

Correspondence.

The Colorado Potato Beetle.

(To the Editor of the CANADA FARMER.)

SIR:—When at work in my garden this morning, I picked up a full-grown larva of the Colorado Potato Beetle, which had under the body what at first sight resembled the spawn under a lobster, but on moving it on my hand it turned out to be a lot of young beetles, which commenced running about on my hand in a very lively manner, and of course I threw the whole brood into the fire. This fact may account for the beetles being so numerous when they first appear in the spring. I have noticed a statement that some one has found a bug that eats the potato bug, and then goes into the ground and attacks the potato, and now he is looking for a bug that will eat the bug that eats the potato bug, and I hope his search will prove successful. I find that apprehension is felt in England that whenever the potato beetle becomes as numerous in the eastern cities of the United States as they have been in the western cities, they will find their way on board the shipping, and so be introduced into England. Whenever they become numerous in Quebec, which can only be a question of time, they will find their way to England on the timber-laden ships which annually leave that port for different parts of the United Kingdom; and when this pest is added to the constant recurrence of the potato disease, the working classes in England will have to substitute the common dwarf white bean for potatoes. The beans are much more nutritious than potatoes, and can be largely raised in Canada if a sufficient demand for them should ever be called into existence. I observed in the *Globe* an account of a spider-killing insect which has been noticed on the fronts of the houses overlooking the Bay, and also that a similar insect had been noticed in New Zealand. I have no doubt that these insects are no other than the mud wasps, which are by no means scarce in this locality. It is out of the question to keep the windows of the upper rooms closed by day during the heated term, and those wasps find their way in and construct their habitations of clay to the annoyance of the occupants of these rooms. They certainly destroy a great many spiders, but the spiders are said to destroy bugs, so in that respect they are useful, although no cleanly housewife likes to see spiders' webs hanging about her rooms. I may add that the Colorado Potato Beetle has not yet become sufficiently numerous in this section of the country to seriously interfere with the cultivation of the potato crop.

This has been a trying winter for the fall wheat. In some places the farmers have commenced ploughing it up, but in other places it has stood the winter pretty well.—I am, &c., SARAWAK.

May 7th, 1874.

Removing a Wart.

(To the Editor of the CANADA FARMER.)

DEAR SIR:—A valuable mare of mine has a large wart growing on the outside of her fore leg immediately below the knee joint. I cut it off twice last summer, but it is now again as large as ever. It does not appear to cause lameness, but is a blemish nevertheless; and if you can suggest any means for its removal, I shall feel much obliged.—Yours, &c.,

J. W. B.

[Remove the wart with a knife, and then touch the roots with sulphuric acid, being careful in doing so not to injure the surrounding skin.]

BOOKS ON FARMING.—"H. H.," Uxbridge.—Wright's Illustrated Book of Poultry costs \$15, and Dadd's American Cattle Doctor, \$1 50. They can be purchased at any first-class bookstore.

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The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, CANADA, MAY 15, 1874.

Our Dairy Products.

The season has now arrived when the manner in which dairy operations are entered upon and carried out will have a very important influence upon the profits derived from the year's husbandry. Anything, therefore, which may tend to enhance the value of dairy products, and any improvement in the processes of manufacture that will give them a higher value in the home and foreign markets, deserves careful consideration.

We wish, in the first place, to draw attention to the fact that Canadian butter—to which product of the dairy we intend to confine our remarks in this article—occupies a very inferior position in the European market.

Now, there is no good reason why all our dairy products should not rank as high as those of any other country in the world. In our last issue we quoted from the *Mark Lane Express* to show that our cheese occupies a position second to none, and brings fully as high a figure as any in the English market, excepting certain fancy brands such as Cheddar, Stilton, &c. Our farmers are as intelligent, enterprising and energetic as can be found anywhere; and if they can only be induced to devote a portion of their time and attention to the causes of failure and the means for remedying them, there will doubtless be a marked improvement in the quality of Canadian butter, and consequently better pecuniary results.

Generally speaking, so far as the majority of our farmers are concerned, the dairy occupies altogether an inferior position to any other branch of agricultural industry. So long as enough butter is made for home use, and to exchange at the store for groceries sufficient to meet the demands of the household, there is nothing more to be desired. Our farmers rarely consider what is the value, commercially, of their butter after it has left their hands. They carefully scan the home and foreign market reports, and the slightest fluctuation in the prices of grain attracts their attention at once, whilst the fact that Canadian butter occupies so comparatively low a position in the market entirely escapes their notice, or is con-

sidered of no consequence whatever. This is a great mistake, and causes loss to all parties concerned; in the first place to the farmer, who, if more were exercised in the manufacture, would receive a better price for the article; and in the second place to the merchant, who often suffers severe loss from the rapidity with which it becomes rancid before he can dispose of it.

Up to the present time butter, good, bad and indifferent, has commanded the same prices at the country store; but a movement has been inaugurated amongst merchants to discriminate between the different qualities, and pay for it accordingly. In some places butter inspectors are appointed whose duty it is to place a value upon the article, giving a certificate to the vendor of the price it is worth, which will be paid by the merchant or consumer. This will doubtless produce good results. The painstaking dairyman will be paid a fair value for his butter according to its quality, and the slovenly and careless will receive the just value of theirs, and "nothing more."

The farmer is not the only party to blame for the stigma which attaches to Canadian butter abroad. The country merchant, as the article comes in, heaps all sorts, qualities and colors together, throws the whole into a tub, packs it close, covers it with a layer of salt, fastens it down, and sends it to market. No care is exercised in discriminating between the different qualities, packing that which most nearly approximates in color, &c., together, and utterly rejecting that which is badly made and inferior. One lump of bad butter placed in a barrel with that of the best quality will speedily taint the whole, and render it little better than rancid grease, altogether unfit to be put upon the table for household use.

To make good butter, cleanliness is of primary importance—in fact, it is the *sine qua non* of dairying. Next to cleanliness, is working the butter so as to remove all traces of the buttermilk, then salting, packing and storing—all require the most scrupulous care and attention in order to produce satisfactory results. The temperature at which the cream should be kept previous to and during the operation of churning must also be taken into account. In fact, to manufacture a first-class "gilt-edged" article requires an inflexible adherence to certain fixed rules, which our readers will find fully explained in a series of articles on the subject in the Dairy Department of the CANADA FARMER for 1873, and which will repay careful perusal.

There is one feature of dairy husbandry to which we wish to direct the attention of our readers, and which has produced very satisfactory results amongst our American neighbors. We refer to butter factories. Cheese factories have now become a permanent and flourishing Canadian institution, the benefits of which it would be difficult to over-estimate. Farmers have proved by experience that they receive better cash returns for their dairy products by this system than by undertaking all the trouble and care of making and marketing their cheese themselves. Why not, therefore, apply the same system to the manufacture of butter? We hope to see before another year these useful and, we may almost say, indispensable adjuncts to successful dairy farming, in full operation throughout the country, believing, as we do, that they will tend more than anything else to improve the quality of Canadian butter.

VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE.—The third number for 1874 of this charming and popular little work is fully up to the old mark. We cordially recommend it to all lovers of flowers.

THE Directors of the Western Fair Association have decided to hold the Fair this year at London, during the week commencing 29th September. About \$11,000 in prizes will be offered.