



THE APPLE-TREE OR TENT CATERPILLAR.—"John Soules" will find an illustrated article on this subject at page 237, of vol. I of *THE CANADA FARMER*.

PLUM TREE SUCKERS.—Samuel Walker, of Deerpark, writes as follows:—"I have in my garden some plum trees, which give me a great deal of annoyance, by sending up a number of suckers. I have tried pulling them up and cutting them off to no purpose. Will you or some of your numerous correspondents be kind enough to inform me how to remedy this nuisance, and prevent other trees from doing the same? I may add that the several varieties of grafted plum are bearing a very abundant crop, while the natural plum has entirely failed this year.

GRUBS AT THE ROOTS OF STRAWBERRY PLANTS.—"G. B. Salter" writes as follows:—"I set out last spring a number of strawberry plants, which for some weeks did exceedingly well, but all at once I noticed that the leaves of nearly every plant was drooping and dying. Upon an examination of the roots, I found that numbers of the large white grub, known as the potatoe grub, had eaten the fibres, and in some cases the roots themselves. Can you inform me what I can use in the future to protect my plants from the grub?"

ANS.—We are of opinion that if you carefully prepare the ground for your strawberry plants, by thorough trenching to the depth of two feet, adding a liberal supply of rich, well-rotted manure, and afterwards reducing the soil to a fine tilth, you will not be troubled with the grub.

HATCHING EXPERIENCE.—"John Vetch," of Brockville, communicates the following:—"In your issue of the 15th April, 'G. H. M.,' of Paris, states that small hens are best for setting, as they are not so apt to break the eggs. My experience this season is as follows: I set a very large Brahma hen with 16 eggs. She broke one while fighting with another hen, and brought out 15 fine healthy chicks, and has not lost one. I also set three of the smallest hens I could get with the following results: One with 10 eggs, broke 6, and brought out 4 birds; one with 9 broke 4, and brought out 5 birds; and the other with 10 broke 7, and brought out 3 birds; which only makes 12 chickens for the three smallest hens, and 15 for the large hen. In former years I have always had good luck with my large hens."

BARREN PEAR TREES.—On this subject "Merrimac," of Hope, writes as follows:—"I think that the cause of your correspondent, 'Oscar's' pear trees being barren is in consequence of the soil being too dead, or too rich, or the roots penetrating into the subsoil, causing over-luxuriance from a superabundance of sap. Cutting off the roots of trees has sometimes been the means of causing them to bear fruit. Removing the decayed, cracked bark from old trees, is said to have a good effect. The same end has been obtained by removing annually a narrow portion of the bark, which is termed "ringing." In spring this process is said to improve the quality and precocity of the fruit. Ringing, when the blossoms are fully expanded, produces a similar effect, by interrupting the descent of the sap. Stripping off pieces of the bark from stem and branches checks luxuriance in pear trees. Renewal of soil to the roots has often been resorted to with success: where the soil is too rich, a poorer kind may be substituted, and where too poor, a richer. Bending down the branches has also had the desired effect, and has been accounted for by its retarding the flow of sap. A good and judicious soil, on a firm, dry bottom, which will prevent the roots from penetrating too deeply into the subsoil, with plenty of light and air, and proper pruning, is the only permanent and general mode of inducing fruitfulness."

RULES FOR THE PROVINCIAL PLOUGHING MATCH.—"A Ploughman," of Glanford, writes as follows:—"I wish to direct attention to the rules recently adopted for governing the approaching Provincial Ploughing Match. It is not my intention to criticise, but merely to call attention to, and, if possible get an explanation of No. 7, which, in my estimation, detracts considerably from the merits of a generally appropriate and satisfactory set of rules. Some portions of the rule referred to will be found unintelligible to the majority of those interested. This remark is particularly applicable to the expression: "no false cutting will be allowed." Every ploughman probably understands what is meant by the technical term "cut"; but it is questionable whether any ploughman or anybody else, after carefully perusing rule No. 7, could, consistently with its terms, determine when any portion of the "cut" was false. My first impression was that the "cutting" would be considered true when the share and coulter cut at right angles to one another, and "false" when the share and coulter formed an acute angle; but on reading further, I found that interpretation inconsistent with the concluding portion of the same rule which allows of cutting at less than a right angle.

ANS.—We presume the clause in rule 7:—"no false cutting will be allowed"—means that the two sides of the furrow slice must be of equal thickness and perfectly parallel, so that if the slices were entirely removed from a ploughed ridge, the under-surface then exposed would not be saw-toothed, as is frequently the case, but quite level. The remaining provisions of the rule are so obvious, that comment, or explanation, is superfluous.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, SEPT. 1, 1865.

