

EGGS FOR HATCHING.—"A Poultry Fancier," in Pleton, wishes to know where he can obtain eggs of the Musk or Brazilian Duck, and the Black Poland Fowl, for hatching. Parties having either eggs or birds for sale, will do well to advertise.

GRAFTING.—Mr. Joseph A. Phiggs of Grafton, writes: "Would you, or some of the readers of the FARMER give us some information in the art of grafting fruit trees, size of limbs to graft on, and receipt for making grafting wax."

ANS.—Will some of our readers who are in the frequent practice of grafting in the tops of trees, favour us with an answer?

REMARKABLE FERTILITY OF EWES.—"John Anderson," of Blue Lake, South Dumfries, writes to say that he has "a ewe of the Leicester breed that dropped two lambs on the 5th of April, and exactly a week after, viz. on the 12th, she dropped two more, all alive and full-grown."—Another correspondent writes: "A ewe belonging to Mr. James Thomson of Springfield, Scarboro, gave birth the other day to no less than four fine lambs, all with the mother doing well. Can Stone or Snell match this?"

HARROWING AND ROLLING.—A correspondent sends the following queries: "Will it benefit fall wheat to harrow with a light harrow and roll in spring, when the ground just gets dry? Will it revive old pastures to harrow and roll in spring? Also, what time is best to roll land that has been sown in spring?"

ANS.—Very careful harrowing with a light harrow quite early in spring would doubtless be beneficial to fall wheat. Rolling also will do good when the ground is quite dry. The same may be said of old pastures. Land sown in Spring should be rolled immediately after the harrowing in of the seed.

CURBED SPAVIN.—J. Overholt, of Clinton, writes:—"Would it be asking too much of you or your readers to state in THE CANADA FARMER whether a curbed spavin can be cured, and if so, how? I have a four-year old colt that is curbed, and although I have not noticed any lameness yet, some of my neighbours tell me they think it will lame him if it is not cured."

ANS.—The affection known as curb on horses arises from a strain of the posterior straight ligament of the hock, and, like other sprains, is best treated by rest, cold applications, and in some cases blistering. Regarding the case referred to, we would advise our correspondent to take the opinion of a competent veterinary surgeon.

THE ANTI-CANADA THISTLE BILL.—"W. D. K." who by the by forgets to tell us whence he writes, says: "In this part of the province, we hail with delight Mr. Sirton's proposed bill to prevent the spread of Canada Thistles, and sincerely trust it may become as fixed as the laws of the Medes and Persians. There is no question but if once clothed with the sanction of parliament, it will confer a lasting blessing upon the country at large, for it will increase the value of property in many localities at least fifty per cent. It is almost impossible to ascertain the amount of loss sustained throughout the country, caused by the presence of this most hateful weed. It monopolizes the choice portions of the land, and feeds, as it were, on the vitals of our farms."

THE WIRE WORM.—"D. H." of Logierait, says: "Some farmers in this neighbourhood have been very much hurt these few years past by the wire worm. They are especially bad on old pasture fields that have been recently broken up, and have occasioned severe loss to many, even after having summer-fallowed and sowed to wheat. By giving a short article on the subject, pointing out a preventive, you will confer a great boon on many in this part."

ANS.—Some recommend ploughing before winter as a likely method of abating this nuisance, but the opinion of many is that they can only be eradicated by patient and persevering hand labour in connexion with some hoed crop. More on this subject hereafter under the head of Entomology.

SALT FOR MANURE AND THISTLE-KILLING.—"ONE" writes: "In your article 'Salt for manure,' in your last, you advance an opinion that by adding a sufficient quantity of salt the ubiquitous Canada Thistle may be destroyed, but that every other thing vegetable in the land would be destroyed with the Thistle.

Could you, or any of your correspondents, state on good authority or from experiment what quantity of salt per acre would be sufficient?"

ANS. We are not sure that we understand the question. If it be what quantity of salt per acre is considered sufficient as a manurial application, we must refer our correspondent to page 98 for a reply. If it be the exact quantity per acre that will render vegetable life impossible, we cannot quote any "good authority" or "actual experiment" for a reply.

QUERIES ON GRASS SEEDS, SEED WHEAT AND BARLEY.

"Simplex" asks:—(1.) Can you publish in your next, what you conceive to be the proper quantity of Timothy to sow per acre, on a light soil, and what quantity of Clover you would mix, as I find practice widely differs—stating your opinion of what is known in Canada East, as the "Rawdon Clover," which is higher priced than the "Western Clover."

(2.) As the China Wheat is becoming a favourite, I should be glad to have your views—in comparison with the "Black Sea Wheat," which in Lower Canada answered in 1863, far better on the average than the Scotch Fife.

(3.) Winter Barley is advertised; where can a fall crop of Winter Barley, treated as we should Rye or Fall Wheat, be seen as a specimen of a much to be desired new fall crop.

ANS.—(1.) The common quantity of grass seed per acre is eight pounds of Timothy and four of Clover. In light soils, six lbs. of each would be preferable. The Rawdon Clover, known also as the Vermont and Pea-Vine Clover, is a large, late variety, flowering at the same time as Timothy, and therefore good to sow with it. On strong land it is rather coarse in the stalk.

