

## Editorial.

## Roads.

There is a great need in this country of not only having good roads, but also those that are tastefully laid out and planted with various kinds of shade trees. What, it might be asked, adds more to the appearance of a country, not only to the appearance, but to the value of the land, than good roads and tidy farms with well laid-out fronts? Wherever you see farms on a good road planted with trees and showing taste, even if the land is inferior, you will find it rising in value over superior soil differently situated. The outlay of a few dollars in beautifying roads in the front of farms will add hundreds to their value. With the abundance of all kinds of valuable trees which are at the farmers' hands, they can be put down for a mere nothing, both with regard to cost and labor. The beautifying of roads is not only for individual benefit, but it is *pro bono publico*—for the public benefit as well,—and the Government has recognized this by allowing so much per tree to each individual that plants trees on the highways. It is well known that Ontario is fast becoming depleted of its timber, and especially those varieties most fitted for shade trees. Take the maple, for instance, and what with its superiority as fire wood and its extensive use in manufactures, it is fast disappearing, and young maple trees sell every spring at a high price. But whilst beautifying our roads a profitable investment can be made, especially for future generations, by planting nut-bearing varieties of trees, which answer at the same time as shade—for instance, sweet hickory, walnut and chestnut. These trees are hardy, of medium growth, and not only bring forth an abundance of valuable fruit, but also the wood is valuable in manufacturing. By beautifying roads it would first add to the appearance of the country at large; it would enhance the individual property, and lastly, by planting nut-bearing trees there would be an annual profit from the sale of this fruit to the farmer. We know of no more enchanting scene than to take a drive at this time of the year along some of our roads and see the over-hanging walnut laden with its huge stone-like fruit, and the opening shells of the sweet hickory, and the clustering burrs of the chestnut. Farmers, beautify your roads and homes by planting trees!

## Buying Cattle to Feed.

The question is frequently asked if buying cattle to feed pays, or whether the greater profit does not arise from a farmer breeding and feeding his own stock, or otherwise combining the two. Certainly if a farmer in this country, who follows a mixed husbandry, can always raise enough stock for his own feeding, with such a one the best results will be from feeding his own stock; for he who sells stock to feed must have a profit, or stock raising would cease. So the man who raises his own stock just gains this profit. However, as some farms and some farmers are so situated that stock raising is not convenient, they have to depend upon buying their animals to fatten; and not only this, but also the feed upon which they are fed—the owner merely supplying the capital, stable room and hired help. The actual advantage from this class of feeding, according to the evidence of prominent stock feeders, was the profit on the manure. In the words of one of the gentlemen largely engaged in buying and feeding cattle, who gave evidence: "I feed principally for the manure, and if I make the value of the manure as a profit, after paying labor and expenses, I am perfectly satisfied. I am feeding stock as much to improve

my farm as for any profit I make out of steers." This would be thought insignificant to the ordinary farmer, as this manure question is never taken into account by them. But then there are more profits than the dung to most farmers, for there are the profits derived from his own and his family labor, besides manufacturing often otherwise unsaleable feed into beef. A farmer having a large quantity of feed, and deficient in stock, is necessitated in buying if he intends to keep up the fertility of his soil, whether his feeding operations pay more than the dung or not. No doubt that owing to the high price of store steers last fall, caused by there not being sufficient stock raised in the country for feeding purposes, the feeding operations of a number of farmers were not a financial success; but this is an exceptional case. Another thing, there were a great many poor steers, and a number who were not judges, because they covered so many years, thought they must be worth so much, whilst there are plenty of well bred two-year-olds as large as scrub breds are at four. It does not pay to feed a scrub; you are only throwing away your feed and labor. And here is where the majority lose by buying and fattening poor stock. If a thoroughbred or a grade can be made at two and three years of age to weigh as much—and they can—as a scrub at four, here we have one and two years' feeding lost—and certainly this does not pay. But the buying and feeding of well bred stock will pay where the feed is raised on the place, and especially if the labor is performed by the ordinary hand, which would be required anyway. Buying stock to feed will pay, if only for the manure.

