

Rural Canadian and Farm Journal,

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

THE CANADIAN FARMER AND GRANGE RECORD.

Vol. VIII., No. 7.
Vol. IV., No. 7 New Series.

Toronto, July, 1885.

\$1.00 per annum in advance.

RURAL NOTES.

CORN for green fodder may be planted at intervals during the present month; millet, too, will make a fine crop on good land if sown within the next week or ten days.

WHEN the fruit of strawberries is off, the mulch should be removed and old manure forked in around the plants. All runners also should be cut off, unless new plants are needed.

HAND-FEEDING and tethering on the grass are good ways of bringing up a calf intended for the dairy. The more docile and affectionate it can be made, the more valuable it will prove to be as a cow.

GREEN posts are not lasting. The best of timber placed in the ground before seasoning will decay in a few years. Sap in wood causes decay sooner than rain water, and when green posts are set in the moist earth the sap cannot readily escape.

THIS is a good time for fattening chickens for the market, and with proper care and feeding they may be fitted in two weeks. Corn-meal mixed with hot, sweet skimmed milk gives the flesh a fine flavour and an appearance that adds to its market value.

To get the best price for young potatoes, they should be got to the market as early as possible. The man who has the start of a week gets the benefit of the highest prices. It is well to remember, too, that purchasers like to see neat, clean packages, and always want to get full measure.

IN a rainy season grape-vines are almost certain to be attacked with mildew, which is itself nothing more than a fungus growth. The best treatment is the application of flowers of sulphur, and if the first appearance is watched for and a prompt use made of the remedy there is not much fear of harm being done.

COLIC is one of the most fatal of all ailments to which the horse is subject. Prof. Gamgee says that more horses die of it than of any other malady. His remedy is an injection of four to six quarts of tepid water—say at a temperature ranging from seventy to ninety degrees. This generally affords speedy relief.

EARLY maturity, quality of flesh and lightness of offal are the cardinal points of a good pig for fattening purposes, and in regard to these points there is perhaps no breed that excels the small, black Suffolk. Added to its other qualities, is the important one that it is a prolific breeder—properly managed sows often having fifteen or sixteen pigs at a litter.

IN new settlements the pioneers invariably select first the high dry land as most valuable. It is less liable to malaria than the swamps, though the worst fever and ague is generally found on sandy soil adjoining low wet lands. After clearing and draining, the black swamp soil is almost always found to be most valuable. Its fertility endures the longest under cultivation.

A CALIFORNIA man has invented a machine for scouring peaches, to take the place of paring them for drying. The advantages claimed for it are a great saving of labour, increased weight from the saving of the material taken off with the skin, and better quality of the dried fruit, since the richest part of the fruit lies next the skin. The machine simply removes the fuzz.

SOMEBODY has discovered by an extended experience that ice water, or water a few degrees warmer than ice water, sprinkled upon cabbages during the heat of the day will kill the imported cabbage worm. Such an application in the hot sun causes them to quickly let go their hold on the leaves, roll to the ground and die, while the cabbages suffer nothing, but look all the fresher for the application.

HORSES need frequent drinks of water during the hot summer days, whether they be on the plough, the harrow, or the mowing or reaping machine. A man who takes a water-jug to the field to slake his own thirst now and then should think of his horses in the same connection, and if a well or stream be not convenient for the horses there is nothing to hinder his taking a barrelful to the field for their use.

DR. VOELCKER found that the average weight of clover roots on an acre was about three tons, and that this furnished one hundred pounds of available nitrogen, the most stimulating of all manures. This is one reason why a clover soil ploughed under is such good preparation for a wheat crop. Why clover sod will not always bring good wheat is due to the lack of phosphate, which this grain must have if anything more than a crop of straw is to be grown.

ALFALFA is essentially the grass for a region of light rainfall, and recent experiments in feeding it made in Colorado, show that it possesses excellent fattening properties. It is stated that three or four crops of it can be grown in a season, and it is equally good for cattle, sheep and swine. During the past winter ten to twelve thousand cattle were turned into prime beef upon it in Colorado, against 2,000 in the previous winter. This is a fact that will prove interesting to ranchmen in our own North-West.

MANY people do not understand the difference between Jersey, Guernsey and Alderney cattle. In fact, Jersey and Alderney are often used as synonymous terms. But the name Jersey is applicable only to the pure-bred animals raised on the Island of Jersey. No foreign cattle have been permitted to be imported into the Island for over a hundred years. The Alderneys, on the contrary, have not been kept pure, but are made up mainly of a cross of the Jerseys and the Guernseys on their original stock. The three breeds are quite distinct and should not be confounded.

FARMERS do not remember, as often as they should that all the profit from their land comes from combination of capital and labour applied to it. Bare land unworked and unstocked is unproductive. Remembering this fact they will be less likely to destroy their chances for profit by un-

wise economy in farm labour. The old saying that there is that which scattereth and yet increaseth, and that which withholdeth more than is meet that tendeth to poverty, is as true now as when Solomon uttered the proverb, and it is especially true of farm labour.

WHETHER phosphates are or are not good for manure depends on the character and composition of the soil upon which they are applied. Used on a soil that has no available nitrogen and potash, a phosphate would be of no use whatever; but when joined to these it forms a complete manure. One of the chief advantages of a phosphate fertilizer is, that it has an immediate effect on crops. Take well rotted manure it is at once seized upon by the plant and "gobbled up," so as to speak, and for that reason it is no doubt true that for staying qualities phosphates will not begin to compare with the ordinary manure of the barnyard.

JULY is the best month of the year for weeds, especially if there be a good average rainfall. It is the month when farmers are busy with haying, and when the hoe and the cultivator are given a rest. Potatoes and corn must be attended to, but even these crops are left to shift for themselves when the work of mowing and reaping gets to be pressing. But any farmer who can spare the time at all, or who can hire the necessary help, will be well rewarded if he look carefully after the weeds. Not only will the corn and potato crops be all the better if the pigweed and the ragweed are kept under, but there is little risk of a crop of weeds ripening to stock the farm for years to come.

LOVERS of roses are often greatly annoyed by the attacks of the aphid, a little insect of greenish colour that feeds upon the under side of the leaf. Scores of these insects may often be seen on one leaf, and in a short time they devour the whole of the soft tissue. The leaves being destroyed, there is no chance for the development of the rose-buds, and a barren bush is the result. One of the best known means of destroying the aphid is to give it a dose of Persian insect powder. This is certain death to the aphid as well as to almost every other known insect, and there is no fear of injuring the life of the plant. Paris green is often used for the same purpose, but unless the solution be very weak the remedy is apt to prove as fatal as the disease.

THE cheese-makers of New York State find that they made a great mistake when they neglected to continue making a good article for the market. A number of years ago New York cheese bore a most enviable reputation in England, and then it was thought that they might trade upon that reputation and furnish the English consumer with a poor and cheap article; so they began the manufacture of skimmed-milk cheese. It was a grave mistake, and Canadian makers had the wit to profit by it. The New York article can hardly find sale in England now at any price, while the Canadian is eagerly sought after and the top prices of the market are paid for it. Let us trust that Canadian makers will profit by the lesson which the neglect of New York makers teaches.