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RURAL NOTES.

The *Prairie Farmer* mentions the sale of a Holstein cow named "Duchess of Flanders 2nd," by Dr. A. W. Pratt, of Elgin, Ill., to J. O. Chase, of Fairmount, Neb., for \$525.

POTATOES from Scotland and Ireland, and cabbages from Holland, have made their appearance in the Chicago markets, under the stimulus of the high prices that have been ruling during the past few weeks.

DURING the second week of March the steamer *Circassian* landed a hundred packages of Holstein butter at the port of New York. This makes commands the top price in the European markets, and has come to compete with the American "gilt-edged" product.

MANY who are annoyed with unsightly stumps would be glad to find a cheap and easy method of getting rid of them. Here is one reported by the *Rural Messenger*—

General Colquitt, of Georgia, in a recent address, said: To remove stumps, all that is necessary is to have one or more sheet-iron chimneys some four or five feet high. Set fire to the stump, and place the chimney over it so as to get the requisite draft at the bottom. It will draw like a stove. With several such chimneys, of different sizes, the removal of stumps may be accomplished at merely nominal labour and expense.

A RECENT number of *Peck's Sun* contains the following advice:—

Farmers should be careful about setting old straw stacks on fire. A New Jersey farmer burned a straw stack, and just as the flames were becoming torrid, six tramps crawled out of the stack, their hair singed and smoke coozing out of their collars and places where the clothing was torn. They upbraided the farmer for his carelessness and threatened to sue him for damages. A straw stack burned near Racine on Monday night, and human bones have been found in the ashes. Somebody is short one tramp. The best way to do, before burning a straw stack, is to take a pitchfork and run it into the stack all around, when, if no smothered profanity is heard, you can conclude that the tramps have got into the barn or hog pen.

"HONEST farmer" is getting to be what Artemus Ward used to call "a sarcasism." Even in New England we read of "tricks that are mean" being perpetrated by unsophisticated agriculturists. Barrels of apples "deaconed;" half-boiled sap sold for pure maple syrup; six-and-a-half feet of wood piled so as to pass for a cord; a load of poor hay plated over a foot thick with timothy; frozen turkeys marketed, each of which contained a lump of ice weighing a pound or more; a stone snugly ensconced in a tub of butter, are among the cheating devices at which country bumpkins have been detected in "the land of steady habits." But of course none of these things are ever done in "this Canada of ours."

The number of women who are pursuing agriculture as an occupation in the United States is

increasing. The *Prairie Farmer* says, it is stated that 2,252 women are engaged in farming in the State of Indiana. It has not been reported how successful they are, but it is hardly to be expected that if the first thousand had failed, that the second thousand would have gone into the business. That there are so many women engaged in the various departments of farming now, not only in Indiana, but throughout the country, is probably due, in part at least, to the fact that nearly every State has its agricultural college, and a large majority of these colleges admit the daughters as well as the sons of the land.

A LIVELY controversy is going on in the *Weekly Globe* about the "irrepressible thistle." Apparently intelligent farmers contend that summer fallowing is the only effectual method of dealing with this vegetable pest. One fair trial of clovering would convince them of their mistake. It is estimated that there are not less than a million acres of summer fallowing in Canada every year. Each acre will cost, at a low estimate, at least two days' work per annum. Two million days' work thrown away, and at a low calculation a million tons of clover hay lost, may thus be charged against the practice of summer fallowing. It is a huge bill of costs, equivalent to about \$10,000,000 of direct taxation, by which nobody is enriched a solitary cent!

A CORRESPONDENT of the *London Graphic* takes up the cudgels in defence of "the misrepresented mole." In England farmers pay a premium on killed moles, and large numbers of them are trapped and slaughtered as a means of "turning an honest penny." But if this writer is correct, the English farmers are making a great mistake in trying to exterminate this burrower under ground. He denies that it ever injures grain fields or eats corn, and says he has examined the stomachs of scores without finding a single grain of any kind in one of them. Wire-worms are very destructive to seed-wheat. It is estimated that 60,000 bushels are annually destroyed in Great Britain by this voracious insect. The mole is a great enemy to the wire-worm, and therefore "this deponent sayeth," apparently with much truth and force, that it ought to be encouraged instead of being destroyed.

THE Executive Committee of the Montreal Horticultural Society and Fruit Growers' Association of the Province of Quebec have applied to the Council of Agriculture for the establishment of an experimental station at which the hardiness of fruit-trees may be tested. Importations of apple, pear, plum, and cherry trees have been made from Russia by the U. S. Government, the State of Iowa, and some private individuals.

From these, it is believed, specimens can be obtained at a trifling cost, with which to stock an experimental orchard in the Province of Quebec. Such an establishment would be specially valuable now that settlers are flocking into the North-West, many of whom will be desirous of trying the fruit-growing capabilities of that vast region. Only varieties hardy enough to deserve the name "iron-clad" can be expected to succeed in a country where the temperature descends to so low a point in winter. It is well, therefore, to find out what kinds, if any, have the character of extreme robustness.

It appears that all pictures at present in existence representing a horse in the action of full gallop are untruthful. They exhibit the animal at the moment when he is clear of the earth, with his fore and hind legs extended to their utmost stretch. But it has been demonstrated that, during the spring into the air, the horse's legs are gathered under him in a very miscellaneous and ungraceful fashion. The fullest extension of the legs takes place, with the off fore leg and the near hind leg on the ground. All this and much more has been ascertained by means of a series of photographs recently taken. A row of twenty-four cameras, placed one foot apart, was arranged beside a track, and a horse galloped past them. The cameras being highly sensitive, the exact position of the animal at each portion of his stride was obtained, and by comparing impressions in their regular order, the precise manner of his motion was incontestably shown. It is not the first time that even distinguished artists have produced pictures that conflict with facts.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Country Gentleman*, discussing the wheat outlook, under date of March 9th, affirms that the "violent fluctuations" to which the price of that grain has been subjected have been caused entirely by "speculative reasons," and shows very conclusively that there is nothing in the real state of the market, or the crop prospects, to warrant a downward tendency in the price of wheat. He proves by official statistics that the quantity of wheat now on hand in the United States is unprecedentedly small for this time of year—so small, that it cannot begin to supply the foreign demand from now to harvest. Those who, like himself, have waded through the figures, will draw their own practical inferences, one of which is that for the next six months the tendency of wheat prices "will not legitimately be downward." This correspondent is a practical farmer in the State of Ohio, and in studying up this matter he has done what every farmer should be intelligent enough to do. When the great mass of farmers do this, they will be less at the mercy of speculators and middlemen.