

## HOME AND FARM.

This department of THE CRITIC is devoted exclusively to the interests of the Farmers in the Maritime Provinces. Contributions upon Agricultural topics, or that in any way relate to Farm life, are cordially invited. Newsworthy notes of Farmers' gatherings or Grange meetings will be promptly inserted. Farmers' wives and daughters should make this department in THE CRITIC a medium for the exchange of ideas on such matters as more directly affect them.

**UNPROFITABLE FENCES.**—The enormous amount of capital locked up in fences is a matter which one of these fine days will come to be regarded in its true light. It is said that in the United States it would cost \$5,000,000,000 to replace fences now in existence, and that the annual outlay on this score is not less than \$200,000,000. In talking this matter over with some of our brother farmers we endeavored to make some estimate of the cost of fences in Nova Scotia, and we arrived at the conclusion that \$5,000,000 would not begin to replace them. Just think of it—\$5,000,000! A sum large enough to give us a railway with branch lines in every county, not omitting counties in the Island of Cape Breton, and all this an unnecessary and an unproductive investment. We fence our orchards, our gardens, our fields of hay, roots, or grain, merely to protect them from being destroyed by our neighbor's cattle; whereas, if the law provided heavy penalties against allowing stray cattle to wander about the roads, we should merely be called upon to fence our pasture land, and would be relieved from the trouble and expense of keeping up our other fences. Think of the time that we would have to devote to productive labor, if we had no dread of the depredations of neighbor's cattle, no fence poles to get out, and no fences to repair or construct. Well has it been said, that we farmers have not yet come to look upon time as money: if we did, we would not tolerate a system which causes us a heavy annual expenditure in labor, and which is a serious drag upon our time.

Moor's Arctic plum, which in several points resembles the Lombard plum, is very successfully grown in New Brunswick and Maine. It takes 60 degrees of frost to kill the flower buds in these trees. As our thermometers seldom drop more than 20 below zero, this variety of plum could be cultivated with profit in Nova Scotia.

A writer in the *Eastern Echo* says:—"The advantages of butter-dairying are so numerous, particularly in this country with so many natural facilities of good grasses, living waters, etc., the wonder is that our people have so long failed to secure them. Science and practice have demonstrated that butter, not only yields quick and liberal returns for the expenditure bestowed, but that in comparison with all other agricultural pursuits, it exhausts, to a far less degree, the fertility of the soil on which it is produced. This statement of scientists, corroborated by practical experience, is thus given:—800 lbs. of butter, (where the milk from which it is produced is fed on the farm, secured both in the private dairy and in the factory on the cream-gathering plan) carries away plant-food worth only 50 cents, while the carcass of an ox or horse carries off six dollars' worth, and two hundred dollars' worth of wheat takes from the soil when sold, sixty dollars' worth of this plant food.

The manufacture of butter has been, and will be, a large industry, the consumption increasing, generally speaking, as the quality of the goods is improved. For the improvement of the low grade and inferior article, now so universal in so many countries, and notably in our own, remedies have been suggested, which, although not proving altogether abortive, have certainly been meagre in their results, in the direction indicated. Experts have time and again declared, that in this Dominion, an improvement could be effected, at no great outlay, which would raise the price of butter from the present average of 12½ cents to 20 cents, and increase the quantity in proportion: that the sum of \$5,000,000 would be added to the revenues of this country from this source alone. In other words, were our dairymen to employ modern appliances, and secure available improvements, their tremendous loss would cease, and the sum thus saved would pay from the Dominion revenues, all the Provincial subsidies on the basis of one dollar per capita, instead of 80 cents. The Government is directly interested in this vast enterprise.

To exhibit at a glance, that superior butter commands a high price in foreign markets, take our Dominion exports in comparison with those of Denmark, in the markets of Great Britain. In 1885 the former country exported, in round numbers, 4,000,000 lbs. at 18 cents per lb., amounting to \$720,000. The latter country, in the same year, exported to the same market, 44,000,000 lbs. at 24½ cents per lb., amounting to \$10,800,000, showing a difference in favor of the latter of 10 to 1, in quantity or volume, 6½ cents per lb. in price, and a corresponding gain in total amount realized. How was this? Simply from the Danish dairymen employing greater intelligence, in improvement of the capacity of the herds, in better manufacture—in a word, in lessening the cost of production, and increasing the quantity and improving the quality of the product. But this improvement has been brought about by a system of dairy co-operation—in combination with dairy schools, sustained as well by Government aid, as by private enterprise. The same thing is being accomplished on this side of the water—notably in the United States. The Western States, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Ohio, entering upon this line of improvement only a few years ago, have now hundreds of factories in operation, and the New England States are taking up the matter in great earnest within the past five years. It is a matter of satisfaction, that the Upper Provinces are following, if but slowly, in the wake. To be accurate, blue books reveal that Ontario, hitherto expending its strength in cheese-making, in which it is leading the world in quality and price, is getting into operation its creameries. Here, as elsewhere, it is found that the price of creamery butter always takes the lead over all other

makes. Thus Ontario manufactures in private dairies 32,000,000 lbs. per annum. The average price being 12½ cents, the output of creameries is about 1,150,000 lbs., but the price is 20 cents, or 7½ cents per lb. more than the private factory product. The same thing holds good in the United States, as any person may satisfy himself with regard thereto, by consulting market reports."