(2.)—We can give no opinion of China Wheat, but perhaps some of our readers can. In Canada West, the Fife Wheat has quite superseded the Black Sea variety.

(3.)—We do not know where our correspondent will find a sample Barley field such as he speaks of, but perhaps some of our readers can tell him. Fall Barley is grown very successfully in various parts of Canada West.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, MAY 16, 1864.

The Weather and the Crops.

This is unquestionably a very late Spring, with an unusually low temperature and heavy falls of rain. A few warm days, at the beginning of the month produced a very sensible effect on vegetation, indicating that the vernal season had arrived. Since then the weather has been cold and wet, keeping all kinds of agricultural and gardening operations very much behind. On the drier and warmer lands peas, wheat, and other grains have to some extent been sown, but by far the larger portion of land has yet to be sown at the date of our present issue; and it will take many days of fine weather before wet and flat lands can be touched. We hear various reports of winter wheat, and fear that in too many localities it has suffered severely, in some places that we have seen, it is almost an entire failure. From other parts we learn the winter wheat has not looked so promising for several years. It is everywhere backward, and therefore more liable to the attacks of rust and the midge, which of late years have made such sad havoc with this crop. In all situations, where the snow continued late, the wheat is more or less strong, and to all appearance encouraging. The clover plant, too, under such conditions, wears a strong and promising appearance. Live stock have been carried through the winter generally in a healthy condition, but grass is much wanted at present.

By the way, we may in this connection just observe that in such a spring as this the benefit of draining the land is most striking. We saw two large fields adjoining each other yesterday, of precisely similar soil; one thoroughly drained and the other not; the

drained field was quite firm and dry, and the crop (peas) peeping promisingly through the ground; while the other is full of water holes, and will require at least a week's fine weather before a team can be taken on it. The difference in the temperature of these two otherwise similar soils six inches from the surface was found by careful experiment to be more than seven degrees! Farmers of Canada! think on that fact as connected with well drained land, besides being more easily worked, with a clear gain of two or three weeks in the spring, and a still a greater gain generally in the crop at harvest. So true is it that on all wet lands draining is the *Alpha* and *Omega* of all successful and advancing cultivation.

Since the above was put in type a correspondent in the Township of Hay, County of Huron, has sent us the suggestion that if we had a trustworthy correspondent in every township throughout the country, who would send *monthly* during the growing season, a brief account of the weather and the appearance of the crops, it would form a very interesting and useful column in our journal. We are obliged to our correspondent for the hint, and also for the example he gives us of the way in which the thing should be done. Will he please to regard himself as our "weather and crop correspondent" for the Township of Hay, and will others of our readers be kind enough to send us from month to month, brief notes like the following which we quote from the letter alluded to above? "Township of Hay, May 10, 1864. We have had a very backward spring here, so far. The last month has been cold and wet. Seeding is scarcely half done. Our clay soil has not been in trim for the harrow this spring. Fall wheat badly winter-killed in all exposed situations, especially so on stubble summer fallows. Looking well on old sod fallows, and where the wheat had been top-dressed in the fall, with coarse manure."

The Hog Embargo.

THE war order issued by the United States Executive, prohibiting the export of live hogs, is still in force, and we learn that Mr. Adam Brown of Hamilton, who has recently been to Washington, had some conversation with Mr. Secretary Seward on the subject, and ascertained from him that the order was irrevocable. Our readers are aware that a distinction is made between dressed and live hogs. The former are allowed to come into Canada, but the latter are forbidden to do so. It is difficult to see the reason for this distinction. Dressed hogs are more of the nature of army supplies than living ones, and the wonder is that the prohibition did not "go the whole hog," alive and dead. As it is, the thing operates very unfavorably upon our trade. Our curers and packers do not want the dressed article: it is inconvenient in winter and of no use at all in summer, and the result is that this branch of business has been very much curtailed. Considerable disappointment and loss have been occasioned to those who had gone to large outlay in fitting up premises and providing facilities for pork-packing; and others who designed embarking in this business have been prevented from doing so. We hear that but for this prohibition three additional pork-packers intended commencing next fall in Hamilton alone, and doubtless others were contemplating the same thing elsewhere. There is a striking moral and valuable lesson in this affair, which our farmers ought to heed. It surely teaches us the wisdom and duty of self-dependence. We ought not to lean down on others for what we can do for ourselves. Canada is well able to supply its own pork and bacon factories; and, on the whole, perhaps we ought to be grateful to Uncle Sam for compelling us to be more self-reliant. We hope Canadian farmers will go more vigorously and extensively into pork-raising, since there seems little reason to doubt that it will be a steady and profitable business. In conclusion, we quote part of a communication which appeared in the *Hamilton Spectator* of the 7th inst., written by Mr. Samuel Nash, pork-packer, of that city:—

"Canada will have in the future a good and steady market at home for her pork, and can, in consequence of its superior quality, secure just as much of the English bacon trade with America, as it desires to keep, amounting in the aggregate, say to twenty million dollars annually. Our farmers will see there is every encouragement for them to feed hogs, and