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RURAL NOTES.

AN "International Exhibition of Animals connected with Agriculture" is to be held in Hamburg during the month of July, 1883. It is hardly likely that Canadian breeders will attend it to any extent, unless either the Dominion or Provincial Government, or both, assist in some way, as the distance and expense involved would be so great.

Sundry scoundrels are engaged in the rascally work of adulterating red clover seed with Hungarian grass seed, the mixture selling at from \$5 to \$6 a bushel. Hungarian is worth only about \$1 a bushel, so that the villainous compound is a profitable affair in a money point of view. The scales will quickly detect the fraud, as clover should weigh sixty pounds to the bushel, while Hungarian only goes forty pounds to the bushel.

The largest sale of thoroughbred colts and fillies that has ever taken place on the continent of America was held recently at Gen. W. G. Harding's breeding establishment at Belle Meade, near Nashville, Tennessee. Thirty-seven colts and fillies, sired by Engineer and Great Tom—the stallions at the head of Gen. Harding's stud—realized an aggregate of \$24,105, an average of \$614.48 each. About two thousand persons attended the sale.

The *Guelph Mercury* says:—"The far West doesn't flow with milk and honey for everybody. Mr. George Boulding, of Pilkington, is back again, after a brief experience of the charms of Dakota. He vows that he will stick to Wellington for the balance of his days, as he is convinced that there are worse places in the world than Bethany. He denounces the new country in round terms, and reports that Joseph Betchen, who recently went there, is about to return."

We learn from the *Prairie Farmer* that Jackson Farwell,—brother of the celebrated J. V. Farwell, of Y. M. C. A. and other excellent Chicago fame,—shipped from Glasgow, Scotland, April 20th, fifty-seven head of Polled Angus cattle. Eight are for T. W. Harvey, of Chicago, and the remainder were consigned to J. V. Farwell, for his Iowa farm, and to Anderson & Finlay of Lake Forest, Ill. Verily, there is a "boom" in polled cattle, and ere long horns will be at a discount among bovines.

The action of the Ontario Government in establishing a Bureau of Industries, one of whose main functions will be the collection of crop reports, is worthy of high commendation, and it is to be hoped will meet with hearty co-operation from all who may be asked to aid in making it a success. Timely information as to crop prospects

and results is of great value both to the commercial and farming communities, and will well repay the labour and cost involved in procuring it.

If it had been designed to cast ridicule on the practice of racing, it has been done pretty effectually by a young sprig of French nobility, who has matched himself and horse against a snail. He has wagered that he can ride a horse twenty-five miles before a snail backed by a wealthy man from Burgundy can crawl eight feet on a billiard-table. The snail-man is to have the privilege of "steering and stimulating" his pet with one fresh cabbage leaf sprinkled with powdered sugar. The stake is \$20,000. That will be a valuable snail if he wins, and a dear one if he loses.

An exchange gives the following account of the recent demise of a Shorthorn "Grand Duke":—

"The grand old 23rd Duke of Airdrie (41350) died on the 31st of March, of paralysis, at 'Crystal Spring Farm,' Delaware, Ohio. He was red, calved Nov. 12, 1871, bred by A. J. Alexander, of Woodford, Ky., who sold him, when about one year old, to Mr. Sanborn, of Port Huron, Mich., for the sum of \$3,000. Mr. Sanborn soon after sold him to Messrs. Avery & Murphy, of Detroit, Mich., by whom, at the dispersion of their herd in 1875 at Chicago, he was again purchased by Mr. Sanborn for the sum of \$9,600, and soon after re-sold to Messrs. Avery and Murphy, who have since had him in constant use, until at their final sale, in May, 1881, his late owner purchased him at \$1,050, thinking him a great bargain at that. He leaves ten calves, born and in prospect, begotten since that date."

If you wish to drive away flies, buy an ounce of oil of lavender and pour half of it into a pint bottle of cold water, and shake it up; the mixture is a medicinal one only, if dissolved in alcohol it is a perfect solution; but this becomes more expensive. Scatter your water and oil of lavender on the table-cloth and the flies will go away. Three or four doses suffices to drive away a pest of flies from a country boarding-house table. The time for flies is now nearly upon us, and if our readers will have this simple remedy in readiness it will save them a great deal of trouble.

