

From the United States.

[BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Washington, D. C., May 17, 1880.

The reports just received at the Agricultural Department from all parts of the U. S. state there is less disease of stock prevalent in many localities.

We are having quite an "oleomargarine" war in the U. S. just now. Scientists, legislators, farmers, dairymen and people who have some respect for their palates, their pockets and their stomachs, are investigating this fraudulent cow-grease. One million pounds, it is estimated, have been made and sold to the deluded public for butter within the past year. What kind of diseased animal fats are used for making these counterfeited prints of the dairy, not even science has yet been able to tell us. The nauseated public, and the indignant farmer who must compete with the remodeled and regenerated scraps of fat by selling his genuine product of the dairy by the same name, at the same price, will soon demand a stringent law by Congress aimed at oleomargarine and its making. In consequence of this agitation of the butter question, it has been suggested by an experimental agriculturist that it would pay to introduce and cultivate in green or hgt-houses in this country the "Butter-tree," discovered in Central Africa by Mungo Park. He alleges, from personal observation and experiments, that this remarkable plant yields from its kernels, by pressure, a white, fine, rich butter, which even in that climate will keep well for a year without salt. Although the gentleman is not an illusionist, nor a Col. Mulberry Sellers—who saw millions in every new enterprise, from a steamboat on the Mississippi River to eye-water in Asia—he intends to extend his experiments with the large tropical trees, such as the "Phulnorse-tree," of India; the "Illupic," of Coromandic; the "Madhuca," of Bengal, and the milk-giving "Cow-tree," of South America. As Julius Caesar, when he invaded Britain, found the people to be good butter-makers, but instructed them in the art of making cheese, so this modern experimentalist may teach us something about milk we never knew.

The Commissioner of Agriculture, Gen. Le Duc, in answer to a Resolution of the U. S. Senate, has just transmitted to that body a full and complete report on the manufacture of syrup and sugar from sorghum, Chinese and other sugar canes, the cost, machinery, etc., etc. He reports that the introduction and wide spread distribution of the "Minnesota Early Amber" by his Department has resulted in the extensive cultivation of that sugar cane in the U. S.; that for the northern part of the U. S. (and Canada) there is probably no cane so suitable as the early amber, and that no other of the several varieties cultivated in the U. S. will yield north of Chicago. He states in the report that the juices of the early amber granulated more readily, it is earlier than the other varieties, ripening its seed in 90 to 100 days, and yields bountifully a syrup of excellent quality, and in many cases good sugar has been produced. The Chinese cane ripens two weeks later than the early amber, and the Honduras and Liberian five weeks later than the Chinese. It is shown that after this amber had been subjected to a very heavy frost, sufficient to freeze water $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick, in which condition it remained for four days, no injury was done to the quality of the cane. It is stated, however, that the cane should be speedily worked up after freezing and before it has time to thaw. The cost of machinery, which is very simple, to work up the product of ten to fifty acres of sugar cane of two or three neighboring farmers will be from \$150 to \$300. When the cultivation of the sugar cane becomes more extensive

he suggests that mills will be erected, just as flouring or grist mills are now built, where the sugar will be made for a toll. Until such time he considers that there is more profit to farmers in the making of the syrup alone. The entire cost per gallon, in the west the past season, in which estimate is included breaking of land and cultivation, and everything necessary to production of syrup, is 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents average (13 lbs. to gallon). This should give 6 to 8 lbs. of sugar to gallon, which by the use of centrifugal would cost one cent per lb. to produce.

The report is copious, and in order that those entering on this industry may know what is practically attainable, even with common appliances, gives data and instructions for the selection and preparation of the soil, down to and through the whole process of manufacturing, with description and illustration of machinery.

A large box containing pressed samples of the herbs and plants of Great Britain, arranged in large books, has been received at the Agricultural Department, from the famous Kew gardens of England, and they are just being unpacked and arranged by the Department Botanist.

The U. S. Consul at Port Louis, in the Island of Mauritius, in a recent despatch to the Department of State, reports that the cattle plague, which was so long malignant and fatal in that island, is subsiding. The deaths are now principally cows in stalls. Since the first appearance of the disease 28,615 head of cattle have died, besides 524 deer and 19 goats. The working cattle on estates seem to almost entirely escape the plague. There were 2,927 cattle of all kinds imported into Mauritius during the last quarter of 1879. This island, it will be remembered, is the scene of the beautiful story of "Paul and Virginia."

