

better than either the Diehl or Treadwell, or any other variety in the vicinity of Chatham. In fact we have no wheat in this country, that we have heard of, which has yielded so well. This wheat was procurable at a comparatively reasonable rate in that section. We have not heard of a grain of it having been raised in any part of Canada east of this.

We wished to let our enterprising readers know about it, but the postage prevented us.

The Weeks wheat is another new variety which we have spoken favorably of, from our own test. We could not obtain information in regard to the getting of a supply of this wheat at the time of printing our paper, but just as we had it mailed the desired information came to hand. But this also could not be made known in time for seeding, necessitating a delay of another month. But to pay one cent per ounce to give information about it, is making us farmers pay, or lose, too much. The expense of printing, directing, stamping, and paying for the stamps, to send such and similar information to each of our thousands of subscribers, would cost us an enormous sum. It would not cost much if only allowed to pass as common papers. This is taxing the poor farmers for public improvements, as they call them. Perhaps their next freak will be the attempt to prohibit them. They have tried annihilation, and the stamp out system, and are about to tax us for some pet agricultural education scheme, or person. We wished to send agricultural information, to be posted up in the different post offices where our subscribers receive their papers.

We telegraphed to the Postmaster-General, and received the following reply:—

"Rate of postage on agricultural posters is 1 cent per ounce, to be prepaid by stamps."

Thus, we see, our Government so far, has neglected to aid us in importing, testing, ascertaining or giving information in regard to seed, but exact the utmost cent from us. Our postage alone for this month only will cost us between \$50 and \$100.

#### New and Improved Implements.

Our attention is divided into so many channels that perfection in one thing is unattainable. Still, we make an attempt to give our readers the first information about any implement or seed that we consider of advantage to them. During the past month we have been called on to witness the operation of a new stump machine, owned by Plummer & Pacey. It was put in operation on Mr. Treblecock's farm, two and a-half miles from this city. We saw it hitched to an old "residential,"—a pine stump that had been 4½ ft. across. In a few minutes it exposed its old earth-bound ties to the view of the spectators. Several persons examined it, and all pronounced it a complete success.

Two gentlemen who wished to remove stumps on their estates (in the vicinity of Sarnia) were on the ground. They had just been to examine the old Screw Stump Extractor, but finding that machine too slow in its motion, and not as efficient, besides, more expensive, immediately ordered the construction of two of the new machines.

We believe this to be the best stumping machine manufactured, and capable of pulling any stump on this earth. The machine is so conveniently constructed that it can be taken down and packed into a waggon in fifteen minutes; and one team will haul it anywhere, set up or on a wagon. The price of the machine is \$50 to \$75; further particulars on application.

#### Draining.

We insert with pleasure the following communication, as such as these are just what we want. These suggestions and plans of Mr. Hammond are, or will be, of much value to our readers, and will be the means of creating more wealth in our country than any communication sent to us, or given to the country by the Bureau of Agriculture, or the Board of Agriculture. Why do not some of the big, powerful orators, or highly paid officials, ever send some such useful information to any agricultural paper? Are they afraid or ashamed, or do they wish to conceal their knowledge? or have they no useful knowledge on any agricultural subject which would be of advantage to others?

It is from a plain, unassuming farmer. We doubly thank him for it. It is of value to us, and will be to many.

We do not make the above remarks to offend any one, but merely to cause you to think and strive if you cannot be of use to your agricultural neighbours without loss to yourself. \$5,000 a year and expenses, pickings and side-catches for the Minister of Agriculture, and to his predecessors in office to set an example to be followed by all other meaner officers, of never giving any agricultural information! For who ever heard of a good, practical hint on agriculture from either of them, unless it was "maggie" fashion? And, what is worse, they never have encouraged but have attempted to check the spread of agricultural information. We request every one of our readers not to follow that policy, but break the silent bonds, and differ from the highly-paid officials, and let your knowledge spread and do good to others. Let your light shine, and as you may be giving useful hints to others, you will be encouraging others to give hints that will be of advantage to you. We would like to be able to reward persons for sending us useful articles, but as yet we cannot afford to do so.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

#### DITCHING.

SIR,—As you are constantly inviting farmers to write for your journal, I thought I might just mention some of my experience in ditching, which by the way is in my opinion, where it is needed, one of the most important and best-paying operations on the farm. I have read in your last issue Mr. Garnett's plan of piping drains, and consider it a very good and easy method, and would be, I have no doubt, in many sections of this country the cheapest way that could be adopted. But there are other plans which might suit better in other parts. There are three different styles that I have tried, and which all seem to answer well, although none of them have been tested as long as Mr. Garnett's plan; still, I have good hopes of them.

One plan is to dig your ditch to the required depth; bring it to an equal grade, and as smooth as possible; then take a narrow spade, say four inches wide; dig out a rut in the centre of the ditch the width of the spade, and four or five inches in depth; then get slabs from a saw-mill; lay them on over this rut with the flat side down, and you have a pipe with very little expense. When the slabs can-

not be conveniently got, another plan is to get hemlock sawn into two-by-three-inch scantling; lay one of these along one corner of the drain; then lay on slabs with the edge on the scantling and the other edge on the bottom.—This also makes a very good pipe where there is not a large run of water. The other plan that I have adopted is to put in two of the above-named size of scantling—one in each corner of the ditch, and lay on a slab on top. I just mention in this description the size of stuff I have been in the habit of using. These must be regulated in the judgment of the ditcher as near as possible to suit the quantity of water that is expected to run in the ditch; and by the fall that may be had, as the more fall, the smaller the pipe may be accordingly.

