

we entered the field containing his South Down sheep we were saluted by the music of 24 bells. We asked Mr. I. what he used so many bells for, and he said for the purpose of keeping the dogs away. He had found it efficient. Would it not be well if County Councils were to alter their present act of payment for sheep killed by dogs, by reducing the payment to half, or quarter, or nothing, unless the owner kept at least one bell on every tenth sheep.

Mr. H. E. Irving has long been known as one of the best breeders of South Down sheep, and his flock numbering about 80 head, are very uniform and even, showing the attention that has been paid to them in selecting the best stock to breed from, many of them being quite as symmetrical as any we have ever seen in a show yard. This class of sheep stands pre-eminently in the same proportion as the thorough-bred horse does to the other classes of horses. They are considered the purest-blooded sheep; other classes are more or less mixed or crossed. Their carriage is more erect, and the ears set up. The quality of the wool is fine, the flesh for culinary purposes is unsurpassed, and their lambs mature quicker than the lambs of other varieties.

This class of sheep most probably will come into greater demand.

The great demand for combing wool has caused breeders to turn their attention to the Lincolns, Cotswolds, and Leicesters, yet there are many that prefer the South Downs.

Mr. Irving sold 14 South Down rams last year to a breeder in Colorado. The Galloway cattle have been too much neglected lately, partly, no doubt, on account of the enormous prices that have been realized from Durhams. It is a pretty well established fact that the Galloways will make a quality of beef unsurpassed by the Durhams, many say superior. They are considered a much harder class, and are excellent thrivers.

We were at Mr. S. White's (President of the Provincial Agricultural Association) farm a short time since, we noticed an animal like a Galloway; it was much sleeker than any of the other cattle, and we were so much struck with its superior appearance that we enquired as to its breed. Mr. White said it was a half-bred Galloway, that it fared just the same as the other cattle, but had thriven much better than any other in his herd, which consists principally of part bred Durhams. We do not pretend to say that in one breed all the superior qualities are combined; each breed has its advantages and disadvantages. All valuable breeds should be maintained in our country.

The above cut is intended to represent "Heather Bell" and "Bonny Bell," two fine Galloway heifers belonging to Mr. Irving, who has a very nice young herd of this class, and five shearling ewes from the flock of Southdowns. His stock of Berkshire pigs is really good and easy to any we have seen in Ontario. Mr. Irving, who is proprietor of the Royal Hotel, Hamilton, is about giving up one of his farms, and therefore must sell half of his present stock. His farms are near Hamilton, and any person calling at the Hotel would obtain any information they may require.

The Exhibitions.

THE THREE WEEKS OF AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS AT HAMILTON, LONDON AND GUELPH.

The question that should suggest itself to us is: What improvements can be made to make our Exhibitions of greater benefit to the country than they now are? No one will pretend to say that perfection is obtained. We must all admire the improvements that have taken place, when we see so many and such really fine exhibitions as are now held in our midst. The foundations of these exhibitions have been laid for us; we are building on the plans of others.

Would it not be well to devote more of the evenings to discussions about agricultural affairs? The fruit growers generally

hold a meeting during the Exhibition week, and the bee-keepers also hold a meeting to discuss their plans. The delegates to the Provincial Exhibition from the counties, together with the Board, hold their annual meeting on one of the Exhibition evenings. This meeting is generally largely attended, but, strange to say, only one stereotyped question is ever brought before the meeting in which there is an interest or voice given; that is: Where shall the Exhibition be held the following year?

The hearing of the reports and the delivery of the President's address, together with the voting on the location of the next Exhibition, is about all that is done. These delegates are sent to the Provincial Exhibition at considerable expense to the county societies, and when they are at the meeting only one question is submitted, and only one meeting is held. Would it not be well to devote more evenings than one to discussions? Are there no other subjects on which such a large and influential body of gentlemen might express their views?

