

## Miscellaneous.

## Comments on No. 6 of the Canada Farmer.

"W. S." estimates that from 6 to 12 stumps per hour may be extracted by using a hydraulic press. When we consider that the proposed force of many tons must originate entirely in the arm of the operator by the interesting process of pumping, a day would be found rather a short period for the work of extracting the number specified. Even then, few would care to use hydraulic means the second day.

"Is there any machine for sowing plaster quickly?" Yes. Put your plaster and yourself on board your cart or waggon. Tell the boy to drive on, while you throw it out, right and left.

"Change of seed" is desirable only when we get better seed. Changing seed for the sake of change, without any specific improvement, is frequently productive of more evil than good.

"Scab in Sheep."—Tobacco water or salt brine, corrosive sublimate, arsenic, sal ammoniac, blue stone, oil of vitriol, and spirits of turpentine. Did that "shepherd" calculate the decompositions which would occur on mixing this rather heroic medicine? What, for instance, would he expect to get by mixing sulphuric acid (oil of vitriol) with salt, sal ammoniac, and spirits of turpentine? Which is really the curative agent in this mixture? A "sure cure" would no doubt take place if any considerable portion of the mixture were used. The sheep would not be able to come to time for a second application.

Does "Clover Hay contain as much nourishment as Wheat" as stated by Robert Irvine, Esq., F.R.S.? While wheat is composed of starch so nearly allied to the fat of animals, and gluten so nearly allied to the muscles of animals, no dry fibrous stalks can possibly afford as much nourishment as wheat.

"Dogs.—How should they be treated?" Chain them up by all means. One dog may do more damage by killing sheep than a hundred can compensate for, whether kept for "sporting or other purposes."

"Honey Boxes.—Mr. W. H. Sherwood's caps would be much improved by putting panes of glass for end pieces, and covering the two caps with a larger one to exclude the light. He could then at any time ascertain the quantity and quality of honey deposited in his boxes.

"Answers to Queries.—Bees do work in boxes until the hives are filled. They are too sensible to work out while they have profitable business at home.

"The Best Bee Hive," for ordinary purposes, is just a plain box, with convenient caps on the top when required, such as described by Mr. Sherwood. Any one can make them. For certain experimental purposes a moveable comb hive is desirable, though not one person in twenty really gains anything by their use. A rough box for a hive will give you as much honey and of as good a quality as any patent humbug that has yet been invented. All non-swarmer are humbugs, pure and simple. The foregoing opinions, though given in oracular style for the sake of brevity, are as liable to error, and as open to criticism, as those of other people

NOTA BENE.

Hastings Co., C. W.

## Short Notes on Various Topics.

[BY J. A. S.]

KEEPING A JOURNAL is a very useful habit, but one which few farmers adopt, because they think it too much trouble. Nonsense! Get a blank book and begin at once, if you don't set down every day's doings, at least put down the most important. Put down the weather, wet, dry, hot and cold, the first and last mow, the first and last sleighing, when you began to feed your cattle and when you left off, when you start the plough, what you sow and when, the time you harvest, the yield of the crop, and the price at which you sell it. Be sure to know about what time your animals are to have their young, and a host of other things which will occur to you if you once begin. It is not much trouble to keep such a book of farm notes, and I am sure if you but try it one year you will never neglect it again.

"KEEP A THING SEVEN YEARS AND IT WILL COME OF USE" is an old proverb with more truth in it than many suppose. Farmers should save odds and ends

of everything that can possibly be of any use. Old iron especially should never be passed by; keep a box and throw in every scrap you come across, no matter what the shape or kind, and you will be astonished how often you will find them of use, saving many a journey to the blacksmith, and many a shilling of outlay.

WINTERING CATTLE means with some folks, bringing them through alive, and he is the smartest man and the best farmer who can give them the least and yet keep the breath of life in them, no matter if they have to be lifted in the spring,—"lan't ruck of a lift." This way suits some people, but I like to see cattle kick up their heels in the spring, not in the death agony, but in sportiveness and vigour. Sometimes a man is short of both feed and money and is obliged to "feed through a knot hole," as the saying is, but he who has plenty and yet starves his stock, is a loser in the end, and a mean man to boot.

