EGG INSPECTION.—The Butter and Cheese Exchange of New York have provided for an Egg Inspection Committee, by whom egg inspectors are to be appointed. A charge of 75 cents per barrel is to be made for inspecting, and 25 cents for repacking eggs.

TO MAKE A NEST EGG, take an ordinary hen's egg, break a small hole in the small end, about three-eighths of an inch in diameter, extract the contents, and, after it is thoroughly clean inside, fill it with powdered slacked lime, tamping it in order to make it contain as much as possible. After it is full, seal it up with plaster of Paris, and you have a nest egg which cannot be distinguished by the hen from the other eggs, and one which will not crack (like other eggs) by being frozen.—*Scientific American.*

NEST IN AN OLD COAT POCKET.—The following is another instance of the curious sites for nesting which wrens and tits sometimes select, examples of which have lately been given. An old shooting coat had been hung up in a tree in a garden for the express purpose of frightening away the plundering birds, and it was subsequently discovered that an audacious pair of tomtits had built themselves a nest in one of the pockets. They were allowed to remain in possession, and their young brood first saw light from that civilized and aristocratic dwelling place.

GOOSE OR GANDER.—I find the goose has always a feminine appearance, and the gander the opposite. Her head is smaller and her beak shorter; knot on forehead smaller and not so pointed; her neck is shorter and more delicate; the black streak on back of neck not so high; colored ring round head not so bright; her neck comes out of her body more abruptly, this occasioned by her having a larger breast than the gander, giving a square appearance to the body. The voice of the gander is keener and louder; coloring about head more brilliant; eyes keener and always on the look out. With such marks plain to view, any practical gooseman can readily distinguish one from the other.—*Cor. F. H. J.*

A HIGH PRICED ROOSTER.—Two thousand dollars seems to be a pretty steep price to pay for a rooster, but such we are informed was the amount paid to Ira Batchelder of the Mt. Crawford House, for his black Spanish rooster, called Gen. Castelar. The purchaser, Mr. Wm. G. Davis, civil engineer on the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad, considers him the best game bird in this country—he being the only one hatched from a dozen of eggs brought from Mantanzas, Cuba. Various bids were made by different parties in this city to secure him, one gentleman in particular, now prominent in the lumber business offering his entire interest in the largest mill on the line of the road.—*Portland Argus.*

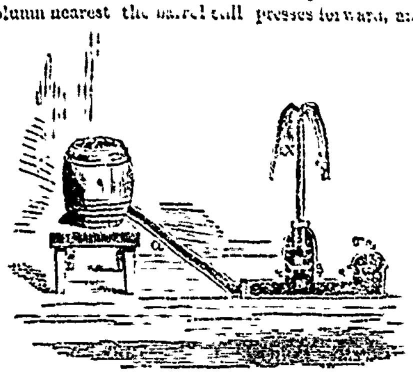
A SULPHUR BATH.—A recent visitor to the celebrated stock ranch of E. W. Chapman, Merced county, thus describes, in the *Resources of California*, the manner in which the sheep are treated for the prevention of a disease extremely troublesome in the sheep-fold: The day we were there Mr. Smith had the flock in the corral, and was engaged putting the sheep through a bath highly charged with sulphur and lime. There was a long narrow vat that contained the liquid, which was heated to a certain temperature by the introduction of steam through the bottom of the vat. By a nice arrangement of fences, each sheep was forced to enter the vat at one end, and work its way through the liquid to the other end, where it passed out. This bathing process is required to be done twice a year as a preventive and cure for a skin disease called "scab."

MAX ADELER ON THE HEN LAW.—Speaking of the Massachusetts law making it necessary that a "dozen eggs weigh one pound and a half," Max Adeler says: "We approve of this. The hens have too long had their own way in this business of laying eggs, and they have constantly defrauded the public. It is high time this outrage was crushed, and we are glad that the legislature of Massachusetts is going to do it. If free American citizens are to be imposed upon with impunity by debauched and corrupt chickens, the government for which William Penn fought and John Hancock died is a disgraceful failure. Hereafter, Massachusetts hens will either have to lay two ounce eggs or emigrate. The people will submit to their tyranny no longer. They have borne the yoke until it has become unendurable. They denounce present prices or present eggs, as *eggsdortion*, and hence they demand reform, with the determination to draw up this chicken bill and *pullet* through the legislature.

Correspondence.

The Hydraulic Ram.

"A new subscriber" asks for information about the principles involved in "operating a Hydraulic Ram." We reply with pleasure. In the accompanying cut, a pipe (a) is laid from the barrel to the ram, and a valve (s) beyond it, which is forced down and kept open by the weight (s). The water from the pipe striking against the underside of the valve (s), closes it. The course of the water is stopped, but the column nearest the barrel still presses forward, and



as it cannot escape through (r), it opens the valve (m) in the ram, and rushes up the pipe (x). The momentum ceases, and (s) again opens, when the same action is repeated. So rapid is the action of the machine that the valve (s) is in continual vibration, and an incessant stream of water is produced. See pages 1.. and 307 of the CANADA FARMER of last year.

Dynamite—Old Straw.

(To the Editor of the CANADA FARMER.*)*

SIR,—Can any of the dynamite cartridges which you recently described in the CANADA FARMER, be procured in Canada? I am very anxious to try them on some large pine stumps that encumber my fields.

