

PRIZE FOR BEST KEPT FARM DIARY.—"D. W." of Morpeth, says: "I beg to suggest that you recommend in No. 1 of Vol. 2, Township or County Societies, or both, to offer liberal prizes for the best conducted Diary of every day's operations throughout the year. Much information would be gained, showing the dates throughout the entire province, of commencing work—ploughing, sowing, planting, mowing, reaping, eradicating bad weeds, and housing crops, also management of stock, &c., &c."

ORNAMENTAL DESIGNS FOR LAWNS AND GARDENS.—"E. D. J.," of St. Catharines, says: "I would like to see in THE CANADA FARMER, some few designs of vases for lawns. I find that verbenas and other bedding plants, do far better in vases than in the natural ground. I think a vase made a little tasty and strong, and lined inside with zinc, and large enough to hold from one to two dozen plants of different varieties, would look far better than a border or bed cut out in the sod, and would receive more attention. I should like to see in THE CANADA FARMER, likewise, some plans of flower borders and pleasure grounds. I think that many of your readers, as well as myself, would be well pleased with an ornamental plan now and then, and a few designs of baskets and vases."

ANS.—We will keep the above requests in mind and endeavour to fulfil them.

COCKSFOOT.—"S. H." makes a number of enquiries about this forage plant, known also as "Orchard Grass." Some of these enquiries he will find answered on page 51, Vol. 1, of THE CANADA FARMER, in an article headed "Grasses Worthy of Culture." In reference to the other questions, we reply very briefly. It may be sown as and with Red Clover. It is not well to sow it alone unless the object be to raise seed. Two bushels of seed are requisite for an acre when sown alone, or half that quantity when sown with clover. The seed is very light, only weighing 12 or 14 lbs. to the bushel. Mixed with red clover, and cut early, it makes an excellent hay. It is worthy of more extended cultivation. The soil best adapted for it is a deep, dark, warm, rather moist upland, though it will succeed on all arable soils, provided they are in good tilth. J. Fleming & Co., of this city, supply it at \$2 50 per bushel.

EXCLUDED LEICESTERS AT THE LATE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.—"Exhibitor" says: "In looking over the prize list I perceive a note appended by the Judges of Leicester Sheep, at Hamilton, stating that they excluded a number of the sheep shown in that class on account of their not being shorn according to the rules of the Association. Permit me to ask what right the said judges had to exclude any sheep on that account, provided they were eligible for a premium in other respects? According to a resolution passed by the Board of Agriculture, in February last, 'two inspectors were to be appointed to report any cases in which the shearing rule had not been properly complied with, and sheep so reported were to be excluded from competition.'"

If the inspectors were appointed, and acted according to that resolution, what business had the judges to throw out any sheep on account of the shearing that the inspectors had not excluded? If this rule of the Association was not adhered to, and the inspectors were not appointed, I, for one, should like to know the reason."

PRESERVING MILK.—"H. L.," of Bond Head, enquires:—"Will you be kind enough to publish in the next issue of your valuable paper, the best mode of preserving milk for a length of time in the winter season, as a number of persons, along with myself, would wish to know, in order that we may be prepared for the season of scarcity, and by so doing you will much oblige."

ANS.—We cannot do better by way of replying to the above enquiry than publish the following recipe, furnished by a correspondent of the *German Town Telegraph*:—"To one quart of new milk, take one pound of the best crushed sugar; let the milk boil, then stir in the sugar until all is dissolved; continue to stir until it has commenced again to boil, which must be on a gentle heat to keep from burning. When it becomes the consistency of molasses it is done for use. Put in cans or close jars and cork them tightly. This is of much value where fresh milk cannot be had, either in preparing food for the sick, or to use in tea and coffee. In hospitals this is a valuable article."

BEST MODE OF HOG FEEDING.—"R. McCredie," of Bristol, writes: "I herewith send you the weight of a pig I killed this fall. It was one out of a 'litter' that came into existence on the 20th of March last, and was killed when eight and a half months old. It was shut up the whole time, and never tasted grass. Its whole consumption was nine bushels of pens (boiled) and about nine bushels of potatoes (also boiled) together with some 'slops,' and weighed 261 lbs. dressed for the market. I do not know the name of the breed, but its chief points are very small bone, short snout, short legs, and somewhat drooping ears; and to show that the feed was the main thing in producing the weight, one of that same 'litter' which has run the pasture all summer and is to be 'wintered over,' does not, I venture to say, at this moment weigh a hundred pounds. I believe from this instance that pigs should be kept shut up from the time they are taken off the sow, fed on solid food as much as they will eat the whole time; and if thus treated, they will take on more fat meat with less cost, than pigs fattened in the ordinary way about this section which is to let them run in the pasture all summer then shut them up for one month in the fall, stuff and cram into them all they will eat, and at the expiration of said month, kill."

Bound Volumes.

The first volume of "The Canada Farmer" is now ready, consisting of 24 numbers, and comprising 384 pages of reading matter. The binding will be charged 30 cents in addition to the subscription price, making \$1 30 in all for the volume. Parties desirous of having their numbers for the past year bound, will please send them to us, securely packed, with their name and address, together with 30 cents in stamps or otherwise, and we shall return them bound.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, JAN. 2, 1865.