This township has perhaps as much need of ditching as any other in this part of the country, and would be greatly benefited by one of Carter's Ditching Machines, if they would work in the kind of soil we have got, which is a clay loam, with a pretty hard sub-soil, and has a considerable sprinkling of stones in a good many places. There was a number of people went from this part, including myself, principally to see it in operation at the Provincial Exhibition last year; but the soil was so different at London from what our's is that, although it appeared to work well in sandy soil, we did not consider it any proof that it would give the same satisfaction here. If Mr. Carter or any of his agents have full confidence in the working of the Ditcher in all kinds of soil, I doubt not but they would do well by exhibiting it in operation at our County Show, which is to be held at Stratford on the 13th and 14th of next month. If it will give satisfaction there, I would venture to say that there would in all likelihood be a number of sales made.

But I am perhaps trespassing on your valuable space, so with these few remarks I conclude for the present.

I am, Sir, your friend,

JAMES HAMMOND.

Elma, Sept. 19, 1870.

The Ditcher will be in operation at Stratford. It is sent to any part of Canada and put in operation; and no one need purchase one of them until they are fully satisfied with its capabilities. Send your orders to us, and we will send the Ditcher.—Ed. F.A.

#### Garget in Cows.

This season has caused us more loss, expense and trouble from garget, or swollen bags in our cows, than we ever experienced; and it took us quite a back, as we never saw an instance of it before, by finding it on our own herd on our return from our editorial duties one Saturday. Our better-half complained about a cow's bag being swollen. The swelling of a cow's bag had been no uncommon occurrence, and was always, by washing with a little warm water, speedily removed. We did not, therefore, feel alarmed about it; but on the following Saturday several of the cows were affected, and the symptoms assumed a most dangerous aspect. One poor creature stood trembling like an aspen leaf from sheer agony; others had fallen off in flesh; the bags had been hard, in fact. The bags of some which would appear all right at night, were nearly as hard as a stone the following morning. Sometimes the whole bag would be affected; sometimes a half; and sometimes only a quarter. From the teats which were affected, thick, curdled milk would be drawn with difficulty, sometimes even colored with blood. The odor was very disagreeable. We applied tar to one cow's teats and bags, and bathed the bags well with warm water; we procured smart-weed, boiled it, and applied it warm as a wash. To another we had a rowell inserted in the breast; and we believe they are all getting better. But from the loss of milk and the loss of flesh, the loss in our own case will amount to a good sum.

If some of our readers who have the week to watch and attend to their cattle and crops would favor us by giving their remedies and their experience, it might be of advantage to others.

#### "Root, Hog, or Die."

This is real, plain English language, expressing the acts of the government, the city authorities and the county councils of Canada. "The poor ye have always with you," may be truly said by any one conducting business in this city. Daily, yes, almost hourly, some poor, forlorn and unfortunate creature steps into our office with a written petition or plausible tale of loss of limb, or sight, or power, and asking for some small means to help them to exist. Thousands are to be found in the most deplorable circumstances, even in our northern rural districts. Vicissitudes and accidents, or misfortunes, are things we are all liable to, and there will be poor objects of needy and deserving charity where no blame can be attached to the poor unfortunate. The question arises: should they be allowed to starve or freeze to death as thousands have done; or should we try to alleviate their sufferings? This city can proudly boast of its numerous high-pointing spires; of its densely crowded churches; of its eloquent preachers; of its long prayers; of its powerful members of Parliament; of its noble city officers, and of its mean, low, sycophant ones as well. They can boast of the immense sums of public money that has and is enriching them.—Yes, and they may boast of many a wealthy office-holder, money-shaver or merchant-prince; also, of its great Catholic and Protestant educational establishments. Yes, they can also boast of a noble market house, from the steps of which we may count 27 licensed liquor sellers, crowding out nearly every other business. Yes, sellers licensed at an enormous figure to sell intoxicating liquors, not one in ten of which, perhaps, at which a bed or a bite could be procured; and even should a poor traveler require a night's lodging, nothing short of 25 cents would pay for it. The system is from the highest to the lowest we have mentioned. *Get money; no matter how, get money.*

Reader, do you think that any one of the wealthy nabobs we have mentioned would give five dollars out of his tens of thousands to save one hundred poor creatures from starving to death? We do not know the man among them who would. They might, under the name of "glory to God," which we find on close examination means terrestrially—pride to man.

The Legislature may say they have done their duty by passing an Act that corporations may raise a tax for the erection of suitable places for the poor. Where is there one in the whole of this Dominion? The poor people of Canada pay ten times more taxes than the rich, and the poor might and would starve if they were not kept alive by the poor.

What have our wealthy citizens sent to aid the hundreds of poor families that have lost everything at the fires near Ottawa? If any charitable thing is done it will be done by the poor. Unless the rich are taxed, their coffers are not easily approachable; therefore, we say, that the fairest way to aid the really needy is by taxation.