—I am very much pleased with your paper and the seeds I got from you last spring. All did very well. The Victor Tomato ripened, and it was the only kind that did in this part of the country. The Hanson Lettuce beat all I ever saw.

JAMES B. MURRAY, Zephyr.

SOWING SEED.

SIR,—I send you an easy method of measuring fields or parts of fields for seed:—By reckoning yards or steps into rods or perches almost any farmer can step a field by allowing 3 feet to the yard or step, but how to get these steps or yards into rods or perches appears to be the trouble; now, any number of yards can be made into rods by the following plan:—11 yards, 1 and 1 is 2 rods; 22 yards, 2 and 2 is 4 rods; 33 yards, 3 and 3 is six rods; 44 yards, 4 and 4 is 8 rods, and so on until 99, which is 18 rods. When you reach 110 yards, which is 20 rods, commence again. If a field is not square, step in the centre and find how many rods each way, and add together, then divide by 160, and you have the acres. If you wish to sow a certain quantity to the acre on a field, measure off an acre or half an acre, and measure the quantity of grain you wish to sow to the acre; divide that so as to sow the land measured, and it will guide you for the remainder of the field. Supposing that a field is 20 rods long, then 22 steps across is four rods, which will be half an acre.

Yours, PETER FISHER,

Reaboro', 1874.

NAMES WANTED.—A registered letter has been received from Colebrook, mailed Feb'y 17, and one from Compton, mailed Jan'y 30, but no signatures given.

Miscellaneous.

THE ANT FAMILY.

Insects are everywhere; humming in the forest, sailing through the air, crawling through the field, basking in the sun, sporting in the water, revelling in the flowers, sparkling in the night time, everywhere, and at all times, turn our eyes which way we will, they are with us. Out on the wide, burning, sandy desert where nought can be seen but sky and sand, insects are there, and away up in the frozen zones, where life seems impossible, myriads of them dance in airy flight over frozen seas, or alight on the ice bound coasts, and hum cheerfully amid everlasting desolation.

They are the very embodiment of vitality, activity and destruction. They fly, crawl, hum, work, play, swim, fight, love, steal, kill, and devour with constant, unremitting zeal, seeming to know that their life is "but for a day," and that what they do must be done quickly.

Are these tiny throngs useless in the economy of nature? Unworthy of our serious attention? Must we go through life, crushing them at every step, drinking them at every draught, breathing them in at every inspiration, moving amid them continually, and never once stop to ask why they are here, or to examine their construction, economy or utility?

Their uses are most wonderful. They fertilize the soil, purify the atmosphere, arrest the too rapid growth of vegetation, furnish food for birds and animals, lay up the daintiest food for man, clothe him in costliest array, cure his maladies, furnish the richest colors for his apparel, and teach him the profoundest of lessons. It will not be denied that many are destructive and pestiferous, but in many cases even these may be "neccssary evils" whose real utility in the economy of nature is not yet correctly understood.—*Colonial Farmer.*

GRINDSTONES AND THEIR CARE.

Every farmer, of course, should possess a good grindstone. We mean by good that there is a difference in the quality of these implements. One composed of short grit, and not too hard, is the best. It will not last quite so long, but the soft, sharp stone will cut faster. A grindstone should not be run in water, but be wet from a pot with a small hole in it, suspended above it, as water in a trough is not only liable to get frozen up in winter, but to make soft places in the stone standing in it.—It should not be allowed to get untrue, but be kept round by being cut down by a piece of iron placed on a stationary object near the outer edge of the stone.

Clean off all greasy tools before sharpening, as oily substances saturate the grit of the stone.

The blue Nova Scotia stones are finer than the Berea stones, but all differ much in quality. If obliged to order the stone from a distance, state distinctly the diameter, thickness and quality wanted.—*Colonial Farmer.*

EGGS-TRAORDINARY.

We copy the following from the Ogdensburg *Republican*:—

"Some idea of the demand made by Americans upon Canadian hens may be found from the fact that since the opening of navigation sixteen millions six hundred and thirty-seven thousand one hundred and twenty-four eggs have been brought in at this port."