Turf, Field, and Farm has the following paragraph concerning sales of trotting stock to Canada:

"Mr. A. B. Post, Gosben, N. Y., has made another shipment of trotting-bred stock to Canada. The last sales reported are as follows: Bay stallion Ridgewood, 1871, by Ryedyk's Hambletonian, dam the Hoo Mare, by Wilson's Sir Henry; 2nd dam by American Eclipse, 3rd dam by Red Bird (son of Bishop's Hambletonian). Hart's Messenger, bay stallion, by Seneca Chief, dam Lady Jordan by Lattourette's Bellfounder, 2nd dam by Walden Messenger, &c., and a chestnut Kentucky-bred horse, trotter, said to be very fast. The purchaser is Mr. J. H. Dulmage, of Wingham, Canada. No figures quoted, but it is understood that a round sum was realized. A number of finely bred horses have been shipped to the Canadian Provinces within the past few years, the majority of which have been placed in the stud. It remains now to be seen whether the climate is as well adapted to the breeding of trotters as the milder climate of the States whence the progenitors have come. The breeding of thoroughbreds in the Canadian Dominion from stock raised in the United States has so far resulted only in a partial success."

In view of the following advertisement which appears in the *Globe*, we must now keep a sharp

look out for adulterations of Canadian confectionery and honey:—

"Glucose! Glucose! Glucose!—The Edwardsburg Starch Company now offer to the Trade the finest quality of Glucose, equal to any imported. Canada Grape Sugar Works, Cardinal, Ont. Office—Montreal."

Long before there was any need to do so, many of our people hesitated to buy extracted honey lest it might be mixed with glucose. The public should know that it is not at apiaries, but in city factories, that this adulteration is done. Our bee-keepers are alive to the mischief, and will brand their honey so as to guarantee it against vile admixture. Let honey buyers purchase only of known and responsible bee-keepers, and they will be all right.

The lovers of choice flowers weep over the demise of the genial seedsman and florist, James Vick, of Rochester, N. Y. He has departed this life at the age of 68. No man had a wider circle of friends who wished for him a ripe and sweet old age, for his customers, whom he numbered by the million, were all of them his friends. His honourable, kindly way of doing business endeared him to every one who dealt with him. An editorial notice of a visit to his place appeared in No. 2 of the *RURAL CANADIAN*. The following brief particulars of his career will be interesting to our readers:—

"James Vick was born in Portsmouth, England; was a playmate of Dickens, came to this country in 1833, and set type with Groody on the *Knickerbocker*; was a long time secretary of the American Pomological Society, a member of the Royal Horticultural Society of England, and went into the seed business in 1860. He was one of the most charitable of men. It is reported his gifts averaged over \$10,000 a year. During the Kansas grasshopper plague, nine years ago, he sent \$25,000 worth of seeds to the sufferers, and last year he sent \$10,000 or \$15,000 worth to the Michigan sufferers."

PROBABLY as near an approach to a just estimate of ensilage as we are likely to get from so competent an authority, is the following, by the veteran agriculturist George Geddes, which appeared in a recent number of the *N. Y. Tribune*:

"Silos have been introduced with such exaggerations of their good qualities, that many men are going into the extreme of discrediting everything said in their favour. But in the end it will probably be found that they have their uses. Fresh, juicy food is good to feed to cattle in the winter along with the dry fodder usually fed. But all their food should not be so watery. One meal a day of succulent food is, perhaps, enough. Roots are used just because they are valuable to feed in connection with dry hay, corn stalks, and straw, but they cost too much, and are of too great uncertainty as a crop. May not the plan of preserving green food in silos meet this point? I have no idea that the nutritious value of an acre of corn is any way increased by ensilage. Fifty bushels of corn that will weigh 3,000 pounds when ground into meal (no cobs included) and 4,000 pounds of well-cured stalks will go further in wintering farm stock than any other product of an acre of land, produced at anywhere near the same cost, that I have seen. But cattle love a variety and some change in their food. Once a day some crop that has been preserved in a condition very nearly as it was when first cut, is very much liked by cattle, and cows give milk freely when they have such food mixed with the usual dry fodder. Their object may be secured by the silo, and I venture to suggest that this will be its best use."