

Huron County Ploughing Match.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR,—Our annual ploughing match this year has been very successful, both as regards the value of the prizes and the number of the competitors. I think no apology necessary for asking you to make room for a short description of it in the only agricultural paper we have in the Province.

Mr. Bell, the enterprising agricultural implement maker, of St. George's, offered to give a rooper as a prize for the ploughing match this year. The offer, I need scarcely say, was accepted. Such liberality was infectious, and other donations came in rapidly. The Hon. Donald McDonald, M. L. C., gave \$40; James Dickson, Esq., M. P. P., gave an iron plough, worth \$40; McFaggart, of Clinton, a fanning mill; Runceman, of Goderich, an iron plough; McPherson & Co., of Clinton, a cultivator; Sevel, of Clinton, a plough; Horton, of Goderich, a riding saddle; Fulton & Rude, of Egmondville, a neck-yolk and whipple tree; Jno. Gray, plough maker, of Egmondville, \$10 in cash; the County and Branch Societies making up nearly \$100 more. The whole was divided into nine prizes for men, and ten for boys. Such a formidable prize list, I am positive, was never ploughed for in any County in Canada, on any previous occasion. The "match" came off on Tuesday, the 31st October, on the farms of Messrs. Carnahan, and McLean, in the township of Tuckersmith, three miles from Harperbag, on the Buffalo and Goderich R. R.—the men being at Carnahan's, and the boys at McLean's. The morning was wet and stormy, till about 11 o'clock, which made it very disagreeable, but the after part of the day was pleasant enough. Twenty-four men entered the lists—most of them stout "brawny chieft"—the very pick of our ploughmen. The field was a clay loam, and with the exception of some gravel spots here and there was very well calculated for the purpose. A start was made at 10 o'clock, and by 4, all were finished. Great interest was manifested by the spectators during the match. The judges must have had an arduous task. Their decisions caused some dissatisfaction, but as they were all practical ploughmen, no doubt they had good reasons to assign for their respective awards. The first prize—the Reaper—was presented to James Thomas, Tuckersmith. Some of the other awards in the men's class, I have not yet ascertained. The boys' field was a mile and a quarter from the men's, and was reached by a road ankle deep in mud, but the sight amply repaid the tramp. They had a splendid field, superior to the men's, older sod, a smoother surface, and less gravel. I found twenty-eight lads stripped and at work, holding on with a determination that was pleasant to look at. Some half dozen of them were the smallest fellows I ever saw holding a plough. The scene was a hopeful picture of "Young Canada." Their ploughing was the theme of general admiration,—in fact some of it was sweeter to the eye than any of the men's.

The judges awards were as follows:—1st, A. Thompson, Stanley; 2nd, R. Sharpe, Stanley; 3rd, Jno. McTavish, Tuckersmith; 4th, D. McLean, Tuckersmith; 5th, S. Carnahan, Tuckersmith; 6th, Peter McDugald, Goderich; 7th, H. Wise, Goderich; 8th, J. Carnahan, Tuckersmith; 9th, W. Chesney, Tuckersmith; 10th, A. Broadfoot, Tuckersmith.

The men at Mr. Carnahan's, and the boys at Mr. McLean's, were treated to a substantial dinner, to which, no doubt, their keen appetites enabled them to do ample justice. HUGH LOVE, Senr.

Hill's Green P. O.

A GIANTIC PORKER.—We learn from the *Western Rural* that "a hog was exhibited at a fair in Fountain county, Ind., recently, that weighed 1,115 pounds. The fact is well authenticated."

A MONSTER CARROT.—William Dawson, Esq., of East Zorra, has brought to our office, for the inspection of the curious, what we believe will be admitted to be the largest specimen of a field carrot grown in this or any other country; and as the sample is by no means an unfair one of Mr. Dawson's crop generally, we may claim for him the reputation of being the most successful root grower in this section—a result the excellent character of his land, with his mode of tillage, will enable him long to enjoy. The carrot, measured in the presence of William Grey, Esq., the Secretary of the North Riding Agricultural Society, a trifle over 40 inches, exclusive of the slightest portion of top. We shall be pleased to hear of another to equal this.—*Woodstock Times*.

The Apiary.

Management of the Apiary for December.

BY J. H. THOMAS.

If preparations have been made for winter, in November, but little is required in this month. Stocks wintered out of doors, should be protected from severe winds and storms. If they should become banked over with snow, let them remain, if they have been properly ventilated, as they will winter all the better. Let it be remembered that the more vapour that is allowed to escape by upward ventilation, the less dampness and frost there will be in the hive. I would, however, again advise that all stocks be housed. If not already put into winter quarters, it should be attended to at once. If it is desirable to winter stocks that are likely to want for honey before spring, a few pounds of sugar sticks (the whiter and drier the candy is, the better,) may be laid upon the top of the frames, in my moveable comb hives, and the bees will make use of it as they need. In common box hives that are inverted, it may be placed on the combs. All hives that are situated where mice can get at them, should have their entrances protected with wire cloth, unless it is desirable to let the bees pass in and out. In that case the entrance should be contracted. A near neighbour, lost a fine stock last winter, by neglecting to guard against mice. Strong stocks that have been properly housed according to the directions given in the "Bee-keepers' Guide," will require no more attention; let them remain undisturbed.

Differences between Langstroth and "The Canadian Bee Keepers' Guide."