## Windmills and Water Rams.

There is scarcely a season in this country, if we except spring, that there is not more or less drought, and a scarcity of water. It is very often the case, even in mid-winter, when the previous fall has been dry, that farmers have to drive their stock a long distance through drifted roads to some stream. Indeed, if ten farmers were taken, not two of these have a convenient natural water supply for their stock, summer and winter, and through all seasons. A farm may have a plentiful supply of water in part of it, and none in another; and hence about 8 farms in 10 have to depend upon wells to supply their stock with water a greater portion of the year. Driving stock to water a long distance, either in summer or winter, has an injurious effect upon stock. If you, say, drive a herd of cattle a mile on a hot day to a stream, by the time you get them back again through the dust and heat and consequent fatigue, they are just as thirsty as when they started out. In winter, again, on a cold day, stock are allowed to go a long distance to the back part of a lot to drink; by the time all of them get through, if there is a large herd, they get chilled through, and stock watered this way cannot thrive. A sure and convenient water supply is a great desideratum, and is most essential to the success of every stock raiser, and to have this about eight farms out of ten will have to depend upon artificial means, or through wells or reservoirs, and as stock cannot very conveniently drink out of a well or a cistern, the water must be raised to the surface by pumps. The raising of this requires power from some source, and we are sorry to say that the majority of our farmers think the old hand pump is all that is required. A farmer now-a-days would hardly like to go back to the days of the old reaping hook to cut his grain; yet pumping water by hand for his stock is on a par with this. A wind-mill now can be had so cheap for pumping purposes, that it is a wonder a farmer would spend his time pumping by hand. On Sunday or week day, whether

the men are at home or not, the cattle are watered without any manual labor. It is strange that well-to-do and advanced farmers in other respects do not perceive the enormous advantages which would accrue to their water supply from a properly constructed wind mill. In the Western States they are a common thing on nearly every farm. These farmers find it does not pay to pump water by hand any more than to cut grain with a sickle, and the same applies to this country. If a farmer here has much stock, it will take some part of the farm labor a considerable time to attend to the watering, and at the present price of labor it won't pay to pump by hand.

Again, on streams cheap rams could be constructed so as to pump the water a convenient distance to the buildings, and spare all this driving the cattle down to the creek. It is not only water that is required on a farm, but it wants to be convenient and so that it will be of easy access at any time to the stock. We are satisfied that if our farmers would try the wind-mill and ram system they would be satisfied with the results.

## On the Wing.

On the 19th of Sept. we left London. The corn, beans and vines had all been destroyed by the un-usual early frost we had about ten days previous. We noted that all the corn was injured until we descended to the low land below the mountain, between Niagara and Hamilton. There the corn and vines were yet green, and the peaches looked very tempting as we passed the numerous peach orchards to be seen in this vicinity, such as can no where be found in any other part of this Dominion. The nearest approach to it is in the county of Essex. It is a great advantage to have land where the temperature is moderated, as it is on the southern banks of Lake Ontario, in the vicinity of Niagara.

We walked over the nurseries of Stone & Wellington, near Fonthill, Ont.; here the frost has not done as much harm as on other lands of the same altitude. These nurseries are on light, rolling land. The stock of trees and shrubs were looking remarkably healthy, and considerable fruit is raised in the nurseries. It gave us a better opportunity of witnessing the ripening of different varieties of grapes than we have previously had.

At Niagara Falls, formerly called Clifton, we met Mr. William Armstrong. He had some of the finest peaches we have seen this year. His fruit farm is situated near Queenston, Ont., about six miles from the Suspension Bridge. He has 30 acres, nearly all of which is in fruit, 10 acres being in peaches. He is striving to supply the early and late peaches, although he raises large quantities of the Crawfords. He informs us that he believes he has discovered the cause of the Yellows in the peach. He has for some time watched a small bug that punctures the new wood of the peach, which in after years develops into the Yellows which is so destructive to the trees. He is paying great attention to it, and in time, if any remedy can be found, we shall be pleased to herald it to you.

From here we proceeded to the place for which we had started, namely, Batavia, in New York State, where a County Fair was being held, at which a trial of implements was to take place. Although only a County Fair, there was opposition in the county, and even in Batavia, for a new company had actually got up another exhibition with better buildings and nearer the town, and had held it a few days previous; but we understand that the new company had relied strongly on horse racing and other attractions to draw the people. One of the papers stated that one of the greatest attractions on the principal day was a baby show; but despite