

The Household.

Value of Ice.

From a miscellaneous series of "Farm Notes" addressed to the *Mark Lane Express*, by Mr. Mechi, we extract the following seasonable hints, which we would especially extend to house-keepers, as well as the parties to whom the extract more particularly refers, and would again press on Canadian farmers the great importance in this climate of having that most essential item, not of luxury merely, but of household economy, a good ice-house. In the dairy, and in the larder, the value of ice has only to be tried to be fully appreciated. On this subject Mr. Mechi thus discourses:—

Advice to Butchers.—Hot summer weather, especially if accompanied by thunder-storms, causes heavy losses to butchers. If the meat cannot be got cool and stiff after slaughtering, it soon becomes unacceptable to the consumer. A block of Wenham Lake ice, worth a few shillings, may save many times its cost. When I gave my great agricultural gatherings, there was cooking going on for some days previously. The end of July was a time for fires and rapid decomposition. I always, however, succeeded in keeping everything sweet and wholesome. A block of ice, weighing 60lb to 100lb, was placed in the larder. The calorific of the atmosphere was employed and absorbed in melting it, the consequence was a low temperature in which the meat did not enter. The block of ice disappeared gradually, and if necessary was replaced by another. There were several advantages in this proceeding. The fibre of meat got nicely broken down, rendering it tender, white perfectly free from taint. Every alderman knows that buck venison is in high season in the hottest part of July. Nine times out of ten venison is then spoiled by taint, the very smell of it is disagreeable. A noble duke once sent me half a buck in July. By the plan I recommended, it was kept sweet and wholesome for nearly three weeks. Everyone praised it, and the fat was like marrow. I am induced to make this suggestion because some of the best portions of a fine fat bullock purchased of me were spoiled for want of a little cool air. Blocks of ice travel cheaply by rail (goods train) packed in sawdust and old sacking. If meat cannot be got cool enough to become stiff before packing, sending it in that soft state to a market is a ruinous affair. The same remark holds good for meat that is to be salted. A number of my pigs when ready, were divided; one half I sold to a neighboring butcher; and the other half slaughtered at home, and placed in my larder, got cool and stiff, not so the others. My pigs realized in London 12s per head, or 30 per cent. more than those soft flabby ones sent up by the butcher, who thus suffered a heavy loss. I am informed that Messrs. Harris, of Calne, in Wiltshire (who slaughter 500 fat hogs weekly, weighing from 200 lb. each, upwards), import a cargo of ice from Norway, in order to get their meat properly cooled in hot weather, before they salt and convert it into bacon.—*Jan., 1867.*

PURIFYING WATER IN CISTERNS.—A pound or two of either caustic soda or a similar quantity of what is called concentrated lye, both of which may be obtained at the druggists, will purify stagnant odorous water in cisterns.

A REFRESHING BEVERAGE.—Dr. Waller Lewis, in describing the precautions against cholera adopted at the General Post Office, says: "The men employed in sorting letters and newspapers suffer much from thirst, especially in the hot weather, and consequently drink much water while engaged in their duties. Although the Post Office is supplied with the New River Company's water, and this is all filtered through silicated charcoal in the various offices, much diarrhoea was, nevertheless, the result of this practice. For some time past the officers of all classes are supplied from the medical department with a most agreeable drink, which not only assuages the thirst, but has, moreover, strong antiseptic and anti-diarrhoeal properties. It is called orangeade, and is thus composed: Take of dilute sulphuric acid, concentrated infusion of orange peel, each twelve drachms; syrup of orange peel, five fluid ounces. This quantity is added to two imperial gallons of water. A large wineglassful is taken for a draught, mixed with more or less water, according to taste. The officers drink this with pleasure. It is being consumed in large quantities daily, and I am convinced it will be the means of warding off a great deal of sickness."—*Mark Lane Express.*

Miscellaneous.

A Farmer on Light Railways.

The following is the conclusion of a letter from Mr. William Robertson, of Bentinck, on the subject of railways to Grey and Bruce. The whole letter is too long for insertion; we can merely find room for the concluding paragraphs. He says:—

"I went to Walkerton with my mind prejudiced against a central narrow gauge railway, and resolved to oppose it with all my might, and I now return its friend and firm advocate.

"Facts are chiefs that winna ding.' And after hearing the convincing statements of Messrs. Boyd, Chisholm and others, unrefuted and unrefutable, I stamped my foot upon my prejudice, and became a convert to the light railways.

I am a friend of the narrow gauge for all the reasons assigned, and for other reasons also.

I believe in the narrow gauge because Toronto merchants will assist in building it, and because it is likely to do more good for the farmer than any other line of railway that can be made to the County of Grey; because its directors will bind themselves to carry cordwood, and the cost of construction could be paid by the farmer in cordwood alone, since the rate of \$3 a cord at Durham would leave a net profit of at least one dollar on every cord of wood now standing in our forest. And when George Jackson tauntingly declared, that day at Walkerton, that the farmers of Grey did not need to sell their cordwood, and that they had enough to do in winter to haul away their grain, and were above hauling wood, and that if Toronto wanted wood they might send emigrants to chop it, he declared to you what he knew was not the truth. For no man knows better than George Jackson that even our very best farmers, in the vicinity of Durham, are very glad to deliver cordwood at \$1 25 a cord, and that it takes it all to make ends meet. And instead of needing emigrants here to chop it, he sees our young men grow up and leave the country, often never to return, and solely because they cannot find employment here at home. The cordwood, therefore, is a very important item among the bush-farmers of Grey. But, George enjoys the confidence of the people, and can, therefore, take the liberty of thinking or acting for them as he sees fit. I will support the Central, because its directors will bind themselves to carry wheat from Durham to Toronto for the same rate that is now charged from Angus, whereas, at present rates, we may expect to pay at least twelve cents by the Grey and Simcoe and Northern. And, finally, I will support the Central because its traffic is likely to increase as the country is cleared up, and will, therefore, become a source of profit to all interested in it. Whereas, I fear, the Northern extension, from Angus to Durham, would only benefit a few speculators for a time, then leave itself a burden upon its shareholders."

