

checks the upward progress of the water, and causes it to fly off into the trough at the required height; and further, the necessary velocity may be obtained either by a multiplying wheels, or by having the belt traversing on a single wheel of a large diameter, say from 5 to 7 feet or more, whilst the width and length of the belt may vary according to circumstances. For my own part I am certain that large quantities of water may be raised from ponds, streams, or reservoirs, for divers agricultural processes, at a very small cost; and that the produce of our meadow-lands may be increased by the employment of this simple but effective apparatus." Dr. Spurgin's machine consists of a woollen belt, dipping below into the liquid, and compressed or wrung out above by means of a small wheel pressing it closely to the rim of the greater wheel on which it revolves: while the water so intercepted and pressed out is received by an open conduit, and flows along in a continued stream.

THE BLIGHT AMONGST FRUIT TREES, VEGETABLES, &c.—(Our Retford correspondent, in a letter of yesterday's date, observes as follows:—"In a communication inserted in your paper, bearing date the 13th of May, I stated that the wind was then located in the north, and north-east, and which, if continued in that quarter, would bring or produce a blight, in the shape of aphides or lice, but little did I then imagine that it would be so severe and extensive as it has proved to be within the last few days; and as it is still progressing at an immense rate, we cannot say what the result may ultimately be. The edges are in many places covered with insects, whilst fruit-trees, plants and vegetables teem with life, and are being devoured by the innumerable swarms of insects, which completely cover and encrust them. The gooseberry bushes, as well as those of the currant, are nearly losing their foliage, whilst the rose-trees, the sycamore, and several other descriptions of trees and plants, are exuding their sap from every pore. It has not been our lot to witness such a destruction of vegetable life in so short a time for many years; indeed we do not recollect any parallel to the present disastrous state of our fields and gardens in this locality; and it may now safely be predicted that the crop of fruit, thin as it was known to be a fortnight back, is now in many places nearly, if not altogether annihilated. Within the last few days also, the increase in the fly, as well as in its concomitant filth upon the hop plant, has been gradually increasing, whilst in almost every plantation the honey dew, (as it is usually called,) is spreading its baleful influence in every direction. Every account which reaches us speaks of its universality, although most of these concur that, during the last few days, the vine has grown immensely, and still looks vigorous, but that ultimately it is feared the stamina of the plant must give way to the fearful infliction under which it is universally labouring. Any change in the weather would be beneficial, but electricity combined with rain if it would but come soon, might yet partially avert the calamity which so fearfully threatens the crop, and it is not unlikely but that the present hot and dry weather will terminate in that desirable manner.—*Doncaster Gazette*.

AN AUSTRALIAN SHEEP STATION.—I shall now proceed to offer a few observations upon sheep, and sheep stations. A sheep station is, probably, the most desolate place at which a man could be sent to pass his time. Fancy three men in charge of one thousand sheep, which range over five square miles of country, of which five miles those three outcasts are literally the only inhabitants, and, strange as it may seem, scing

but little of each other. One is the watchman who remains by the hut all day, shifts the folds, and sleeps between them at night, to protect their occupants from the prowling native dog; the other two are shepherds, who start every morning at daylight, in different directions, each in charge of his flock; they do not return to the hut until sun down, when they are tired and weary, and eager for supper and bed. Thus day after day, and month after month, pass in solitary wretchedness, relieved only on a Saturday for a couple of hours, when a man with the week's rations arrive at the station. These men live all the year round on salt beef and bread, the latter baked by themselves. They have no change either of diet, of employment, or of any think else; for, be it known, a really good sheep station in Australia yields nothing but grass and gum-trees, the soil being dry and poor. A shepherd on the hills of Scotland, who returns every night to his bothie, and finds a warm supper cooked for him by some kind female hand, is a prince compared with the exile of Australia, who comes home tired and sleepy at sun-down and may then either chop wood to cook his meal, or go supperless to bed, as suits his fancy.—*Trade and travels in the Far East*.

The following are interesting extracts from letters received by Keeling and Hunt, dated Cork, 8th July, 1845:—"Our native potatoes have already shown the disease in many localities, and, singular to state, none of the foreign has succeeded. Yesterday I was shown a garden where all were diseased excepting the 'Azores,' which shows a strong contrast from their extraordinary luxuriance." Another party writes to the same firm:—"I have much pleasure in letting you know that the Azores potatoes I got from you, are coming on as luxuriantly as our most sanguine expectations can desire, and I look forward confidently to an abundant crop, and sincerely hope that if those planted this year succeed, you will be encouraged to import into this country a new and useful kind of potato to replace those kinds which, I am sorry to say degenerated some years back."

AMERICAN AGRICULTURE.—Agricultural pursuits are, nevertheless, the most unsuited to the taste and general habits of an American citizen, particularly of the Northern and Eastern States: it is an employment of all others the most opposed to his notions of respectability and ideas of worldly comfort, and, in his interpretation, a mere waste of his time, an utter abasement of his mental and physical capabilities. In an extreme climate, such as the United States, it is considered the most ungrateful of all occupations; one wherein the strength and faculties of man are exhausted, the mind restricted in its native energy and freedom, without yielding any fair or adequate remuneration in return: as such, it is avoided by the youth as well as the aged of every class, whose better fortunes may enable them to escape from its severe restrictions; who seek the towns, the throng and tumult of crowded cities, the desk and counter of the merchant, or indeed any other business occupation, rather than the quiet, peaceful, and industrious pursuits, with its assumed or countervailing disadvantages, of an American country life. The fact is simply this, that agriculture, with any attendant good it may possess—its unrestricted freedom and comparative exemption from worldly care, together with its steady remunerating profits—is too tedious in its movements, too slow in its operation, and far too circumscribed in its range, to accord with the speculative turn of the American citizen, or keep pace with its unceasing and active industry.—*Wyse's "America."*