

navigation. At this village there are plenty of stores and good hotels. A stage leaves Bracebridge three times weekly, by which persons in search of land can reach any of the Free Grant townships now open for location. The Crown Lands Agent for the District resides in Brackbridge. This gentleman will supply lists of the unlocated lots in each township.

In conclusion, I hope that the few plain facts I have laid before the readers of the ADVOCATE may be of some service, and that particulars of the district which I have adopted as my home may result in leading some families to settle on a Free Grant lot in Muskoka. I may say that I shall at all times be pleased to answer any inquiries through the ADVOCATE, or otherwise, providing a stamp is enclosed for reply.

JAMES ASPDIN, Aspdin P. O., Muskoka, Ont. March 12th, 1877.

Poultry Raising.

DEAR SIR,—According to promise, I now give you a short account of my experience in poultry raising.

I have been for the last fifteen years trying to find out which is the best fowls, and the most profitable for a farmer to raise. I have tried some four or five different breeds, viz.:—The Black Spanish, which I found excellent layers in summer, but very tender, and, unless kept in a warm place, no winter eggs to be got from them, the very time we enjoy such a luxury. The White Leghorn are very similar. The Game is a fine fowl, both to look at and on the table, but I found them so given to fighting that sometimes before well out of the shell they were at it.

I imported, some four or five years ago, from Mr. Loyd's stock of Brahmas, "Coldstream Poultry Yards," Baltimore, U. S., one pair light and one pair dark Brahmas, and I find it the best investment I ever made, as I never want eggs in winter now; I have not been a fortnight without plenty of fresh eggs since I got them. I prefer the Light to the Dark, and some of our leading breeders with whom I have been conversing say the same. In speaking of the Light Brahmas the editor of the *Poultry Chronicle* says:—"It should be a large, weighty fowl, of a free, majestic bearing, alike removed from the waddle of the Cochin China and the upright carriage of the Malay; short in the leg and neck, wide and full in the breast, and wide and deep in make; legs yellow and well feathered; tail short, but otherwise full in size and spread, that of the cock opening into a fan; comb small, and it may be divided and separated almost like three combs, or nearly united into one, but its triple form is always evident." He sums up by saying, what are they then? They are Brahma Pootras, large, heavy birds, symmetrical, prolific, good layers in winter, and hardy, living where Cochins would starve. I showed a pair of L. Brahma Cockerels, dressed ready for table, at our Guelph Xmas poultry show, weighing 18 lbs. A cross between the Brahma and B. Spanish makes an excellent layer and gives hardiness, which the Spanish has not got. They are certainly the most profitable fowls for a farmer that I have yet met, and do not eat more than other fowls; and when the grain comes off will wander in search of food all over the farm.

In speaking to Mr. Thomas and Mr. Butterfield at our show here recently, they both recommended the Light Brahmas as being the best and hardiest fowl for a farmer's use.

I see the Plymouth Rocks are highly spoken of by those who have tried them, and I believe are good layers; but I intend to stick principally to Light Brahmas, as being far ahead of anything I have yet tried.

We had one of the finest shows ever held in Canada here recently, and I am only sorry to see my brother farmers patronize it so poorly. They stand in their own light, as nothing pays better than poultry when properly attended to. I sold some \$50 worth of poultry last year besides 100 dozen eggs, and had all we wanted for our own use in a family of twelve, and started in spring with some thirty hens, principally of the L. Brahma breed.

I might give you a description of our show here, but as I have no doubt you have got full accounts elsewhere I will not trouble you; suffice it to say there were over 1,000 entries—41 pairs of geese and turkeys exhibited alone, some of the turkeys weighing over 40 lbs.

I hope you will try and encourage the farmers, at any rate the farmers' wives and daughters, to

take a greater interest in poultry, as well-bred poultry, I am convinced, pays as well in proportion as well-bred stock. I think we ought to offer more prizes at our Central and Provincial Shows for "farmers' fowls only," as it is almost impossible for them to compete with such breeders as Messrs. Thomas, Butterfield, Allen, Sturdy, Bogue, &c., and if they once took an interest in competing with each other you would soon see as good breeds shown by farmers as by professionals.

I would suggest that a class ought to be made at our Provincial Show at least for a few of our leading poultry breeders "for farmers only." I hope some of our leading poultry men will take this matter up. I hope some others will give their experience in your valuable journal soon again.

Springfield Farm, 13th March, 1877. J. A.

[We entirely agree with the suggestion of our correspondent. There should be special prizes for farmers' poultry. And for the professionals proper precautions should be taken that the prizes be for poultry bred and actually owned by the exhibitors, not bought for the occasion, or borrowed, as it is said has been done at former Exhibitions.—Ed.]

