

Granges Organized Since Last Issue.

60. DOWNSVIEW GRANGE, Downsview P. O.; Robt. Clarke, Master, Wm. Jackson, Secretary.
61. THOROLD GRANGE, Peter Cook, Master, Thorold; H. P. Swayze, Secretary, St. Catharines.
62. SWITZERVILLE GRANGE, Switzerville P. O.; R. N. Switzer, Master; P. E. R. Miller, Secretary.
63. MAYFLOWER GRANGE, Lucknow P. O.; W. P. Paterson, Master; P. McKenzie, Secretary.
64. TURNBERRY GRANGE, Bluevale P. O.; S. Black, Master; Thos. Hislop, Secretary.
65. ROSE GRANGE, Brantford P. O.; W. J. Beel, Master; Wellington Howell, Secretary.
66. NEWBURGH GRANGE, Newburgh P. O.; J. Daly, Master; John Jackson, Secretary.
67. KENT BRIDGE GRANGE, Kent Bridge P. O.; Wm. A. Everett, Master; G. B. Langford, Sec'y.
68. HOWICK GRANGE, Gorrie P. O.; Henry Smith, Master; John Stewart, Secretary.
69. CLINTON GRANGE, R. S. Merrill, Master, Beamsville P. O.; Geo. Bush, Sec'y, Jordan P. O.
70. ALBERT GRANGE, Moore P. O.; R. T. Marshall, Master; Alex. Johnston, Secretary.
71. — GRANGE, Chatham P. O.; John McLean, Master; Wm. Somerville, Secretary.
72. YONGE STREET GRANGE, Newmarket P. O.; Chas. C. Webb, Master; Oliver Stevens, Sec'y.
73. PINE GROVE GRANGE, Geo. Douglas, Master, Streetsville P. O.; Amos McCurdy, Secretary, Hornby P. O.
74. — GRANGE, Brantford P. O.; T. Clarke, Master; Ralph Crawford, Secretary.

Winter Farming.

SIR,—The long evenings in our Canadian winter is just the time for planting and sowing our minds with the seeds of wisdom and knowledge. It is just as necessary to have a strong, healthy, fertile mind as well as a cultivated field; hence the necessity of its constant exercise. To this end we should direct our attention. If there are several in a family institute a course of reading. Let one read aloud while the other listens, each vying with the others to retain the gist of what is read, and storing it away in the great storehouse of memory for future use, at any moment it may be called for. General discussion upon all important points may be entered into, and if knotty ones upon which you cannot agree come up, so much the better, for this will stimulate the mind to a more concentrated effort. It is just the time to take a general survey of our business. One cause of dissatisfaction existing with us farmers when we compare our occupation with others is, that we do not know the actual cost of production. My word for ninety-nine out of a hundred don't know the cost of a bushel of wheat or a pound of pork or beef. Without knowing the cost of production, we must depend entirely upon the demand for our products, which can easily be regulated by gigantic combinations, whose interests are adverse to those of the producer. The farmer in order to become prosperous must have fair compensation for his labor. The manufacturers receive theirs, or cease to manufacture until the demand exceeds the supply. The question of what is a fair compensation is to be settled by determining the actual cost of any product. Now, in the winter each farmer can take an inventory of his stock and everything requisite to carry on his business, and adopt a simple form of accounts, which, if faithfully kept, will enable him to determine when each crop matures just what the actual cost has been per bushel. The era of guess-work is about to pass away, and one of actual certain profit will be ushered in. The principle of taking what one can get for a crop, and depending upon luck in the future to make up the loss, is not only a thoughtless, but a ruinous policy. The lack of knowledge and consideration has driven many a young man from the farm to the city, and from there to some bad end.

A READER.

The Salt Beds in Huron and Bruce.

A visitor to the Seaforth salt wells writes as follows:—"A very thick bed of rock salt seems to underlie this whole region of country. The wells are bored to the depth of ten or twenty hundred feet; the water from the springs that are penetrated in the downward passage is allowed to flow down upon the bed, and then, having the salt solution, is again pumped into the reservoirs. Such wells are put down at Clinton and Goderich, and

at Kincardine. In some cases the salt rock itself has been penetrated about one hundred feet, and not yet pierced entirely through. The stratum of this wonderful thickness seems to extend many miles east and west, and to have a considerable breadth north and south, so as to indicate an inexhaustible supply of this great preservation.

At Seaforth there are only three wells, but they continually supply eight huge evaporating establishments.

Slow evaporation produces a coarse salt; and quick, a finer article. For our table salt the coarser product is dried in a heated rolling cylinder, and then ground like flower with a stone and hopper.

These Seaforth wells produced about 120,000 barrels of salt last year; this year it is expected they will produce about 150,000. The Goderich, Clinton and Kincardine works are also sending out their hundreds of thousands. The damaged product is used as a fertilizer, and soon the whole country can have it for such a purpose."

Prize Plowing.

Our plowmen are "born, not made." An English plowman, on the contrary, becomes such by an apprenticeship to his art and constant practice in it. To this he is stimulated by pride, ambition and reward. Indeed, such is the estimation set upon plowing in England, that a plowman must be first-class or none at all. He must do good work or seek other occupation. The farmer who employs him observes the furrows with a keen eye, marks their inclination and lap, and measures their depth and width by rule. The work, when done, is carefully examined, and the workman "points with pride" to his achievement.

