the average price received this year for choice Pears was not less than eleven dollars per barrel.

Upon the subject of Grapes, it seemed to be the general opinion that the varieties best suited to Western New-York were the Hartford Prolific, Concord, Delaware and Diana. There were localities where the Isabella and Catawba would ripen, but they too often failed. An interesting statement was made in this connection, by an extensive grape-grower, to the effect that the juice of the Isabella grape, when the berries are perfectly ripe, stands from 70 to 75 degrees on the Saccharometer, the instrument used for showing the quantity of saccharine or sugary matter in the juice. Tested by this standard but very few of the Isabella grapes brought to our markets would be found to be ripe; and it is very doubtful whether this variety thus *ripens* in any part of Canada except the most favoured localities. The profits of growing grapes for market were stated by those best acquainted with the subject to be from $300 to $400 per acre. That the cost of cultivating and picking an acre was from $40 to $50, and the yield from 8,000 to 10,000 pounds of fruit. One gentleman stated that he had a vineyard of seven acres, which since the fourth year from planting, had yielded him $2,500 per annum, after deducting freight and commissions for selling.

The hour for adjournment arrived too soon to allow of a full discussion of the varieties of Winter Apples most profitable for market, and the meeting was obliged to content itself with taking a vote. Only twelve members voted. The Baldwin and King of Tompkins County received each twelve votes, the R. I. Greening and Roxbury Russet eleven votes, the Golden Russet six, and the Northern Spy five.

Report of the U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture. This is a very readable pamphlet of 13 pp. octavo, containing a succinct account of the doings of the Agricultural Department of the U. S. Government for the year just closed. Notwithstanding the war pressure upon the finances of the country, the American Congress made two appropriations during the year for agricultural purposes, amounting in all to the handsome sum of $115,000. The Commissioner asks for an increased appropriation for the next fiscal year, and, no doubt, will get it, as the U. S. Government, aware of the vital nature of the interests of agriculture, seems determined to foster them even in troublous times." The labours and expenditures of the department have been mainly in the following directions: The collection and publication of statistics in which there have been issued 23,000 circulars of inquiry, and 70,000 monthly reports; preparation and dissemination of meteorological reports; correspondence with agricultural societies and farmers' clubs; purchase and distribution of choice seeds, of which no fewer than 1,200,000 packages have been spread over the country; the maintenance of a propagating and experimental garden, from which there have been sent forth 25,750 articles, such as vines, bulbs, cuttings, and plants; and finally, the prosecution of minute and careful researches in entomology chiefly with a view to ascertaining the best modes of extirpating insects injurious to vegetation.

Congress made a special appropriation of $20,000 for investigations to test the practicability of cultivating and preparing flax and hemp as substitutes for cotton. Beyond the appointment of a competent commission of inquiry, nothing has been done by the department in this matter. The commission has, however, issued circulars of inquiry very extensively, and a report is in course of preparation, based on the replies received. We shall watch with much interest for the appearance of this report, and give our readers the substance of it, as no doubt much of it will be equally appropriate to Canada as to the United States.

A One-Horse Snow Plough.—Much inconvenience is felt in winter for want of paths through the deep snow. Access of strangers to the front door, excursions of the family to the well, wood-pile, barn, cattle, pig and poultry-yards, are alike impeded whenever a heavy snow-fall occurs. To dig the needed paths by hand is a tedious and fatiguing process. A correspondent of the *Agriculturist* suggests the following expedient, which seems simple and practicable enough, so much so, as to excite surprise that it should be a novel device:—

"I took two pieces of inch-and-a-half plank, about two-and-a-half feet long, and ten inches wide. I bevelled one end of each so that when stood on edge and nailed together they presented the appearance of the letter V, flaring from a point at the junction towards the other extremity of the affair, so as to give an opening of about two feet. I then nailed a covering, making a platform. I had the under edges shod with old wagon tire, welded at the point, and turned up about the thickness of the iron. One-third of the way backward from the point I fastened the extremities of an iron rod bent into pretty much the shape of a bucket handle, in the centre of which rod is a stationary ring for securing a whiffletree.

"Such is the *machine*. If the ground is all covered with snow to-morrow, I need only hook a horse to it, mount the platform, and go ahead, opening a clean path to the ground. The permanent investment amounts to a mere trifle. Th advantages are great. Fifteen minutes are enough to make all the paths required on any ordinary premises, and the labor is not worth naming. If one such implement were kept in a village, everybody's paths could be made clear to the store, post-office, school-house, and church, through all ordinary snows, without backaches or pocket-aches; and depend upon it, if the thing once becomes an experiment, it will soon pass into an institution, both of the farm and of the neighborhood."

Veterinary Department.