WELL DESCRIBED.—A correspondent of a Philadelphia paper describes the Paris Exposition building as follows:—Take a round of gingerbread with a hole in the middle. The hole represents a garden. Around the hole describe with a knife, eight or ten circles; each of these is an aisle running quite round the Exhibition. Across these concentric circles draw, from the hole to the circumference of your gingerbread, thirty or forty straight lines or radii. These separate the nations. Now, if you want to look at machinery, being a machinist yourself, begin with the great outer ring or circle, and you will pass, in their order, the machineries of every nation. The second interior ring is devoted entirely to turniture. Go round it and you can study the upholstery of mankind. The third ring is devoted to clothing. Follow this round, and all the fashions of the world and the wearers will be demonstrated.

A PITMAN'S VIEW OF THE QUEEN.—"Hooray! hooray!" oi shouted; for oi was wat yow call transported. T' Queen, oi do believe, seed me, for she looked at me, and shook her handkercher. When t' Queen was gone, oi looked down, for oi am higher than Molly, and oi siz. "Wat do yow think on't, Molly?" and she was a cryin'. Sez oi. "Did oi stamp your toes, Molly?" for oi thowt p'raps oi might ha' dun so in my joy. She sez, "No." "Then" sez oi, wat are yow a cryin' for? "Oi' doant know," sed she; "but if oi ha' sin t' Queen, oi am cryin' because oi am glad; and if oi ain't sin her, oi am a cryin' because oi am sorry." "Oomans tears is queer things." "Not sin her," sez oi. "Molly, why that was hur. hat stout, motherly-lookin' ooman, jest the thing for a queen; for her face sez that she's got a mother's

hart, and that she looks on us all as bein' her lads and wenches." "Was that hur?" sed she. "Why she was dressed plain." "Plain," sez oi, "Molly," and oi put on such a look. "Plain," sez oi, again; and oi stopped, for it was a solemn subject, and oi wished to make a impression. "Would yow ha' hur dressed anything but plain?" She ain't cum hero tew day as t' big folks queen; she is cum as t' people's Queen. If she'd a cum all goold and feathers, the big folks would ha' sed, 'She's ourn'; but she's come jest t' way to say tew us, 'Oi loike yow, mol lads and wenches, as well as oi loike others.' "God bless her," sez oi, "and, Molly, oi feel that if any body was a goin' to hurt hur, that oi should let yow go home alone, and oi should fought for her until oi could neither see nor feel."—*All the Year Round.*

IRISH CREDULITY.—It is impossible for any one who knows anything of Irish character not to feel the greatest respect for many of its traits; but it is equally impossible not to feel some degree of contempt, and a much higher degree of pity, for its exhaustless credulity. It is inexpressibly sad to see with what systematic and unvarying simplicity the great mass of the Irish people permit themselves to be duped out of their earnings, their sympathy, their liberty, and their lives, by a small clique of unprincipled knaves, long after the real character of their schemes has been made perfectly apparent to every man of common sense. The Fenian swindle offers the latest and most glaring illustration of this weakness. After robbing the Irish of millions of their hard earnings, plunging scores of them into dungeons and their families into misery, bringing disaster and disgrace upon hundreds and thousands of their wives, the leaders of this movement continue with shameless impudence to levy contributions in the name of Irish freedom upon the great body of their countrymen, for their own selfish indulgence. One of the head-centres, Stephens, has been living for some months in Paris in indolence and luxury, and now it is announced by the leading political organ of the movement that the other head-centre, "President Roberts," has gone abroad, as the ambassador of the brotherhood, to "organize alliances" with Mazzini and other helpless Red Republicans of the Continent. Funds are of course forthcoming from the exhaustless treasury of Irish liberality, being drawn with remorseless cruelty from the earnings of Irish servant-girls and day-laborers, to support this mythical and ridiculous mission. This is probably the last we shall hear of "President Roberts" as an active agent of Irish freedom. He will settle down in Paris by the side of his illustrious predecessor, t'other head-centre.—*New York Times.*

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ITALIAN STOCKS.

Having received all the orders for Italian Stocks that I am able to fill without extra expense, the price after this date will be as follows: In the Single-boarded hive, including right to make, \$18. In the Double-boarded hive, including the same, \$20.

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My Italian Queen, imported from Lake Maggiore, Italy, has arrived. She is a large, fine queen, breeding beautiful light coloured queens, even to the third generation.

N.B.—This is the only queen in Canada imported from Italy. Persons who desire to secure queens bred from her this season would do well to send in their orders at once. Price of queens bred from her, and ordered to be shipped in July, \$7; after that \$5. Queens bred from last year's importations and guaranteed pure, \$5. Orders for Stocks, Queens, Hives, Books, &c., will receive prompt and careful attention, addressed to

J. H. THOMAS, Apiarian,
Brooklin, C. W.

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