The Yield of 1865.

Now that the cereals are harvested and the root crops alone remain to be heard from, a very natural curiosity is felt by everybody to know the results of the farmers' toil the present season, so far as they can be ascertained. It is greatly to be regretted that there are no means in operation for definitely arriving at the desired information, and one can hardly help giving way to a feeling of vexation at the impossibility of getting in plain figures the produce returns for the whole land at once. So much depends on the success or failure of the crops, and every description of business is so affected by the agricultural prosperity of the country, that it is a pity we cannot have some method put in operation, by which as early as possible, we can know the truth regarding a matter so universally and so deeply interesting. Last year the station-masters, along the line of the Grand Trunk Railway, were instructed to report at headquarters, the crop returns in their several neighbourhoods, as a guide with regard to the freight requirements upon the road. These returns were published; and from the length of the line, and its location, a very good summary was thus obtained of the crops. Most likely the same course is being pursued the present year, and, if so, we shall ere long, have some valuable data from that source. In the meantime, we have only occasional notices by the local newspapers, the testimony of travellers, our own observation, and a sort of general diagnosis of the state of the country to go by. The reports of the local journals are very meagre, indeed it is remarkable how meagre they are, and how small an amount of space is given in them to the leading interest of the country. But it is gratifying to observe that these "few and far-between" notices, with scarcely an exception, concur in giving the most favourable accounts of the harvest just gathered in.

The testimony of travellers, and our own observation, somewhat limited it must be confessed, are in entire accord with these accounts. The early part of the season was particularly favourable for putting in spring crops. Grass got an early start, made a fine growth, and the hay crop, everywhere good, was in many localities extraordinary. A large yield of hay is a fine foundation to begin with. It means plenty of meat, plenty of milk, and plenty of manure. Dry weather set in throughout a large extent of country about haying time, and continued so as to affect somewhat seriously the straw of the various kinds of grain, and the growth of the early root crops. Late planted potatoes are more flourishing and promise a far better yield than those which were got in early, thus reversing the usual order of things, and furnishing an illustration of the uncertainties that beset the husbandman's calling. Insect pests of all kinds have been very numerous the present year, owing perhaps to the peculiar character of our last winter. The snow fell before severe frost set in, and the ground remained covered until spring, thus affording shelter and protection to chrysalides and larvæ. Still the midge visitation, worst and most dreaded of our insect ills, has been more limited in extent and less mischievous than might have been anticipated. The experience of the present season is valuable, as proving that the midge attack is not entirely resistless. With due attention to the requisite conditions of the soil and season, a judicious system of cultivation and rotation of crops, and a careful selection of some well-proved variety of "midge-proof" wheat for seed, remunerative crops of our great staple may still be obtained, notwithstanding the prevalence of the midge. A high degree of fertility in the land is found to be a great safeguard against this pest. Thorough drainage, early sowing, and other precautions have been taught, by costly experience, to be needful if we are to continue raising a large breadth of wheat. In a word, better farming is the great lesson taught by this as by most other drawbacks to agricultural success. We believe that the yield of wheat is considerably above the average, and that the crops of all kinds will prove the best we have obtained for several years. Various estimates are formed of this season's wheat yield, but it is rather premature yet to deal in figures, as the promise of the harvest field is not always borne out by the revelations of the threshing-machine. So far as we have learned, however, the new sample turns out very well. The produce of a field of Soule's wheat, grown in the neighbourhood of this city, averaged 36½ bushels per acre of cleaned grain, and we hear of cases in which even this large yield has been exceeded. Several instances have come under our eye of 30 bushels and upwards to the acre, reported in the local journals. The midge-proof varieties are less productive, and will probably fall below the average of other kinds, though we learn that in at least one instance, 30 bushels per acre have been obtained from this wheat. Oats, all over the country, will, we believe, be above an average crop. In many localities the straw is short, but the heads are more than usually full. Barley and pease will undoubtedly prove the largest crops we have gathered for years. The splendid harvest weather we have had has enabled farmers to get their crops in, without any drawback as to quality of either grain or straw. Now that reaping machines are so widely used, the prevalence of a fair amount of nice weather, almost insures the good condition of the harvested crop. Flax culture has been tried to a considerable extent this season with the most satisfactory results. The samples we have had an opportunity of inspecting, could not have been surpassed in length and quality of fibre by the choicest produce of the "Emerald Isle." It is much to be desired that our farmers would make known their experience in the culture of this crop, as an encouragement and a guide to others. The flax plant is destined, we believe, to prove a great boon and blessing to Canada. We