To Our Readers.

It is with no little satisfaction that at the commencement of this the second year of THE CANADA FARMER, we contemplate the results thus far of our endeavour to meet the wants of the agricultural population of this Province, by furnishing a first-class paper devoted to the farming interest. A year ago the undertaking was entered upon as an experiment. It is such no longer. It has been demonstrated that such a journal was needed, and can be sustained. The success of THE CANADA FARMER has been something unprecedented in the history of Canadian journalism, and may well be a source of pride and pleasure to all who take an interest in the advancement of our agriculture, and the prosperity of our country.

For much of this success, we owe a large debt of gratitude to hosts of kind friends who have assiduously laboured to extend our circulation; to our contemporaries of the Canadian press and to editors of kindred journals in the United States, who have given us from time to time commendatory notices; and to those of our readers who have enriched our columns with correspondence.

Entering now on a new volume, we have only to say that such as THE CANADA FARMER has been in the past, it will be our aim to make it in the future, with we trust a nearer approximation to the ideal of excellence and usefulness embodied in our Prospectus issued twelve months ago. We repeat the statement then made, that "no exertion or expenditure will be spared, to render this journal a worthy representative and advocate of the agricultural interests of Canada."

This number appears with a new and beautiful heading. Other improvements are in contemplation. The illustrations during the coming year, will be equal if not superior, in number and excellence, to those of the past. One Dollar per annum, payable strictly in advance, will continue to be the subscription price. For terms to clubs, see notice on last page.

Raid on the Board of Agriculture.

A somewhat important meeting was held at Hamilton on the 20th ult., called by a Circular emanating from the South Riding Agricultural Society for the County of Wellington, and having as its object certain reforms in the working of the Provincial Board of Agriculture. Only select invitations appear to have been issued. Though purporting to be a "Convention," it was on a very limited scale. No public announcement, so far as we know, was made. Hamilton is not very remote from Toronto, yet we believe none of the leading agriculturists in or near this city were notified. For ourselves, we had no intimation of the meeting until all was over.

What reasons led to this mode of calling the meeting in question we are not aware, but considering the general interest attaching to the subjects proposed to be discussed, we cannot but think greater publicity would have been advisable. However, eleven County Agricultural Societies were represented, and the delegates, it must be confessed, were men of high standing and excellent repute, among the agriculturists of the Province.

Col. JAMES JOHNSON, of London, was appointed Chairman, and Mr. George Murton, of Guelph, Secretary. The Chairman stated the objects of the meeting to be the selection of four persons to fill up the vacancies about to occur in the Board of Agriculture; and the discussion of various improvements in the Provincial Statute relative to agriculture. The Secretary informed the meeting that those whose turn it was to retire from the Board this year were, Mr. W. Ferguson, M. P. P., Hon. David Christie, Dr. Richmond, and Hon. Asa Burnham. Col. Sanders, of Guelph, spoke strongly in favour of introducing new blood into the Board, and proposed F. W. Stone, Esq. Mr. Price, of Welland, proposed T. C. Street, Esq. Mr. Cowan, M. P. P., said: "The feeling is universal that there should be a change in the Board of Agriculture. They are practically an irresponsible body, over whom the farmers of Upper Canada have no control. The Bill referred to passed unanimously in the Lower House, but was defeated in the Upper House, through the influence, it is believed, of the Board. As we have no representatives from the eastern section of Upper Canada, I would suggest that Mr. Ferguson's name be allowed to remain, as no other would likely be so welcome as himself. I propose as a new member, Mr. Thomas Stock, of East Lamboro."

Mr. CHAPIN, of West Brant, proposed the Hon. D. Christie. Mr. Searff, of South Oxford, remarked:

"I have heard no objection to the old members. New ones would do no better, so long as the system lasts. It is not change of men, but of system, that we want. The old members had not acted illegally; they had acted strictly in accordance with the statute, and new members would have to do the same."

Mr. STOCK, of North Wentworth, said:

"We don't mean that they have acted illegally; but they are too slow, old-fashioned, unprogressive and negligent. The institution is already very unpopular, and it required much coaxing and hard work to make the last Exhibition a success, owing to the unpopularity of the present Board."

The following ticket was at length nominated:—Dr. Richmond, Messrs. Johnson, Ferguson and Stone. A long discussion then took place in reference to the proposed Agricultural Bill, and as the result, it was resolved:

1. That the best mode of electing the Board of Agriculture would be by dividing the Province into twelve Agricultural Districts, each to elect a member of the Board, in accordance with the amendment of Mr. Cowan to the bill introduced last session by Mr. Alexander.

2. That clause 50 of the proposed bill be amended, by fixing the third Thursday instead of the third week of January, as the time for holding the annual meetings of the County Associations.

3. That in order to carry out the resolutions of this Convention, amending the Agricultural Bill submitted by the Toronto Convention of 1862, the Secretary be requested to invite the co-operation of all the Agricultural Societies in the Province, in petitioning the Legislature for that purpose; and that the following gentlemen be appointed a committee to draw up said