

Devonshire Notes.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

Exeter, Devonshire, England, Sept. 15.—Happily, this year things have proved more favorable for the English agriculturist, and now that the harvest is over—in Devonshire and other parts of the south, at least—the reports from all sides are most encouraging. In every direction the hay crop is said to have been in splendid condition, although the shear was to a great extent light. The quality, however, was all that could be desired, and for the most part it was well saved. The show of after-grass in the neighborhood of Exeter is very good. The reports as to the yield of wheat, are, as is invariably the case, rather conflicting, but, taken as a whole, the crop has been an average one as regards quantity, and an exceptionally good one in point of quality. Making a rough estimate, the yield has been about thirty bushels per acre, but probably this is giving a full average. There is no doubt that in many parts, although the kerning was good, the plant was thin, and on some poor lands the yield did not amount to much more than fifteen bushels. In other and more favored spots the yield was from forty to forty-five bushels. Around Sidmouth, for instance, wheat came out at the rate of forty bushels per acre, and in the neighborhood of Silverton the yield has in several cases reached forty-five bushels. Barley and oats have also proved very heavy and good crops; the former has been an exceptionally fine crop. In short, the harvest as a whole, has been a remarkably fine one in Devonshire, and the farmers generally are in the best of spirits. New wheat is quoted on the Exeter Corn Exchange at from 5s. 6d. to 6s. per bushel.

The root crop, especially turnips and mangolds, shows an abundant yield; and as for potatoes, they appear this year to be extraordinarily plentiful. Their quality, quantity and size greatly excel last year's crop; and I am glad to report that very little disease has made its appearance. The "Scotch Champions," which have been only lately introduced in this neighborhood, give a most luxuriant burden.

Of course, Devonshire being the land of cider, the greatest concern is at all times manifested for the apple crop, and when that fails it is only natural that grumblers should be heard in the county. I am sorry to report, therefore, that notwithstanding the fine season, the apple crop this year is a poor one as regards quantity, though the quality of the fruit is, as a rule, most excellent. This is doubtless in some measure owing to the fact that the adverse season last year tried the trees very severely. At present, however, they are said to be looking healthy and strong, and with anything like a favorable season next year a good crop may be confidently anticipated. As a rule this year the crop in bulk is said to be not half a one, and in the neighborhood of Exeter the yield is reported to be not much more than a quarter of the average. The scarcity is not confined to Devon, for the same complaints come from other apple-growing districts. Owing to this scarcity many lots of apples, which in an ordinarily good season would have been used for cider-making, have been bought up by speculators and sent off to the London and other large markets. Good fruit has made as much as 9s. per bag, and as a matter of course, when anything like this price can be obtained, it pays the farmer better to sell than to make cider. The stock of cider, already nearly exhausted, will not therefore be greatly replenished this year. Last season apples were scarce, and the fruit poor, and consequently the quality of the cider made was not remarkable. What little is made this year should be of first-class quality, and at the sales which have taken place freely of late, the fruit has fetched good prices. Near this city a few days ago several orchards were sold, and a portion of the crop, where the fruit was specially good, sold at the rate of £2 per hogshead, almost double the value of last year's crop. By the time the cider is made the first cost of the apples will be increased to such an extent that farmers will probably in many cases have to find some substitute for it in general use.

The farmers of this part of England have indeed been favored by Providence this year, for the delightful sunshine that has prevailed for the past three or four months has not only been auspicious for the crops, but for stock also. There is not much fear of the re-appearance of the sheep-rot, which did so much damage a little while ago. Several cases of pleuro-pneumonia are reported in different parts of the country, but these are not due to climatic causes, and energetic means are

being employed to stay the spread of this disease. In regard to pleuro-pneumonia a correspondent writes to a local what is considered here a very important letter. The writer, who is at present on a visit to Exeter, is a regularly trained professional man, having diplomas from London and New York, and has had the advantage of practical experience for many years on a very large cattle station belonging to his father in Australia. He tells us that pleuro-pneumonia has been there fought and vanquished by the practice of inoculating non-diseased cattle with virus taken from a diseased beast. He says also that the meat of cattle slaughtered in the first stage of lung disease is quite fit for food, although of course not quite so good in all respects as other meat.

I think the people of Devonshire must have a sort of mania for attaining excellence in gardening operations. Such pictures as one sees in cottage gardens hereabouts I have met with nowhere else in my travels. The man whose taste does not lead him to cultivate flowers to the height of perfection (and these men seem few and far between, for almost every garden has its dainty flower patch), certainly glories in monstrous cauliflowers, cabbages, &c. One of my most agreeable walks is through the suburbs of Exeter, drinking in the beauty that dwells in these neatly-kept cottage gardens.

SIR,—As your journal contains items of great interest on the general agricultural improvement in all parts of the Dominion, I send you a sketch of the Danish settlement (New Denmark), in this Province.

