

cannot believe it. It is not going to be demonstrated in this decade that schools are a delusion after so many centuries of trial.

The following practices amongst others are absolutely forbidden: Swearing, improper language, and gambling; the use of intoxicating liquors, cards, or firearms, and the use of tobacco while on detail, in or about the buildings, in any place except the smoking-room. And we have no doubt but that the professors endeavor to enforce those rules faithfully and conscientiously.

Pasturing Meadows.

When there is abundance of rain in the early part of summer, the hay crop will usually be a good one under ordinary conditions, but if this period should be dry, meadows that were pastured close off in the fall will not give a large return even though the ground be in fair condition. Those not so pastured will be almost certain to give a fair yield, let the weather be what it may. If this be true, and both observation and experience have proved it so to us, then it follows that farmers have the amount of the return of the next year's hay crop very much in their own hands. When the aftermath is left to protect the grass in winter, its roots do not perish from the intensity of the cold, nor are they impaired in their vitality. Where these are injured by the frost, though not destroyed, the growth that follows is necessarily feeble. In spring the meadows thus treated shoot ahead at once, making a strong growth before dry weather sets in, while the ground is thus protected from the too strong rays of the sun, the growth already made continuing to act as a mulch, so that in land in fair heart a tolerably good yield is almost certain.

The short sighted policy of pasturing them very bare is an old-time custom that has been handed down to us by the pioneers of other days, whose lands were so rich that they usually got a crop under the most adverse conditions. It can only be pursued now by those who do not or will not reflect. Nature is like a boisterous boy, ready at any moment to resent an injury, but who can be taken captive any day when rightly treated.

Without the adoption of a partial system of soiling we admit that pasturage is a necessity, as otherwise the stock cannot be tided over that trying period from hay-cutting until winter. It is undoubtedly cheaper, however, to grow feed for a portion of the stock during those months and cut it for them. The sunshine in this land, with whole days of cloudless skies, is very powerful, which is against the growth of plants unprotected by a self-produced shade, hence the great difference usually between the growth of early and late sown spring grain. This, too, accounts in part, at least, for the immense yield of a soiling crop compared with a similar acreage that has been devoted to pasturage.

Those who pasture their meadows bare in autumn to enable them to sell their hay, are not deserving of much sympathy when they complain the following season there is a shortage in the hay crop. They themselves are in a great measure responsible. It would have been better had the hay been fed direct to the stock, and they kept off the meadows.

We do not pronounce absolutely against all pasturage of meadows. It may be necessary where the aftergrowth is exceedingly rank, and in many instances partial pasturing may not be detrimental if done early in the season; but pasturing bare at any time is certainly unwise, and particularly so at the approach of winter.

Pasturing new meadows is simply suicidal, and should in no case be practised. The treading of the ground after grain-cutting, when it is usually mellow, and the young plants in the early stages of their growth, means death to them, and then when winter comes they have no strength to fight successfully the battle with the elements.

To those who say they cannot help it, it is an absolute necessity, we answer, next year you can. When spring time comes again, sow or drill a nice patch of corn for fodder, not all at one time, but with an interval between the times of sowing. Cut this for your cattle when it is ready, and in this way next autumn you can give your meadows fair play. Where corn will not grow, peas and oats will, and they make an excellent green feed. If you object that too much labor is involved, then we can only add, go on as you are doing. It is a question for you to determine whether *one-half* more in the return of your hay crop or the labor involved in partial soiling is worth the most to you.

The Toronto Industrial Fair.

The attendance last year was over 150,000, and already the appearances are that this number will be far exceeded at the coming Fair to be held at Toronto from the 9th to the 19th of September next, for which unusual preparations are being made. This Fair, after the great St. Louis Fair, ranks second to none in America, and its fame has spread to such an extent that delegates have been appointed to visit it this year from many of the large Fairs in the United States, even as far west as the State of Iowa. The entries and applications for space already made far exceed those of any previous year, and the managers are being put to their wits' end to know how to provide for them all. Cheap rates and excursions will be given on all railways, and our readers will not be disappointed if they make up their minds to pay Toronto a visit at the time of the Fair. The management invariably do all in their power to make visitors feel comfortable and at home, in which they have succeeded in past years in a remarkable degree.