Would it not be well to take the views of these gentlemen in regard to the establishment of the Agricultural College? whether they believe such an institution would be of advantage or disadvantage to them; or, in fact, would it be worth its cost? Would the importation of stock by the Government interfere with our present stock breeders' establishments? Is the agricultural information spread throughout the country correct or sufficient for the requirements of the people? Would it be of advantage if the Government would grant loans to individuals at a low rate of interest for the purpose of draining their farms? Is the new Canada Thistle law practicable or of use? Can any improvement be suggested on it or in regard to the extermination of the plant? Should stock be imported into Canada during the prevalence of the Cattle Disease in Europe, or would a quarantine farm be of advantage?

Discussions in regard to cereals, modes of cultivation, &c., might be advantageously brought forward. We hope some of our readers may take up the above subject and send in their opinions. We do not ask you all to agree with our remarks; condemn if you choose, but we hope to have more communications from you, now the harvest is over. Do not be afraid of expressing your views through the paper; that is what this paper is for. You speak to many thousands, and your remarks, if beneficial, will pretty surely fall on good ground somewhere.

Every farmer should devote at least one day to either of these Exhibitions, if they are living within driving distance. Do not think the money is lost that is expended in such a way.

The ladies should also attend, and by all means let the boys and girls have an opportunity of seeing what the country can produce. One day given to the young to wander through the different departments of the Exhibition will do them more good than a month's hard plodding at school. By all means let them go. Boys and girls, ask your parents to take you or let you go yourselves.

Fruit—A Timely Hint.

We see from our exchange papers that the fruit crop in England this year is one of the worst ever known. Many of our readers have good fruit fit for shipment. We believe you will find it will pay better if you provide barrels and hand-pick your fruit in time to put up only No. 1 quality. There will be money made by some who engage in the shipping of fruit this year. It is a business that will be opened to a greater extent this year than ever before. The prices in England offer a very wide and handsome margin for profit. We believe it would pay better than editing this journal, but we are in a treadmill and must work our way out of it. Some of you that are looking around for a spec. to make a few dollars, just turn your attention to the fruit crop and compare prices here and in England.

The Elections.

We are pleased to say, are at length nearly all over for the Dominion Parliament. The long-continued excitement has very materially interfered with our business—not that we have taken an active part in it, but at each and every place we have been for some weeks past the minds of nearly all were so agitated or absorbed by electioneering, that other businesses were, to a greater or less extent, neglected. We hope that if we have another election in the busy harvest season, it will be completed in one week throughout the Dominion, as it has very materially interfered with our obtaining and giving as much information as we otherwise would have done in regard to Fall Wheat.

OUR POSITION.

We asked our readers which course we should adopt to maintain the ADVOCATE on its safest foundation. The reply from the majority was in conformity with the views on which we first commenced, viz.: to keep the ADVOCATE independent of party, and that it should be conducted independent of party politics. We believe that by so doing we can always make the ADVOCATE a more effective instrument for promoting the interests of agriculture and agriculturists. Strong temptations were laid in our way to induce us to turn aside from this unbiased course, but we resisted temptation and refused even to give our support for either party.

We would again refer to a subject that we lately brought before you—a FARMERS' ADVOCATE joint stock company. If any of you be willing to be shareholders in this company, and have a voice and influence in the management of the only true FARMERS' ADVOCATE, and non-political and non-sectarian or party paper in the Dominion, it would add to the usefulness and influence of the paper to have a Board of Directors, gentlemen actuated solely by a desire for the improvement of agriculture and the prosperity of the country, and to have the paper independent of party and party politics. The shares might be put from \$25 to \$100, each shareholder to vote personally or by proxy at the election of Directors in proportion to the amount of stock taken. No payment for stock taken to be required until the company be thoroughly and properly organized. The first and leading object would be to improve the paper, extend its influence and maintain its independence. We would like to hear from you on the subject.

Were this object accomplished we could then devote our time and energy more to the testing and disseminating of seeds, and the general business of the Agricultural Emporium.