It is about eight years since the first tree was cut in the Danish settlement. The pioneers numbered thirty-six. Their first impression of the place must have been anything but pleasant; and it is not surprising to learn that for a time they were greatly discouraged. But a few years have wrought a great change. Where eight years ago was unbroken forest are now about three thousand acres of cleared land. Of course there are numerous stumps, but a little time, a stump lifter and a moderate amount of muscle will cause them to disappear. The extent of the settlement may be learned from the fact that the length of the roads running through it in various directions is about thirty miles. The crops on every hand look promising. Each family raises enough for its own use and something to spare. Quite comfortable houses and suitable barns and other buildings are on most of the farms. The people are contented, and are evidently prospering equal to their expectation. The population of the settlement is now five hundred souls. Each year since the first company arrived there has been an addition of their countrymen. Sixty-seven have come already this year, and more are expected. Some who leave home with the intention of settling in New Denmark, are, on their arrival in America, persuaded by Western land agents to go West.

MIRAMICHI, N. B.

SIR,—Upon the back and body of one of my cows are a number of warts, the majority, in size and shape, resemble raisins, but in composition they are really horn. The largest two (size equals a hen's egg) were torn off by other cattle, and the wounds will not heal and give off an offensive odor. There also grew on her back last winter a large cancer or wart (the size equal a teacup), which by times would fumigate the whole stable with its stench. This I cured by feeding sulphur and applying hog's lard, a hint got from the ADVOCATE. Will you please give me the cause and cure of the whole trouble. A. B., New Minas, King's Co., N. S.

[Your cow is troubled with a kind of tumor or cancer warts. It is well to remove as much of the tumor as possible with a knife, and then dress the part every second day with a solution of arsenic. If much smell arises from it then dress twice or three times a week with carbolic acid diluted (one part carbolic acid and thirty parts water). In many cases it is constitutional, but in your case we would not be able to say without seeing the animal.]

SIR,—As an old subscriber to your publication, I have taken the liberty of canvassing, the result being a new subscriber; and as there seems to be no one in this part to represent your paper, I hope you will accept the same as my quota of the regard in which I hold the ADVOCATE as always having done its duty to the farming community at large.

T. R., South Morch.

Flavor of Beef.

We contend that the quality, and especially the flavor of beef, depend on the food furnished the animals, much more than on the breed. We see that a noted French agriculturist, M. Monclar, has proposed, through combinations of food, to give any flavor desired to the flesh of cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry. He instances poultry fattened upon food containing a small admixture of chopped truffles as being very much finer in flavor than those chickens that have been stuffed or larded with truffles after dressing. This, he says, is natural, for the flavor of the truffles eaten by the chicken permeates the whole system, which it cannot do when simply placed in the dressed carcass. He also instances cases in which hares killed in a wormwood field, larks shot in a cabbage field, and eggs laid by hens which had eaten diseased silkworms, had such a nauseous taste that no one could eat them; while ducks and fieldfares which had fed upon sprigs of juniper had a delicious flavor. He fed tame rabbits with the waste of anise-seed in barley and bran, and others with the food slightly flavored with the essence of thyme. In each case he found the flesh of these animals was much finer than when fed in the ordinary way, but has no distinct taste of the juniper or anise-seed. And he comes to the conclusion that cattle and other animals may be fed so as to give different flavors to their flesh, and that these flavors may be produced according to the skill of the feeder.

This Frenchman carries the doctrine to the last extreme; but it is by no means certain that facts may not justify all his assertions. Our points heretofore made lead to the same conclusion. We have all been conversant with many cases of pork taking a peculiar flavor from the food, such as from beech-nuts, acorns and other mast. The pork in these cases is strong and oily when the pigs are killed without change of food; but if put in pen and fed for a few weeks upon corn or barley the mast flavor is gone, and the flavor of corn-fed pork remains. Pork made upon butchers' refuse has a peculiar flavor, and that made upon fish scrap has a disagreeable taste, and must be finished upon grain to change it. The flesh of poultry fed upon grasshoppers is very disagreeable to the taste, and must be finished off upon other food. Waterfowl fed upon fish have a fishy taste; and, in fact, the food of all animals permeates the whole system, and stamps the flesh with whatever quality it possesses to a large degree.

These facts go clearly to show that the art of feeding needs more careful study than has yet been given to it. Skill in combining foods of different qualities enables the feeder to economize everything grown upon the farm, balancing straw with best clover hay; corn fodder with wheat middlings, oil-meal, or other nitrogenous food, etc. And so, likewise, when the animals have been fed and grown upon the most economical plan, the feeder may still further perfect his system by studying the flavoring foods, and testing them in actual practice.

It will probably be found, on careful experiment, that the foods best adapted to flavor the flesh are also those that make the best condimental foods; so that while the feeder is studying those flavoring materials which the animals most relish, he will find also those materials which give the finest flavor to the flesh. This is a field very little explored—one in which experiment may lead to greater profit. It offers an opportunity for skill in experimenting; and the experimental farms in agricultural colleges should be equipped with such skill.—[Ex.]

There is a movement among Toronto capitalists to establish a syndicate with a capital of \$1,000,000 for the purpose of engaging largely in the export cattle trade.

The Ontario Entomological Society held their annual meeting in Hamilton, Sept. 28th, and elected the following officers for the ensuing year: President, Wm. Saunders, London; Vice-President, Rev. C. J. S. Bethune, Port Hope; Sec'y-Treasurer, E. B. Reed, London.

The Electoral Division of Mountain, Manitoba has organized an Agricultural Society, with Robt. Reasor, Esq., Silver Spring, President, and R. L. Preston, of Preston, Sec'y-Treasurer. The Board also contains 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents and a full staff of Directors and Auditors. The Society is open to the Province on payment of the usual membership fee of \$1.