There is an old saying and a true one—that "like begets like." This is exemplified in the human being. The child frequently inherits the distinguishing characteristics of the parent, whether it be in the expression of the countenance, in the outline of form, or in the peculiarity of manner and temperament. We find that the same natural law operates also among the lower animals. Thus diseases of a certain type prevail in one country, or in one district—and why? Simply because the young stock inherits the natural predisposition to that class of diseases, and circumstances present a ready application of the exciting causes. By way of illustration, we may refer to those diseases of the osseous system of the horse prevalent in this country, and which are decidedly hereditary. There is ringbone, for example- a bony enlargement situated upon the lower part of the large pastern bone, and upper extremity of the small pastern bone. It consists of inflammation being set up in the fibrous membrane covering the bone, exudation takes place, deposition of ossific matter is formed around the joint, this becomes ossified and receives the name of ringbone. Ringbone occurs on either a fore or hind leg, but is most commonly seen on the latter, and generally causes lameness when the process of ossification is going on. The treatment of ringbone in general is very unsatisfactory. In many cases it is incurable. Without now entering into the treatment of this disease, we may take the opportunity of stating that the measures often resorted to in this country for the cure of ringbone, in many cases, are far too severe, and instead of being beneficial, only tend to aggravate the disease. In many parts of the country a notion prevails that ringbone grows from what is called a bladder, which is supposed to be situated under the pastern joint, and a needless operation is performed for the purpose of removing this feeder. The skin is cut through and some of the cellular tissue removed, and this is regarded as the bag from which the ringbone springs. In some cases this useless and uncalled for operation may not do much harm; in others, however, it leads to serious results. That ringbone is hereditary may be proved by the experience many farmers have had amongst their own stock. During the past two years, we have been particular in making enquiries on this subject about the cases coming under our notice, and we find it is notoriously hereditary. It may not always be found that the sire or dam were ringboned, if not, probably the grandsire or grandam were so affected. The exciting cause of ringbone is usually hard work; but by far the greater number of cases are but the fruits of the seed sown, and prove that "like begets like." Mr. Percival, one of the ablest writers on veterinary medicine, says:—"Bone diseases are often hereditary. I have known the progeny of lame horses very much disposed to spavin, and others inherit a tendency to ringbones, splints, &c." At one time ringbone was not uncommon in Britain, but few cases of it are now met with, compared with the number that attracted attention in times past, simply because few breeders of horses now-a-days will breed either from a horse or mare affected with ringbone. It is more important for stock-raisers to consider what will tend to the prevention of a disease than to its cure, and therefore we would impress upon our readers the necessity and advantages of breeding from healthy parents, free from all defects having a hereditary tendency. The utmost judgment and care should be exercised in the selection of animals for breeding purposes, for it is only by attention to this matter that we can expect to produce desirable animals. If we look to such men in Canada as have earned a wide reputation for breeding good horses, we shall find they have been exceedingly careful in breeding only from sound and healthy parents. In many cases the breeding of horses is imperfectly carried on, without any pains being taken to improve the breed, or even to raise a healthy stock. It is by no means a rare thing to find parties purchasing a mare affected with ringbone, spavins, &c., &c., and quite unfit for ordinary work, with a view to using her for breeding purposes. It is a common remark, "She only cost a few dollars, and perhaps I may be able to breed a good foal from her." Should a foal be obtained from a mare of the above description, is it a profitable speculation? We have no hesitation in asserting that the raising of such an animal is a dead loss. Should it come to the age of three or four years and be brought to market, it will perhaps realize the sum of twenty or thirty dollars, and be dear enough at that. We have seen many young horses affected with ring bone, spavins &c., disposed of in this city for less than the sums just mentioned. The only sure way to prevent this disease is scrupulously to guard against breeding from animals affected with ringbone, or having the least predisposition to it.

Longevity of the Horse.—The *Courier de Vendur* mentions a rare instance of longevity in the equine race, M. Collas-Gallelet, member of the Council-General of the Meuse, having lost a horse at the advanced age of forty-five years.—*Veterinarian.*

Foul in the Foot in Cattle.—Caused by standing long in filth, may be cured by removing to a dry, clean place, washing with soap, then with chloride of lime, and applying curriers' oil. Washing with salt and water is useful

Sore Teats.—Always wash with water before milking, or after calf-sucking—this is often sufficient. If much sore, apply equal parts of lime water and linseed oil.

Rural Architecture.

Hints to Farmers about to Build.

Under the above title, a Wisconsin correspondent of the *Rural New-Yorker* gives his brother farmers good counsel which we fully endorse.

"Time is money." A farmer ought to think of this before he locates his barn a half-mile from his dwelling, or even an eighth of a mile. We know a well-to-do farmer who built his barns forty rods from his house,—at least twenty rods further off than there was any call for. Twenty rods is one-sixteenth of a mile. He and his man went to the barn at least four times daily, on an average. In going and returning they would travel one half mile each, or both, one mile daily, which might have been saved by a judicious location of his barn. One mile a day is three hundred and sixty-five miles a year. In thirty years it would amount to nearly eleven thousand miles of travel; enough to perform a journey to Europe and back, and overland to California.

"A large farmer builds a new house. He locates his pantry so that the good wife, to set the table, has to pass through a long hall, at least sixteen and one-half feet further than necessary had he used good judgment in locating his kitchen and pantry. The good woman and her girl went into that pantry at least twenty times daily,—making at least forty rods of extra steps daily, or over forty-five miles yearly. This tax was upon one already overburdened with labour and cares.

"Farmers, think twice before you build; yes, think a good many times. *Do* not build in a hurry, to repent at your leisure. Take plenty of time to thoroughly digest all your plans. Study to make everything convenient, both for yourself and household. A little difference in locating your buildings or rooms may make a large saving in doing the work of the farm, or the household. A difference of a few steps is a small matter if it only occurred once; but when they have to be taken several times daily for years, it becomes an important matter."