

most promising sorts which have been tested on the several Experimental Farms. By instruction of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture a similar distribution is now in progress for this year, and already over 3,000 samples have been sent out, and a large number are being mailed daily. The object of this distribution is to place in the hands of good farmers, in all parts of the country, samples of the best varieties of oats, barley, wheat, peas, &c., so that they may shortly be available for seed in every district in the country, and eventually result in the replacing of poor, mixed and enfeebled sorts, with varieties possessed of greater vigour in fertility. The number of samples sent to one applicant is limited to two in each case, and on this basis a very large number can still be supplied. With careful and judicious handling, these 3 lbs. samples will generally produce from one to three bushels the first year, and at the end of the second, the grower usually has seed enough for a large field. The advantages resulting from this large distribution of the best sorts of grain obtainable will no doubt in a few years be generally manifest in an improvement in the quality and an increase in the quantity of the average grain crops of the Dominion. A circular is sent with each sample, which the recipients are expected to fill up and return at the close of the season, with particulars as to the character and growth of the grain. The request is also made that a sample of not less than one pound of the product be returned to the Central Experimental Farm, so that information may be had as to the measure of success attending its growth. Samples are sent to applicants as long as the supply lasts. Letters can be sent to the Experimental Farm at Ottawa free of postage.

WM. SAUNDERS,
Director Experimental Farm
Ottawa, March 9th 1893.

Breeds of Pigs

Which kind of pigs is best to keep? Berkshire, Chester or Yorkshires?

Answer. The breeds named are all equally good, according to circumstances. The Yorkshires are generally preferred for bacon and for city markets, having more lean in proportion to fat.

20. At what age are those pigs finished growing?

Answer: They may be kept growing for several years, but it is hardly profitable to keep them, for meat, longer than from six to ten months. The sooner they are killed, under proper treatment from birth, the larger the returns, as the younger the animal, the less food it takes to produce a pound of increase; and the less fat produced in proportion to lean meat, the less the cost per pound.

Notes by the Way.

At last, Manitoba wheat, has been quoted in the market-list of the English Agricultural Gazette; the prices for that description of grain at Mark-dam, London, on the 9th January 1893 were given as: 31 s. to 32 s. a quarter, and Duluth wheat, the same day, seems to have realized 32 s. to 34 s.

Of Canada barley, in the year 1892, 27,246 bushels were sold, the produce of about one thousand acres.

New Cheese

BROCKVILLE, Ont., March 23.—The cheese season has already opened.

About half a ton of this season's make has been bought by D. Derbyshire at 11c. per lb. A local cheese buyer complains that factory brands are erased from cheese boxes in England, thereby enabling the importer to deceive his customers as to place of manufacture. He advocates stamping cheese, when in process of pressing, by raised letters in the press, thus producing in cheese, in letters which cannot be removed, the identical stencilled on the box.

The finest Cider.

Dom. M. Antoine, the very Rev. Father Abbot of Oka, among other things he mentions in a late letter from France, says: "We have sent you a cider crusher and press. I shall bring with me a few books, and all the necessary apparatus for a small pomological laboratory."

The cultivation of the cider apple, grafts of the best sorts of which the Revd. Father Abbot is bringing with him, will be pushed energetically by the brothers at Oka. This novel industry will be an immense advantage to our agricultural people.

Preserved fruits and vegetables

The factory of
M.M. Michel Lefebvre and Co.

We lately paid a visit to the establishment of M.M. Michel Lefebvre and Co., at Montreal, manufacturers of vinegar, pickles, fruit-jellies and jams. There we found an agricultural trade being carried on, calculated to render great service to our farmers, if they know how to avail themselves of the benefits it offers. Unfortunately, the firm can only produce a very trifling proportion of the fruits and vegetables required for the supply of its immense factory from our own province, because the farmers almost entirely neglect furnishing what is wanted. The greater part of the supplies, therefore, must be necessarily purchased from Ontario, Manitoba, and Nova-Scotia. Last year, the firm paid \$2,500, for cucumbers alone, to Mr. H. S. Hurd, of Burlington, Ont., near Niagara, who had 63 acres devoted to this crop. M. Lefebvre used in his factory, last year, more than 800 tons of small fruit, such as strawberries, raspberries, plums, &c. Cauliflowers he gets principally from Ontario. The proprietor thinks that it would become a very lucrative business if our farmers would take pains to grow the best qualities of cider apples. Many of our farmers begin to see that small-fruit growing pays well, and have made contracts with the firm for the delivery of a certain quantity of fruit.

We cannot give too much encouragement to the manufacture of preserved fruits and vegetables, for it is calculated to become a most important branch of trade, not only for the supply of the home-market, but also for export abroad. DR.

(From the French.)

Peat fuel in the Province of Quebec.