But as all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, the plowman is annually recreated by a plowing match, at which the competition is eagerly watched by crowds of critical observers, and is stimulated by the offer of substantial rewards.—Here the plowmen, farmers' sons mainly, "lay themselves out" in the presence of their fathers and older neighbors, the victors in many an earlier contest, and who still delight in relating how, in years gone by, "fields were won." One of these competitive tests recently took place upon the farm of Mr. Chas. Howard, a well-known agriculturist, near Bedford, and under the auspices of the Bedfordshire Agricultural Society. The report ought to be interesting and instructive.

For single plows half an acre was staked off for each competitor, the plot to be plowed in two ridges or lands, with an open furrow exactly in the middle, and each side having an equal number of furrows. Twenty-four double plots and one single plot were laid out. The competitors drew lots for position, and each was required to finish his lot in four hours from the moment of drawing the ticket. The plows were started only when ordered by the stewards. For double-furrow plows, plots of one acre were laid off for each plow, and 4½ hours were given in which to plow them.

The work began at 10:15 a. m., and the numerous plows, with two steamers working parallel to the head of the horse plows, made a lively scene. The plowing was rendered difficult by a heavy rain at the beginning, and occasional showers during the day, or the excellent work done would have been still better. It was, however, finished within the required hours; the double furrow plows did the work in half the time of the single plows, and also did better work, though it is said that the single plows did "grand work." The winner of one of the first prizes, a man named Brown, made a splendid showing, "it being impossible to discover a single couplet in either of his ridges; the furrow slices were laid equally, and were as straight as if the land had been cast in a mould."

The prizes awarded were, to the first class a silver cup, value \$30, for first premium, and for second \$20 in money. The competitors in this class must be sons or pupils of farmers holding at least 100 acres of land. The winner of the silver cup, R. Oliver Keysoe, was loudly applauded, and "Well done, Keysoe!" greeted him as each successive furrow was successfully turned. The 2nd class was composed of working plowmen, and four premiums of \$5 to \$15 were offered. Class third comprised only agricultural laborers, with five premiums of \$2 to \$12.50. The fourth class "consisted of boys under 14 years of age," to whom three prizes of \$2 to \$7 were open for competition. Special premiums were awarded for double plows. The first prize taker in this class drove two mares, 7 and 10 years old, both in foal. He plowed his

acre within 4½ hours, and at the end of the time his team were cool and "would not soil a cambric handkerchief." During the plowmen's progress, they frequently measured their work with a rule, and the spectators watched with eager excitement the artistic turning of each furrow.

Such a contest seems to us to go ahead even of agricultural horse trots, both in usefulness and attractiveness, and if any excitement is needed to draw young farmers and "boys under 14" from the retirement of their homes for the purpose of recreation, it would seem that a plowing match, in which each one can be interested, either personally or through an admired friend, would serve the purpose as well as the exhibition of a horse that can be jockeyed around a course in half a second less time than another one, and neither of which has the remotest connection with agriculture except in so far as he consumes hay and corn. And there is certainly, need enough for improvement in our plowing. As a matter of actual experience, the difference in the crop resulting from poor plowing has been found in one case known to us to be equal to eight bushels of wheat per acre.

Short-Horn Convention at Springfield, Illinois.

The Association held its annual meeting at Springfield, Ill., on Dec. 2. In an essay by Mr. Pickerell, entitled, "Fancy vs. Reality in Stock Breeding," he insisted that the weight of animals must be looked to for excellence, and not such fancy points as horn, color of nose, color of hair and other trifles.

In a paper prepared by Mr. A. S. Matthews, on "Short-horns: have they improved in the last twenty or thirty years?" the essayist held that they had not, but that they had rather deteriorated, and the highest prices paid in many cases were wholly out of proportion to the real value of the animals.

An essay was read by Mr. A. W. Stewart. It was held that while great and proper attention was paid to breeding Short-horn cattle, the important matter of food was in many instances lost sight of. Many breeders in order to put the cattle in good condition for exhibition at fairs, fed corn to such an extent as to seriously impair their productive powers. Saccharine food also tended strongly to this evil. While corn represents the poorest kind of food, fresh grass represent the best kind—soft, easily digested, non-fattening and non-heating.

The next annual meeting is to be held in Toronto.—Abridged from the *Michigan Farmer*.

Losses in American Farming.

The *Prairie Farmer*, in Notes from Correspondents, says:

"Jefferson, Illinois.—The wheat sown in August and September came up and looked well, when the army worms came by millions, and ate up hundreds—yes, thousands—of acres. We also had the Chinch bugs eating on our young wheat, destroying hundreds of acres. We have lost thousands of acres of corn by Chinch bugs. Some of our corn was so badly injured by Chinch bugs that the stalks were too weak to support the ear; so it fell down and rotted on the ground. * * * We have not got enough good, sound corn to fatten our pork and feed our teams this winter and during our spring work. Some of our farmers are fattening their pork on wheat. The oat crop was a failure; we needed machines to grab them. Not one man in twenty has any oats to sell, or will have enough for seed next spring. How the stock is to be got through the coming winter is a question to be solved."

Troughs under the Eaves of Barns.

It is not singular that so many farmers who persist in throwing their manure out under the eaves of their large barns fail to put up eve troughs to carry off the water and prevent the washing of their manure? I have a barn 100 feet long. My stable has a lean to along one side of it. Thus the entire fall of rain on one side of the barn and on the lean-to would run into the manure and soak away the liquid portion which would run off through the yard, did I not have an eve trough to catch this water and conduct it into a large cistern from which I force this water with a pump in troughs before my cows in the stable. Tell your farm readers how they may save their manure and the trouble of digging out water places in the pond holes or streams by putting up eve troughs and saving the water that falls on their barn roofs.—*Examiner*.