

more to draw the attention of the public than for any benefit to the farmers. The best information is gained from private individuals or from previous works taken from others and palmed off as being from the College, whereas the originators are entitled to the credit. Partisan influence has been a greater object aimed at there than the farmer's interest. The attempts that have been made by recipients of public favors to mislead or to suppress truth should not be tolerated at any educational establishment. But suffice for the present

SOUTH PERTH AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

On invitation we attended the annual dinner of this Society in St. Mary's on the 29th of January. This is one of the oldest established Agricultural Society dinners in Ontario. The dinner was attended by between 40 and 50, principally the leading agriculturists, with the Mayor and a few of the Council of the town. This, as their usual dinners, has passed off in a most satisfactory manner. Many useful hints were thrown out, and a general fraternization of different parties took place, which always tends to the benefit of all concerned, as the one object was a social meeting and harmonious working of their Society. The directors may well be proud of their continued success in maintaining a good agricultural exhibition building and being free of debt. Different subjects, such as drainage, stock-breeding, crops and the sanitary conditions of stock, etc., were touched upon. The citizens treated upon other subjects, such as public education. The Mayor considered free education should only extend to a good, sound English education, and that parties requiring more should pay for it. These views appeared to be fairly coincided with by the meeting, as some of the farmers stated that when their sons went to the high schools they could scarcely be induced to settle on a farm afterwards. Mr. L. E. Shipley, member of the Board of Agriculture, produced the list of questions propounded by the Board of Agriculture and Arts. One member, a school trustee, considered such questions were not suitable for our general schools, as the teachers knew nothing about the subject. The meeting broke up after 2 o'clock. The farmers here are second to none, having all gravel roads, cleared farms and less waste of land than any other place; free roads and general prosperity prevails, despite the present season's failure of wheat. On our return we met in the cars R. R. Cockburn, of Muskegon, Mich., who is engaged in fruit-growing. He informs us that two years ago he grew 90 tons of grapes on 16 acres of land, and they realize \$300 per acre. Also this year he grew 50 bushels of quinces; these he found one of the most profitable crops—realizing \$4 per bushel. They can be easily raised on stiff land near moisture, and near a house is also an excellent location; using all the slops you can get from the house on them. Salt is also highly necessary for their production. He puts half a peck of salt around each tree. In his orchard several years ago, he drove a ten-penny iron spike into each apple tree a short distance from the ground. These spikes are now grown over. He says that the apple tree requires iron. The sap passing by the iron conveys it to all parts. His trees are healthy and bear well. He informs us that by driving an iron

spike into a crabbed or knotty tree will soon alter the appearance of the tree and the foliage will become healthy.

ASHES,

he claims, is the very best fertilizer we can get. Canadians are doing wrong in shipping their ashes. Large quantities of them are sent to New Jersey; there the farmers pay 30 cents per bushel, besides hauling them, and yet Canadians don't save them, but would prefer selling for five cents a bushel. Leached ashes he found to be the very finest fertilizer for the strawberry. He destroys the thrip rose bug, and nearly all other insects, by using the following recipe:—10 lbs of lime, 4 lbs sulphur, 2 lbs. hardwood ashes, put into a barrel of water; draw off, and syringe the lower part of the leaves; be careful not to have it too strong; after the barrel has been drawn off, it may again be half filled with water. Don't put any of the thick substance on or it will destroy the leafy. We commend our readers to test this, and report to us the results.

TO PROPAGATE CUTTINGS.

Grape vines goose-berries and currants can be most easily raised by making the cuttings with two eyes only. Bury one eye in a potato, and leave the other to grow. Plant in this form the upper bud above ground. This gives the cutting moisture and nourishment, and you will raise a greater percentage by this means than by the ordinary method. Try it and report.

Special Contributors.

English Letter.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Liverpool, January 1st, 1884.

The winter of 1882-3 being dull, wet, miserable prevented the sowing of much winter wheat, and the year opened with a heavy cloud hanging over the farming interest. Then there came a spring of exceptional promise, and probably never did the British farmer get in his spring grain with brighter promise. But, alas! for the uncertainty of human, and especially farming, interests. July, at the flowering time, was cold, wet and ungenial, and the result is a general deficiency in yield. In some districts, too, the harvesting time was very bad; and a balance on the wrong side again faces the farmer. On the other hand, the yield of green crops, and feeding stuffs generally, was excellent, and the winter so far has been extremely mild and open, causing the minimum demand on stores of food. The prospects of the dairy and grazing farmers were therefore of the brightest; when, alas! came a virulent outbreak of foot and mouth disease, which from August onwards has spread through the length and breadth of the land, and caused incalculable loss to the already long-suffering farmers. In fact, from one cause or another, British agriculture and farming seems always to be catching it. A good season all round is the rare exception, and general misfortune the rule. In glancing over the agricultural papers I still see reports from all quarters of land going out for cultivation, farmers selling off, and landlords seeking feebly to meet the situation by temporary allowances of percentages from the rents. This

means, of course, an increased flow of capital, and of workers to the new and cheap lands of the Dominion, to increased production there, and to yet keener competition here. This all means that English farmers will have to resort yet more and more to the production of quickly perishable articles, such as fruits, vegetables, fresh milk, new-laid eggs, &c., &c., for which there is an ever-growing demand, as the population increases, and the area under cultivation diminishes.

To Canada we must look more and more every year for our breadstuffs, our beef and mutton, and our horseflesh, as well, of course, as a large proportion of our timber. May we hope that those who direct the affairs of old and of young Britain may take a broad and enlightened view of the situation, and by loosening the shackles of commerce between the two, to the utmost possible extent promote the well-being of two communities between which are the closest ties of any which bind in sympathy two peoples, who are, physically, far asunder.

The cattle trade with the Dominion continues on a satisfactory footing, and the same may be said of sheep. A most gratifying feature of both is the steady improvement in quality, showing that the advice so repeatedly and earnestly given in the columns of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE and other journals throughout the Dominion, is bearing fruit. I am sorry, however, to see what gigantic efforts are being made by interested speculators to introduce the breed of Percheron and Norman horses, both in Canada and the States. Repeated tests here have shown that they are in no degree equal in stamina to the best English breeds; and it would be far better for a society or club of breeders to buy one really good animal at double or even treble the price of one which may be strong enough, but will only propagate inferior stock.

The question of ensilage, or the preservation of green fodder for winter use, is now attracting great attention amongst farmers here. Lord Tollemache, and many others, made experiments last summer on a large scale, and they have almost invariably turned out a great success. No doubt a little green food during the long winter of our latitude is a great desideratum, especially in the case of milking-cows; and more with you than with us, where the deprivation from green food is much longer. The great uncertainty of our seasons here, and the risk of getting the hay in good condition, is another argument in favor of ensilage with us, which does not apply to the like extent with you, but for many reasons those farmers who have facilities should try it. An air and water-tight pit, a tight fitting cover, some heavy weights, and salt in the proportion of about five per cent., mixed with the green stuff as it is pressed into the pit, or "silo," as it is called, are all that is required for efficiently testing the thing.

I understand that the emigration from this country and the continent, to Canada, has been larger during the past year than in any year since 1873; and that the prospects for the ensuing year are of a very encouraging kind. There can be no doubt that the demand for lands throughout Canada and the North west will increase for many years to come.