Our attention is called to an article on this subject which appeared in the "Colliery Guardian" (Dec. 9). Our farmers are therein taken to task in a rather uncomplimentary manner for not taking better advantage of our vast and widely disseminated peat bog, as fuel. This correspondent mentions what is being done in this line in Europe and elsewhere. If we are well informed, in Belgium and in Germany, where men work for one franc a day (20 cents) or less, comparatively very little peat is used even now, after numberless experiments and efforts both public and private. We beg to remind

these interested in this matter of the fact that very numerous experiments have been made, to our certain knowledge, in this province, some on a modest scale, others by companies which have employed regular civil engineers and sunk, in all cases, all they had put in such efforts. Many will remember the extensive and most intelligent work of Mr. Hodges, builder of the world renowned *Victoria Bridge*, and his company, backed up by the Grand Trunk R.R., magnates of the time. Thousands of dollars, if not hundreds of thousands, were sunk in machinery of the best kind, in order to prepare fuel to replace coal. Great expectations were entertained, but all was useless, from the fact, still pregnant, that such fuel, under the best circumstances, is more costly than either wood or coal. Companies actually at work in Quebec and Ontario promise to do better and hope to deliver dried peat for fuel at, say, \$2.00 a ton. But we are not aware of any company as yet which is offering such fuel, as a regular article of trade, at any price.

We would beg to remind those who see nothing but apathy and ignorance in the province of Quebec, that on this matter of peat, for one, the *French Journal of Agriculture* published in May last a thorough study on the question of peat and its adaptabilities, and that experiments are now in progress respecting the preservation of fruit and vegetables, through peat, which are very likely so far unique in America. DR.

Fruit-trees.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

M. Dupuis, nurseryman, of Aulnais, informs us that: "Mr. Frank Ross, president of Lake St. John railroad, has entrusted to me \$100, to be given in prizes for the best three orchards that shall be established this spring in the region of Lake St. John."

Profit from fruit-growing.

Mr. Du. bought 7 or 8 years ago from a nurseryman of the province, 6 plum trees. Five of them took. This year the five gave him 50 gallons of plums, which represent a return of \$5 a tree.

(From the French.)

The Vaccine Institute, Quebec.

The patient cow is not only our benefactor in her natural products but is put to an important use in this establishment in the production of vaccine.

The place is highly creditable to the pains taking director, E. Gauvreau, Esq., M.D. who is also a successful amateur in poultry, and has some fine specimens of Bramahs, Cochins, and Plymouth-Rocks. The former are his favorite for table fowls and he states that he kills them weighing 15 lbs. per couple, and on one occasion had a couple which weighed 18 lbs. Dr. Gauvreau considers the flavour of their meat surpasses all other.—The Plymouth-Rocks, he justly considers the most profitable for laying and healthfulness, and the best all-round breed, everything considered.

The arrangement of the poultry-house is complete—No artificial means of heating are employed, but such arrangements made as will keep out the cold and admit the light.

The outer walls are all double and the roof is covered by a thick layer of sawdust. On one side, facing the yard, are windows, the whole length, by which the sun and light have free access. The Doctor prefers this to artificial heating, and says that during the

severest weather we have had, the food and water did not freeze; there is no doubt that fowls are more likely to become lousy in an over-heated building.

There was a freshness and sweetness in this fowl house which was quite noticeable, and the appearance of the birds proved that the treatment they received agreed with them, for their plumage was perfect, and their combs showed the prime condition they were in for laying.

There was nothing peculiar in the method of feeding—all the necessities of sand, lime, water, vegetables and meat being regularly supplied as recommended by poultry-men with the most advanced ideas. The Doctor says that he feeds Indian corn to those he proposes to kill for a few weeks, and finds that it gives a solidity and plumpness to the flesh.

The poultry-house is not extensive, but it is a model of cleanliness and comfort and the birds appreciate it, as their magnificent appearance shows.

Some beautiful horses of the pure Canadian breed, which are kept for business and family use, show the care and kindness lavished upon them and what our Canadian breed will become under proper treatment.

Fruit is also another favorite study of the Doctor's, and he has succeeded so well, with raspberries especially, that he proposes greatly to enlarge his plantation of them, and of some other fruits. He will thus be setting a good example to his neighbours, one which, if they follow, our home market will be better supplied and the advantage will be great to themselves and the public.

If Dr. Gauvreau succeeds as well with fruit culture as he does with the production of pure vaccine and with his poultry, he will do well, since it is evident that he possesses the qualities of carefulness, system, and attention to detail, which alone can make a good fruit-grower.

GEORGE MOORE.

A Well famed House.

Amongst the principal commercial firms engaged in the sale of musical instruments, Mr. L. E. N. Pratte, of Montreal, is the best place not only in Montreal, but through all the Dominion where to purchase a piano or an organ of Canadian, American or European fabric.

Owing to his reputation of honesty exhibited in all his transactions with his customers and to his practical knowledge of the instruments he sells, Mr. Pratte has soon seen with a legitimate proud his trade becoming prosperous and his firm occupying the first rank amongst the most important of this country in this line of business.

His customers comprises the most eminent artists, the first class families and almost all the religious institutions of the country. His name is as well known in the most remote parts as in the most populous cities.

This explains why we consider the musical store of Mr. L. E. N. Pratte as the most important as well on account of its popularity, the number and variety of sales made, as for the superiority of the instruments which he has so much contributed to have known and spread through all the community.

Any person wishing to purchase a piano or an organ, should not fail to pay a visit to Mr. Pratte's store to be made acquainted with his prices and conditions of sale which are most liberal. Mr. Pratte sends also, on application splendid illustrated catalogues.