Mr. Howell, whose advertisement appears in another part of this paper, confines his business to the manufacture of Horse Rakes and appears to succeed quite as well as manufacturers who make many implements. He commenced four years ago and manufactured 100 rakes, and he has doubled that number every year since. This speaks well of the satisfaction his Rakes are giving.

Good Health.

MILK.

Considerable has lately been said in medical journals concerning the value of milk as a remedial agent in certain diseases. We notice an interesting article upon this sublect that lately appeared in the London *Milk Journal*, in which is stated, on the authority of Dr. Benjamin Clark, that in the East Indies warm milk is used as a specific for diarrhoea. A pint every four hours will check the most violent diarrhoea, stomach ache, incipient cholera and dysentery. The milk should never be boiled, but only heated sufficiently to be agreeably warm, but not be too hot to drink. Milk which has been boiled is unfit for use.

"It has never failed in curing me in six or twelve hours, and I have tried it, I should think, fifty times. I have also given it to a dying man who had been subject to dysentery eight months, and it acted on him like a charm. In three weeks he became a hale, fat man, and now nothing that may hereafter occur will ever shake his faith in hot milk."

A writer also communicates to the *Medical Times* a statement of the value of milk in 26 cases of typhoid fever, in every one of which its great value was apparent. It checks dysentery and nourishes and cools the body.—People suffering from disease require food quite as much as those in health, and much more so in certain diseases where there is rapid waste of the system. Frequently all ordinary food in certain diseases is rejected by the stomach, and even loathed by the patient, but nature, ever beneficent, has furnished a food that in all diseases is beneficial in some directly curative. Such a food is milk.

Dr. Alexander Yale, after giving particular observations upon the points above mentioned, viz., its actions in checking diarrhoea, its nourishing properties, and its actions in cooling the body, says:

"We believe that milk nourishes in fever, promotes sleep, wards off delirium, and, in fine, is the *sine qua non* in typhoid fever."

We have also lately tested the value of milk in scarlet fever, and learn that it is now recommended by the medical faculty in all cases of this often distressing children's disease—Give all the milk the patient will take; even during the period of the greatest fever it keeps up the strength of the patient, acts well upon the stomach, and every way is a blessed thing in this sickness. Parents, remember it, and do not fear to give it if your dear ones are afflicted with this disease.—*The Household.*

THE NEED OF GOOD FOOD.

Though man does not live by bread alone, the bread portion of his sustenance is of very great importance. Ignoring the body is as fruitful in mischievous results as living for it alone. Body and soul are so dependent on each other that what affects one affects the other, and the more finely organized the body and soul of any person may be, the greater must be his care to keep the two in perfect harmony.

It makes a world of difference what one eats. No class of people is so particular about their food, the quality, the mode of cooking and the manner of serving, as those who live by their brains. They know that the human animal who would keep in the highest working order must be as carefully groomed, as nicely fed, as perfectly appointed as Goldsmith Maid or Dexter, and they lay their plans accordingly. The cooking a potato, the compounding a cup of coffee, the broiling a steak, the making and baking a loaf of bread, are to them matters of vital importance, as, indeed, they should be to everybody.

A great many people never stop to inquire what particular diet is best for them, but, following the injunction of St. Paul in absence never intended by him, eat what is set before them, asking no questions for conscience' sake or any other sake. If "hog and hominy" is the standard dish, they live on that; if hot soda buscuit and steak fried in lard are provided, that must reinforce their strength and content their appetites. It is a melancholy fact that horses and cows and dogs are more intelligent feeders than most human beings, and by natural consequence, they rarely have dyspepsia, gout or humours. If men and women would be governed in their diet by reason as rigidly as brutes are by instinct, a large portion of the ills that flesh is heir to would never be heard of.

How many understand the chemistry of food and know just what they must eat to make them warm, what foods build up bone and sinew and muscle, and what will best supply the nervous waste? How many understand the effect of diet on the temper and disposition of the mind, and avoid whatever will make them irritable, stupid and melancholy How many mothers regulate the food of their children with reference to these results, and by so doing secure the tranquility of their entire households? How many students are there, who, alive to the importance of proper diet, eat only food "convenient for them?"