The live-stock coming from the Maritime Provinces to the Provincial Exhibition at London will also be exhibited at Toronto, which will afford an excellent opportunity of judging as to the progress in this line that our brethren have made down by the sea.

The exhibition will be open every evening, and the 120 electric lights, with their mellow moonbeam glow, will turn the scene into a magic fairyland, rendered inexpressibly beautiful by the brilliancy of the fireworks.

The electric railway will this year connect with the street cars.

All interested in dairying should not fail to visit the model dairy in charge of Professors Frown and Barre, of the Experimental Farm, for which the directors are importing a centrifugal machine from Denmark, suitable for ten cows.

To see the beautiful Swiss cottage erected by Mr. Valancey E. Fuller, where the products of the famous Oaklands Jerseys will be sold, would alone repay a journey to Toronto.

It should be money well spent to visit this magnificent exhibition.

Legislative Grant to Agricultural Institutes.

As stated in the circular issued by the Department of Agriculture for the Province of Ontario, "the success of these meetings was so marked, and the good results of them so obvious, that the Commissioner of Agriculture was led to consider what means could be

taken to encourage the formation of others and secure for all of them a character of permanency." With this object in view the Commissioner asked and obtained from the Legislature a grant of *twenty-five dollars* yearly to be given to one such Institute to be organized in each electoral district of the Province, upon the condition of an equal sum being granted by the County Council of the county within which the electoral district is situated.

The Legislative grant was also made subject to such regulations as the Commissioner might approve, and these regulations are as follows:

1. That each Institute shall be composed of not less than fifty members, who shall each pay a fee of not less than twenty-five cents annually.

2. That there shall be an Executive or Board of Management, consisting of a president, a vice-president, a secretary and five or more directors, and a majority of the Board shall be practical farmers.

3. That the Institute shall hold at least two meetings each year, in different parts of the electoral district, for the discussion of agricultural subjects.

The County Council may make such other regulations as a condition of their grant as they may deem advisable, but not so as to conflict with the foregoing.

The Commissioner has further stated that the Professors of the Agricultural College will be able to assist at twelve or fifteen Institutes in the month of January, and at others occasionally during the year, as their duties at the college may allow.

Now that the hurry of harvest is over we trust that our farmers in every electoral district of the Province will organize an Institute where these do not now exist, and officer them with the most capable men. The draft of constitution and by-laws suitable for governing the same was given in last issue of the JOURNAL.

It is well, too, that suitable talent be secured in good time to prepare papers for these Institutes, else there may be a dearth of these when most wanted. No man can go and prepare a paper that will live when he is dead without most patient thought, and this should be the character of the papers prepared for the consideration of our good common sense farmers.

For the CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK JOURNAL.

Notes on a Rapidly Spreading Weed—*Echium Vulgare*.

BY J. HOYES PANTON, PROF. NAT. HIST., ONT. AG. COL.

Order Boraginaceæ.—Few plants illustrate better the importance of knowing the scientific names than the common weed in many parts of Ontario, known to botanists as *Echium Vulgare*.

This plant is called by the following names in different parts of Canada and the United States:—Blue Thistle, Blue Weed, Blue Devils, Canada Thistle, Viper's Bugloss and Bishop's Weed. To Canadians it seems ridiculous to call it Canada Thistle, a plant belonging to an entirely different order (compositæ), but it illustrates how little dependence can be placed on a common name. Yet when students are asked to learn the scientific name of a plant they are inclined to think it a waste of time and express great surprise that such names are not abandoned and the common ones persistently adhered to. There are other plant names which could be cited here to emphasize the propriety of learning as far as possible the botanical names by which plants are known the world over, and of paying less attention to names known only to township or school section.

In some cases I have found it extremely difficult to know what plant was referred to by a writer, for I found this common name was applied to an entirely different plant in other parts of the province, and thus became quite misleading. But the moment the