SIR,—The ADVOCATE for March has just reached me, and I am sorry to find you have lost a subscriber, merely because you stated the truth respecting the Red Chaff wheat. A farmer in this township told me he tried it, and although it yielded well, yet it makes bad flour. The grain dealers, I believe, generally ship it off to England, when it lowers the standard of wheat in the English market, and, consequently, dealers should refuse to buy it even when mixed with other wheat, except at a reduction of 20 cents per bushel. I am sorry to find that so many of our farmers after having robbed their farms of its fertility by repeated cropping with wheat, and selling their wheat at good prices, are so stingy that instead of using their profits in underdraining their farms, wherever necessary, purchasing artificial manures, making home comfortable, and educating their children properly, prefer to deposit their money in the banks, so that if a panic is imminent they will make a rush to draw it out, and so make bad matters worse. In a legal point of view a man has a right to do what he will with his own; but no man has any moral right to use his property in such a manner as to injure the community. The hard times for this Province have only just begun, and must become worse yet before business can be again settled on a sure foundation. Whenever the weakest bank in the Province fails, a panic is sure to set in, and those stingy, narrow-minded farmers I have alluded to, will immediately make a rush on the banks, to withdraw their funds. In the *Daily Globe* of the 24th ult., I noticed a detailed statement of the liabilities and assets of all the banks in the country, and on looking over it I found that the amount of specie and Dominion notes put together held by some of them was not equal to the amount of notes in circulation, and deposits, payable on demand, for which they are liable; consequently, when a panic does come, they would soon have to suspend specie payments, although many of them appear to have abundance of assets, and only require time to utilize them; but this would involve a general panic similar to that in 1866, but even worse, as we have now more banks and many more stores than existed then. Although all classes seem to be possessed with such a rage for gambling and fast living, that the Province must be reduced to the verge of bankruptcy before they can be induced to economize. I have noticed your remarks concerning the wheat supply from India. A supply of cheap wheat is an absolute necessity for England, and from no other country can such a cheap supply be obtained. Considering the disorganized condition of the laboring classes in England, even amongst agricultural laborers, dear bread will be the signal for a social revolution and consequent anarchy for a time, and consequently the English Government will make every exertion to stave off such a calamity as long as possible, but a few years may elapse first, and till then a good market will be found in the United Kingdom for all the butcher meat, alive or dead, and horses that we can export. As you have observed, we must look more for a market at home, and in other foreign countries, than we have hitherto done. In conclusion, I would only observe that those who may this season experiment on different kinds of wheat should never sow two varieties in one field as they would be sure to hybridize, so that the crop can not well be pure. SARAWAK.

[Thanks for your communication. We will be pleased to hear you at any time, and your letters

shall receive due attention. In the article on lime in the last number there was an unintentional omission. To spread the lime evenly on the ground, it was first wheeled out in heaps, and then spread evenly with a shovel. This was necessary in order to spread the fifty bushels evenly over half an acre.

We fully agree with your remarks as to the wrong done by farmers in hoarding the profits from their farms instead of investing them in needed improvements on their lands. Money expended judiciously on the farm is placed in the safest as well as the most profitable bank. The increased value of the land amounts to far more than bank interest, and it is there a deposit that cannot be affected by any panic. Still we do not think that deposits in our banks are unsafe; if there be at any time a loss, it will be to the stockholders, not to depositors; nor do we think the prospect in the Province quite so gloomy.

Concerning the condition of the laboring classes in England we have no fear for the future. England has passed in safety and triumph through many storms. Powerful enemies without, and false friends within the camp, have been powerless to shake her throne as Ruler of the Nations, and we have no doubt that she will maintain her proud position.

The hybridizing of wheat is at any time attended with such difficulty that there need be no dread of casual occurrence from two or more varieties being sown in the same field. Even when seed is sown, as it frequently is, the varieties grow quite distinct, and the distinction in the sheaf and bin is apparent to any one.—Ed.]

Apple-Tree Borers—Western Corn Gypsum.

SIR,—As a farmer I find every No. of the ADVOCATE instructive and interesting, although I do not spend much time on "Minnie May's Department;" the boys and girls attend to that part of the paper with much amusement and delight. So much of the contents being written by practical farmers, makes it, in my opinion, of so much the more value to us as a class, than it would be if filled up with long learned disquisitions by professors of agricultural chemistry, &c., from the best schools on the continent.

I cannot admire the letter of A. C. I do not see how he will mend the matter by "stopping the paper," unless he can stop the whole future issues of the ADVOCATE; the farmers of Canada need such a paper—one that will tell the truth independently of private interests, and while the ADVOCATE is conducted on such honorable principles it cannot but succeed, for be it remembered the farmers of Canada are the bone and sinews of the Dominion.

The Red Fern wheat has been tried by me, and others near, and appears to be the leading variety since the Fife wheat has failed; it makes good flour and a very good yield.

"Hints to Dairymen, by J. Seabury," are among the best I have ever read on the subject, and should be read by every cheesemaker in Ontario. As a farmer I feel much interested in the production of butter and cheese as the only stronghold for many of the farmers in the old grain-worn lands; my farm is one of them, therefore, for the last two years, I have encouraged cheese factories, to the best of my ability, as more remunerative than raising grain, and even now I am not satisfied with cheese factories alone, but am trying to get butter factories united with cheese factories, wherever around me sufficient water can be found to make a good article of both.

When at the Centennial in Oct. (where every intelligent farmer of Ont. should have gone), my comrade and myself formed an acquaintance with a gentleman from Little Valley, Cattaraugus County, N. Y., who had much experience in butter and cheese making, and who proposed to come to Ont. and conduct a factory on the system adopted there. He is here now, and has contracted to conduct a "Creamery," as he calls it, on the system for which he and his partner, Mr. Larabee, have a U. S. patent.

If success attend our efforts in that line, several other creameries will be put in operation next year in the Old Leeds Co., Ont.

Your correspondent W. K., speaks highly of gypsum. I have proved it on light soils to be an excellent dressing for meadows, especially if clover has been sown and failed, it will restore clover. I have mixed it with unleached ashes, equal parts,