The race at the National Fair Grounds this week has brought here more fast horses than have ever before assembled upon any occasion of the kind in this country. There are at least two hundred on hand, and no less than fifteen starters will be in the race. All the leading stables of the east, west and south are represented. There are some of the prettiest flyers ever seen here, but those which attract most attention are the noted racers of Belmont and Lorillard, of N. Y.

LOTUS.

A horse with weak digestion should be fed four times a day, with but a small quantity of bulky food, and should not be watered until two hours after eating.

To keep bugs off melon and squash vines, plant a tomato plant in each hill. By doing this the bugs did not bother them at all; while across the fence, where there were no tomatoes, they were all killed by the bugs.

Few know how easy it is to propagate most shrubs by root cuttings. Roots the size of a penholder are the best. Cut these into pieces an inch long, and plant them about an inch deep in a cold frame, and they will be six inches high and ready to plant by the time the garden plat is ready.

In cultivating roses faded flowers should always be removed, since this checks the tendency to produce seeds and encourages new growth and fresh bloom. This is particularly necessary in the case of the hybrid perpetual roses, some of which do not bloom as often as desirable unless all the conditions are favorable.

The clematis is one of the most beautiful and hardy climbers we have. They thrive in almost any situation, are perfectly hardy, and produce masses of beautiful flowers and foliage. Their large star-shaped flowers mingled with their bright green foliage, trailing over trellises, produce a very beautiful sight.

Cabbage, containing as it does a large per cent. of phosphoric acid, makes one of the most valuable kinds of food for young pigs, calves, chickens, etc. All young animals requires a bountiful supply of phosphatic food to make bone and muscle. Young clover is next in value to cabbage.

The Western Fair Grounds.

Every farmer and mechanic in Ontario that has visited the Provincial Exhibition when held in the City of London has admired the admirable location of the grounds, their convenience to railway and hotel accommodation, the porous nature of the soil and the running water. To these advantages the success of the Western Fair, and the large receipts of the Provincial Association when the Exhibition has been held in that city, are partially due. A few interested citizens have for years attempted to drive the farmers from these grounds by continued annoyances and neglect, by allowing the buildings to become dilapidated and preventing the farmers from improving them. They have harrassed the farmers by taking votes of the citizens and cramming them with erroneous impressions through the daily papers; they have not given fairly the farmers' side of the question. During the past month a catch vote of the city has been taken, just when the farmers are too busy seeding to attend to anything else. Tenants have been allowed and induced to vote; land-owners or tenants have been allowed to vote in every ward where they held property or paid taxes. Thus some have voted seven times. Interested men, employing horses, worked hard, and despite the silence of the farmers, only 92 majority was obtained. This majority was aided by a trap set in this manner: Every voter had the privilege of voting whether the grounds should go north, west or east of the city; thus a rivalry existed to have them moved to localities in which certain parties might be most interested. If the question had been fairly before the citizens, we feel satisfied that by far the greatest number would vote for the retention of the grounds.

As the farmers have a very strong hold on the London Exhibition Grounds, we do not think they will be induced to part with their rights, especially as they consider the citizens have not acted honorably towards them in this matter at the present time or on previous occasions. It is our impression that the moving of the site for the Exhibitions would tend to their injury and to the injury of the city. But it too often happens that what is everybody's business is nobody's business; and when ever there is property of value to be manipulated, or money can be obtained, those expecting to profit can agitate and too often carry measures that are to the injury of the public. The farmers and their properties are the food on which all the voracious office-seekers prey. It is time that we should try and protect ourselves from the enormous drains that are made on our pockets and on our properties. We trust that the farmers will show themselves equal to this emergency. We believe they have right and might on their side, should it be necessary to take legal steps to check the spoilation of the finest Agricultural Exhibition Grounds in Canada, and on which the finest Provincial and most successful County Exhibitions have been held.

So hurriedly was this By-law passed that farmers did not heed what was being done until the vote was taken. As the city papers were filled with arguments for the sale tending to mislead voters, we felt it our duty to attempt to defend farmers' rights, but could only with great difficulty obtain a very small space in the city papers. We, therefore, on the eve of the voting issued 6,000 supplements and sent boys to deliver one in each house, showing the farmers' rights. This had the effect of reducing the majority to some extent. We have also caused a petition to be sent to the City Council to stay proceedings. We have strong grounds for still hoping the land may yet remain unsold. We know that every well-wisher to the Exhibition and to the farmers' interests will coincide with us. If citizens and farmers act fearlessly and honorably, and despise bribery and deception, the grounds will be retained and converted into a park and exhibition grounds combined.