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RURAL NOTES.

A FEW buckets of water in a dry season will add a year's growth to a small tree. Better carry a bucket of water than buy a new tree.

YOU want something real *substantial* in the winter squash lime? Then Hubbard, Marblehead, or Butnam will fill the bill. Either of the three is good, and the Hubbard, old as it is, will not be crowded out of public favour by the squash generation.

A MULCH of clean straw should be given to the strawberry vines when the fruit is about to ripen, so as to prevent the soiling of the fruit by rain. Straw is much better for the purpose than grass, as the latter mildews and imparts a bad flavour to the fruit.

FARMERS have on hand a large surplus of last year's crop of hay, and prices are so low that very few have any temptation to sell. There are indeed but few places in the country where hay can be grown and sold at a profit. Far better to feed it to some animal on the farm.

WE are in receipt of No. 2, vol. 1 of the *American Sheep-Breeder*, a neat, profusely illustrated monthly magazine, published at Chicago by the C. S. Baird Publishing Co., 48 pp., \$1.50 per annum. It should have a wide circulation. We shall be glad to exchange."

POTASH is an excellent fertilizer for the grape-vine. Fork in around the roots a few pecks of wood-ashes. Cow-dung contains a large proportion of potash and but a comparatively small amount of nitrogen, consequently it is a better fertilizer than horse manure for the grape-vine.

THE simplest and best remedy for the cabbage-worm is said to be to sprinkle air-slacked lime on the plants in the morning, on the dew, till the plants are white with it. One who has tried it for several years says that, at most, two applications are sufficient. The lime is also a good fertilizer for the cabbage.

THOSE who give time, money and care to the breeding and feeding of scrub stock are, says an experienced breeder, beaten from the start. The same feed and care bestowed upon fine stock would yield a profit. But few men

obtain riches or reputation as stock men, but there is a chance for both to the careful farmer.

EVERY farmer's garden should have strawberries, currants, raspberries, etc. All these may be planted in rows and cultivated with the horse; and the expense is nothing compared to the luxury they afford. Farmers eat too much salt meat and other coarse food. They should raise and eat more fruit.

STABLE manure undoubtedly answers the demands of the soil in fruit culture better than any annual application of a single special fertilizer, but still it should not be forgotten that an occasional application of potash in some form may be necessary. Muriate of potash is a good application now and then.

IT is found that the seeds of beets, turnips, etc., come up more quickly and regularly when rolled into the ground. This is especially the case when the soil is dry, as then moisture must be preserved about the seed to insure germination. Turnip ground should be well ploughed and cultivated, so that the seed-bed may be a fine mould, otherwise a good crop cannot be hoped for.

A GOOD many growers of cabbages and cauliflowers think they would sooner fight the cabbage worm than the little fly which destroys the plants when they are first set out. We have proved to our own satisfaction that if the plants be shaded on the south and east side with shingles the fly will never touch them, and they will grow strong and healthy. The shingles should be kept on till the plants have attained a good size.

WHAT does it cost to grow an acre of wheat? Here is one estimate, and we would be glad to have readers of THE RURAL CANADIAN give their opinion of its accuracy. Two ploughings, \$6, manuring, \$2, seed, \$2; drilling, rolling, and finishing, \$2, harvesting, threshing, and marketing, \$3, rent of land, \$3. Total, \$18. At these figures, and wheat at \$1 per bushel, there is no profit in growing wheat if the yield be less than twenty bushels per acre.

AN American exchange has this good word to say for pork production in Canada. "The flesh of hogs fattened in Canada contains a larger proportion of lean meat, because barley

and peas are mainly fed to produce it. These are nitrogenous rather than starchy foods, and hogs fed on these grains are less liable to disease than are those fed exclusively on corn." This is true. Hog cholera, for instance, is hardly ever heard of in Canada, and we believe never outside of the large corn-growing region of Essex county.

A SUCCESSFUL fruit-grower has great faith in pruning trees or thinning fruit for the equalizing of crop. His theory is that a large crop one year weakens the vitality of the tree, and that a season of rest is necessary for it to recuperate. To thin the fruit so that the tree may not lose its vigour, will generally ensure a fair crop annually; but pruning is easier work, and for that reason it is the plan most likely to be followed by the average cultivator. A fair crop every year is certainly a desirable thing to be attained.

THE dairying business demands cleanliness for very decency's sake; yet how rare it is to get a supply of milk from dealers in which there is not a fair quota of the proverbial peck of dirt. A few hints under this head will do no harm to the general farmer as well as the dairy farmer. (1) Arrange the stable so that cows cannot lie in filth. (2) Use a card and brush to keep the cows' skins clean. (3) The milker to be at least as clean as the cows. (4) The cows to be milked in a clean place, in the open air or under cover. (5) A clean and pure place for setting milk. If these hints are observed, the consumers of milk and dairy products will be much better satisfied than they often are.

EXPERIMENTS tried last year in pasturing clover fields until the 15th of June, and then allowing the crop to grow for seed, gave very satisfactory results. The brood of the clover midge, which usually destroys the seed, is hatched out about the 15th of August; but in the case of the experiments referred to, the seed was so far matured by the date of their appearance that no harm was done to it. A plan that does equally well is, to take off an early crop for soiling—and we are not sure but that on the whole this would be found more satisfactory than pasturing the field. In any case it is very desirable that the old system of taking off a first full crop should be discontinued by all who undertake to grow clover for seed, for so long as it is continued it will be impossible to get rid of the midge.