I have a large stock of old straw in the barn yard that must be cleared away to make room for the coming crop. I propose spreading it on the fall wheat immediately after sowing. One of my fields is a flat of hard, stiff white clay, that in dry weather holds little moisture; the other is a coarse sandy loam. Would you approve or disapprove of thus using the straw, or do you think it would be better not to put it on the land until the first snow falls?—I am, &c., D. H.

[Dynamite cartridges, with all necessary instructions as to their use, may be obtained on application to Messrs. Young & Miller, of this city, whose advertisement appears in another column.

A thin, evenly spread mulch of straw applied late in the fall will be found an excellent winter protection to wheat sown on the tops of hills, or in other exposed situations. Henry McAfee, farm superintendent of the University of Wisconsin, in a communication to the *Western Farmer* on the subject says:—

The variable character of our winters prevents uniform results with most experiments in winter mulching wheat fields, but the average benefit is so decided in all places exposed to severe winds, that it should be adopted as a uniform practice at such places. There are two remedies for the great drawback known as winter-killing: underdraining and mulching. The former is the cure on low, wet spots, the latter on exposed knolls. Some years ago, when the Mediterranean was the variety of wheat most sown, we directed a tenant farmer to spread a thin dressing of the surplus straw over a field of wheat, leaving one uncovered strip by way of experiment and comparison. But he was negligent, and spread out two strips with straw. This was done early in the winter, after the ground had frozen hard, and before snow had fallen. The winter proved severe, but with little snow; and the result with this field was that the mulched portion yielded the following summer at the rate of about twenty-two bushels per acre; the rest of the field, fully exposed, was not worth harvesting. This, of course, was an unusual and extreme case; but the frequent liability to severe injury from full exposure, which would be prevented by a covering enough to protect the bare ground from the sharp cutting winds, renders it wise to ensure the crop, when practicable, by a suitable covering, even with varieties of grain less likely to be winter-killed than the old Mediterranean.]

Bird-Eating Squirrels—"What Varieties come true from Seed."

(To the Editor of the CANADA FARMER.*)*

SIR,—I notice in the CANADA FARMER of March 16th, 1874, an interesting article by Mr. A. Fisher of Bondheim, Oxford, on "Our winter wild birds" in which he gives an account of a combat between a red squirrel and a blue jay, the object of the former evidently being to get the young jays to eat; and he asks if any of your readers have ever known a similar instance. I can supply him with one such, and is the only one I have ever known. When I was some 17 or 18 years old (now 28 years ago) a pair of common red-headed woodpeckers made a nest in a hollow white ash stump, perhaps 25 feet from the ground, and brought out the young birds. One Sunday morning I was watching the hen bird feeding her nestlings with grubs, &c., when I saw a red squirrel make an attempt to go into the hole in the stump by which the old bird used to go in and out. He had no notion what he wanted there, but the woodpecker, it seems, was wiser in that particular than I, for she opposed his entrance as long as she could with beak and claws, which, as she was inside the hollow stump, gave her considerably the advantage, for some little time, but at last master squirrel got in in spite of all she could do. He soon made his appearance again outside the stump and ran to the top of it, with a nearly full-fledged young woodpecker in his mouth, and very quietly sat there and ate it up, and went back for another. I don't remember whether or not he ate all the young ones at one meal, but I know he finished the whole brood eventually, and the old birds deserted the nest and stump. The circumstance took place on a farm then owned by my father on the Governor's Road, close to ... which farm it is now owned and used by Mr. Saunders as a fruit farm. By the bye, on the 2nd of the same month I see an article by Mr. Peter Henderson on "What varieties come true from seed," in which he states that "any cutting from root or branch, whether rooted itself or engrafted on another stock (except in rare cases of sports), will be identical with that of the original form from which it was taken." This, I believe, is always true if the cion is grafted on to a stock it will grow on; but take an apple scion or any grafted tree you like, and make a cutting of it and raise it by sticking it in the ground, or, if you like, bend down a branch of a grafted apple and layer it, and it will not come true to ..., but will vary from the parent tree as much as if you had sowed an apple-pip.—I am, &c.,

G. W. DUCKE.

Wilkesport, July 27th, 1874.

Dynamite among Stumps.

(To the Editor of the CANADA FARMER.*)*

SIR,—In regard to dynamite, Mr. John Scott, of the Glasgow Canadian Land and Trust Company, now at Lennoxville (in the eastern townships), who witnessed some of the experiments made with this powerful explosive when in Scotland, and who has been using some of it since his return to Canada, reports that he is succeeding well with dynamite in blasting stumps. His system is: If the root be in firm soil, he places the charge below it; if the root be sound, then he bores down the centre to within about a foot of the earth at the bottom of stump, and tamps with water. One cartridge will do in this case, and Mr. Young states that it blows the stumps to shivers, and loosens the roots so completely that they are easily taken out.—We are, &c.,

YOUNG & MILLER.

Toronto, 21th July, 1874.

INQUIRER asks whether the soil and climate of Prince Edward Island is adapted for gardening. Perhaps some of our correspondents in that quarter will kindly supply the information required.

T. L., VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA.—The "Food-steamer," described and illustrated on page 335 CANADA FARMER for 1873, is manufactured by P. P. Mast, Springfield, Mass., and may be obtained either there or from Mr. John Watson, Ayr Agricultural Works, Waterloo Co., Ont. They cost from $80 upwards, according to size.