(To be continued.)

It is a great mistake for us to think that our country life is more tedious and monotonous than city life. Those who have experienced, invariably prefer the former, and the wealthy citizens of large cities always make their homes, if possible, in the suburbs, or in some country place within easy reach.

Many a fruit tree which appears thriving and healthy, fails to produce fruitful blossoms. This is, as a rule, due to the severe cold of the winter; and hence the blossoms are said to be winter-killed. The Kentish or pie-cherry tree frequently suffers in this way.

Field peas, especially in heavy soils, generally produce an abundant crop. They should be sown in rows 2½ inches apart, with about three bushels to the acre.

The *American Agriculturist*, which is one of our most enterprising exchanges, propose issuing this month a special June number, with increased illustrations, and containing an exhaustive account of the great Dairy and Cattle Show which took place in New York last month. During the continuance of the show, the *American Agriculturist* Monthly issued a daily paper on the grounds every morning at ten o'clock, of eighteen pages, describing the scenes and incidents from day to day, and presenting illustrations of the various cattle and farm implements as premiums were awarded them. Every number contained from thirty to forty engravings of cattle, etc., etc. It was rather a novelty for the *Veteran American Agriculturist*, now not far from its fiftieth birthday.

Feed young poultry of all kinds early and late, and often.

Put one or two broods in the garden, keep the hen in the coop, and watch the chicks "go for" the insects. We have often kept a cabbage plant clear of the jumping beetle in this way.

Salt may be used in soft food for hens, as seasoning, but not much of it; but salt fed clear, or very salt meat or fish, will kill young chicks and also old hens, unless they can get all the cold water they want. Therefore salt must be used very carefully around hens.

## COSY CORNER.

**A HOUSEKEEPER'S FRIEND.**—A large wall bag to a housekeeper is what a desk full of pigeon holes is to a business man. It is a large piece of strong gray drilling with a dozen (more or less) pockets sewed on, three rows of four pockets, or four rows of three, according as you have a long or broad wall space on which to hang it. These pockets are from six inches deep and five broad to twelve by ten, according to the stowing room you require; they are stitched on, and on each is written in plain letters with ink the contents; for instance, buttons, tapes, ribbons, braids, curtain rings, etc.; in short, all the articles that may be too useful to throw away, yet because they are not new or seldom used may not find a place in the work basket. Ribbons a little soiled, just the thing to line or bind or strengthen some article; tapes still strong or buttons from a garment old fashioned, but sure to come in again; odd buttons, too, that only encumber the regular button box; all the odds and ends we may think it a duty to keep, if we have a thrifty soul, yet which are a nuisance if we constantly come across them, may find appropriate homes in these bags.

**A BOX FOR THE BRIDE.**—At a recent wedding a tin box was provided in which were placed a sheet of paper containing the autographs of all present, a list of the gifts received, photographs of bride and bridegroom, a piece of the wedding cake and the bride's dress; one of her gloves, some of the orange blossoms, and everything else of interest. The box was securely fastened, not to be opened for twenty-five years. The mother of the bride had had a similar box prepared, and found the opening of it twenty-five years after an event of such interest that she advised her daughter to do the same.

A favorite wedding gift for this season's bride is a collection of old second-hand spoons of different sorts and sizes.

**ADVICE TO MOTHERS.**—Are you distressed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of Cutting Teeth? If so send at once and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," for Children Teething. Its value is incalculable. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers; there is no mistake about it. It cures Dysentery and Diarrhea, regulates the Stomach and Bowels, cures Wind Colic, softens the Gums, reduces Inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup" for children teething is pleasant to the taste and is the prescription of one of the oldest and best female physicians and nurses in the United States, and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price twenty-five cents a bottle. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," and take no other kind.

## A CARD

To all who are suffering from the errors and indiscretions of youth, nervous weakness, early decay, loss of manhood, etc., I will send a recipe that will cure you, FREE OF CHARGE. This great remedy was discovered by a missionary in South America. Send a self-addressed envelope to the Rev. JOSEPH T. INMAN, Station D, New York City.