Our correspondent "Rambler," writing to us from the Eastern Townships, says: "Potatoes look well, and they have no appearance of the Colorado bug; but while they are exempt from this pest, they have an insect that is almost as bad, one that I never saw before: it is a black bug or fly (as it has wings); it is in myriads on the potatoes, and eats them as bare as the Colorado bug; but the heavy rains this year appear to have drowned them. In our American exchanges we meet with an account of the same bug. Paris green will be equally as effectual in destroying them as the other."

Good Health.

SALT RHEUM REMEDY.

Several years since I was very much afflicted with salt rheum. I procured such roots as dandelion, burdock, red clover, both root and tops, a little blood root, a very little mandrake, sarsaparilla, some black maple leaves and a little prickly ash bark. These were boiled until the strength was extracted, and then the liquor was boiled down so as to be quite a strong syrup. It was then sweetened with loaf sugar, and enough Bourbon whiskey added to keep it from turning sour. This taken

three times a day, a teaspoonful before each meal, effectually cured me, and I have never had salt rheum since. One need not have all the above named ingredients unless convenient; the sarsaparilla and red clover, with burdock and dandelion, would alone make a good syrup.—*Farmer's Wife, in Rural New Yorker.*

DYSPEPSIA REMEDY.

Camomile flowers, one ounce; one quart cold water; put in at night and it is fit for use in the morning. Dose, one wine glass a day. When the bottle is about half used, fill it up again. The patient will be cured before he has used many bottles.—*Home and Health.*

LEMON SYRUP.

When lemons are abundant and cheap, it is a good plan to purchase several dozen at once, and prepare them for use in the warm, weak days of spring and summer, when acids, especially citric and malic, or the acids of lemons and ripe fruit are so grateful and so useful.

Press your hand on the lemon and roll it back and forth briskly on the table to make it squeeze more easily, then press the juice into bowl or tumbler, never into tin; strain out all the seeds, as they give a bad taste. Remove all pulp from the peels and boil in water, a pint for a dozen pulps to extract the acid. A few minutes boiling is enough, then strain the water with the juice of the lemons, put a pound of white sugar to a pint of the juice; boil ten minutes, bottle it, and your lemonade is ready. Put a tablespoonful or two of this lemon syrup in a glass of water, and you have a cooling, healthful drink.

FRUIT JAMS.

Boiling fruit a long time, and skimming it well without the sugar and without a cover to the preserving pan, is a very economical and excellent way—economical because the bulk of the scum rises from the fruit and not from the sugar, if the latter is good, and boiling it without a cover allows the evaporation of all the watery particles therefrom; the preserves keep firm and well flavored. The proportions are three-quarters of a pound of sugar to a pound of fruit. Jam made in this way of currants, strawberries, raspberries or gooseberries is excellent.—*Cor. Germantown Telegraph.*

NECESSITY FOR THICK SOLES.

The bottom of the boot for summer should be of the medium thickness, but if anything, rather thicker than thinner, so that the surface of the sole of the foot be thoroughly protected from the ground and stones.

The disadvantage of a thin sole is that it produces callosities at the bottom of the foot, at the parts corresponding to the bones where they are attached to the nails. The hard part of the foot is produced by the chaffing of the skin, which at the sole of the foot is very thin. This skin has to resist every pressure of the foot between it and the sole of the boot, which is always hard, and the bones every time the foot touches the ground. Hence it hardens at every one of the toes. It follows that one has more fatigue or inconvenience from pressure with the same amount of walking when the sole is too thin. For this reason we require for summer boots a thick sole.

For winter boots we require that the sole should be very thick. A thick double sole or clump will be found best. As all the parts of the sole are made of leather, not liable to ruck or hollow under pressure, the insoles should not be of leather entirely impervious to water, or rather perspiration, for if they are, the dampness of the foot will feel cold, and by this remaining for days, the result will be chills, swellings of the throat, glands, and other maladies incident to boyhood.—*Moniteur de la Cordonnerie, Paris.*

Two communications have just arrived as we go to press, too late. They will appear in next issue.