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR,—It is with pleasure that I reply to your correspondent "Briar," who, in No. 20, Vol. II., of THE CANADA FARMER, makes some remarks on the difference of opinion between Langstroth and myself, believing that he will see the truth on those "important points."

I am well aware that Langstroth, after having admitted that a tall hive had some "obvious advantages," still claims what "Briar" has quoted, viz.: "that a hive long from front to rear, and moderately low and narrow, seems on the whole to unite the most advantages," and, therefore, makes his hives only ten inches deep. Now what are the advantages claimed by Langstroth in his shallow hives, over tall ones? He says they greatly facilitate the handling of the frames, besides diminishing their number and cost." Allow me to enquire how that can be? As my hive contains only eight frames, and Langstroth's ten. The advantage, therefore, in this respect, is in favour of my hive. I also fail to see how the shape of the frame can materially affect the handling of them. This, however, I offer to do, I will remove the frames from three of my hives while Langstroth, or any other man, is removing the frames from two of the Langstroth hives. It is not, however, the shape of my frame that enables me to do this, but the greater facility, but the construction of the hive. Again, he remarks in a foot note, concerning tall hives: "The deeper the frames, the more difficult it is to make them hang true on the rabbits, and the greater the difficulty of handling them without crushing the bees, or breaking the combs." Now if Langstroth found difficulty in making deep frames hang true, I do not.—Hence that objection amounts to nothing, if my hives are used.

As to the difficulty of handling deep frames, experience proves that such was only imaginary on the part of Langstroth. I never think of crushing bees or breaking combs. In another foot note Langstroth remarks, that Quimby informed him that bees wintered in hives of the shape of his about as well as in

tall hives. Yet it appears after all that Quimby prefers a tall hive, for he makes his frames deeper than Langstroth's, and calls his hive "Langstroth's improved." Nearly all eminent Apirians use a tall hive in preference to a shallow one. Says J. S. Harbison, "many eminent Apirians bear testimony to the superiority of deep hives over those that are low and shallow." Experience has fully convinced me that a deep hive, properly constructed, combines more advantages than any other shape in use. Bees are far more likely to build their combs straight in deep frames than in shallow ones. These and many other points were not as well understood when Langstroth constructed his hive as they are now.

"Briar" again quotes from Langstroth, who speaks of moveable bottom boards thus: "If moveable bottom boards are used, it is next to impossible to prevent the moth from laying her eggs between them and the edges of the hives." It would appear from the above quotation that Langstroth supposed that all moveable bottom boards must rest against the edges of the hives. Such is not the case with my hives, and experience has proved that no objection can be raised against them on account of moths, while the advantages given to the apirian by them, as compared with a stationary bottom board are many. Says Mr. Holden, an experienced apirian of Merrickville, C. W., speaking of my hive, "the bottom board is constructed upon a plan the best that I have ever seen." "Briar" also seems to think that smoking bees often will make them more irritable, and quotes from Langstroth to shew that there is a difference of opinion between us on that point; but I fail to see any great difference. Langstroth does not say that smoke makes the bees more irritable, but that it failed in its effect after it was used two or three times a day, to make the bees fill themselves with honey. He says: "The cunning creatures, instead of filling themselves with honey, rushed out to attack me." I do not understand that they rushed out to attack him because irritated with the smoke, but because it is their nature to do so when often disturbed, unless they are filled with honey. If "Briar" would be fully satisfied, let him select two stocks next season, of about equal strength, and operate with each stock three times a day. With one stock use smoke according to directions given in the "Canadian Bee Keepers' Guide," with the other stock use no smoke, and see which becomes the more irritable. Again, "Briar" finds a difference of opinion between Langstroth and myself, I having stated that bees do not die of a disease called dysentery, while Langstroth mentions it as the effect of improper ventilation, dampness, &c., &c. Now, on this point there is really no essential difference, as I freely admit that bees die from an undue accumulation of feces, discharged in and about the hive, being the effect of improper ventilation, dampness, &c.; but not dysentery; for if, at such times, the weather was sufficiently warm to allow the bees to fly and discharge themselves away from the hive, there would be no disease and no death. Says Metcalf, "Once during winter it is quite necessary that bees should be allowed to fly, or they are apt to be attacked with what is improperly called 'dysentery.'" If, however, bees are wintered in a proper place, where they cannot freeze, and properly ventilated, no undue accumulation of feces will take place, and there will be no necessity for their flying to discharge themselves, and they will never die from a disease called "dysentery."

BROOKLIN, C. W.

J. H. THOMAS.

Poultry Yard.

Dressing Poultry for Market.

THE following hints on poultry-dressing are gathered from a circular lately issued by Morrison, Taylor & Co., of this city. The instructions are so thoroughly practical, that we believe we will be consulting the interests of such of our readers as are in the habit of marketing fowls, by giving them a place in our columns.

"We would here remark that "scalliwag" poultry always sells low in this market, and that between a well dressed fowl and a poorly dressed one, the difference in price will make a fair profit. 1st. Food in the crop injures the appearance and sale, therefore keep from food twenty-four hours before killing. 2nd. Opening the veins in the neck is the best mode of killing. If the head be taken off at first, the skin will recede from the neck-bone, presenting a repulsive spectacle. 3rd. Most of the poultry sold in this market is "scalded," or "wet picked," "dry picked" is preferred by a few, and sells, to a limited extent only, at full prices. Poultry may be picked dry without difficulty, if done without delay after killing.