PASTURING IN THE ROAD is a very common practice and a very general nuisance. So soon as the first blade of grass appears in the spring, out come a swarm of hungry brutes ranging up and down, "seeking what they may devour," and the man who has most land generally has most stock in the road, training them by a summer of hardship to go through the winter in orthodox style. Sometimes you will find them in your crops of a morning, and you don't like to make trouble with your neighbour, by taking them to the pound, so you turn them out and repair your fence, mayhaps without much outward demonstration of wrath, but methinks your inward meditations will be anything but tranquil. Sometimes they have bells on and you can hear them and be on your guard, but in general the bells are small and not much count; I suppose a good big bell would over-balance their hind quarters. Seriously, though, I would ask, is there any profit in such a custom? If there is, I hope the owners of the cattle, hogs, horses, colts, sheep, and geese that infest our highways will give us the figures.

Cherry Bank Farm, Burford, May, 1864.

## Threshing Machines Again.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—As I intend to get a new threshing machine this summer, I have been watching the columns of THE CANADA FARMER for replies to "John Bull's" enquiry, in No. 4 of THE FARMER; but I find by your correspondent, J. Brett, that they are nearly as far back in progress in his district as the Lower Canadians are. I have seen in Lower Canada an eight-horse power thresher and separator at work, but all they can thresh is from 100 to 200 bushels per day in the fall: 200 is a good day's threshing—generally 150 bushels. Now, I do not want Upper Canada to be represented by J. Brett's locality for threshing. I have run a ten-horse threshing machine for several years. I have threshed in places where there was just room to set the machine and about two feet to spare to carry off the grain—total width, seven feet. In other places the ends of the machine have been out at the side of the barn, so the size of a barn floor for a machine is not a matter of much consequence. It requires nine men generally to keep the machine running, viz. one to drive, one to feed, one to cut bands, one to carry off the grain, two in the mow, and two on the straw stack. If there be more than one day's threshing at the same place, three will be required on the stack. I put up the straw-carriers, or stackers, at every barn where it is possible. I have threshed 500 bushels of wheat per day, 600 bushels of barley per day, 350 bushels of oats in half a day, 70 bushels of peas in three hours (with the same machine), time of setting and loading machine included. I take two span of horses and two men with me with the machine. It is not the grain that bothers the machine, it is the straw. I have threshed all day steady for 100 bushels of wheat, and at other places I have often threshed two bushels of wheat per minute with greater ease than the day I threshed only 100 bushels. I run one of Hall's machines, of Oshawa, and I prefer a Pitt's power before any other to drive the machine, except a steam power. Mr. Alcorn, near Port Hope, has a steam threshing machine, and I am informed it does no more than a ten-horse power. The getting of water is the trouble with the steam. Taking all things into consideration, I think the horse-power is the cheapest. I charge for threshing three cents per bushel for wheat, barley and peas, and two cents per bushel for oats. Some persons thresh by the day, and charge six and eight dollars per day; others work by the job.

I have just come home from a trip away up through the western part of Canada, and I made it an object to visit the principal agricultural works on my way. Messrs. Patterson, Belleville, Massey, Newcastle, and Brown, Whitby, build machines about the same style—price, \$310. Sawyer, Hamilton, Billington & Forsythe, Dundas, about the same. Watson, Ayr, builds his machines to run with shaft along one side and gearing instead of belts. This I do not like, for I have run my straw carriers several times putting straw on the stack when the rest of the machine was still. It hurts a machine more to run it empty than full. On my way home I visited Hall's works, Oshawa. He is making a great improvement on his machines this season, and the style of finish far excels all the others I have seen. Of course, each firm represents their's to be the best built in Canada, excelling all others in some point or other; but I have not seen any I would prefer before Hall's. His price for the new improved style is \$315. It took the first prize at the Provincial Exhibition last year; besides the above prices there is \$25 for straw-carrier and chains. The machines are a little dearer this year, and the reason is, I am told, the iron is a little higher in market. I would advise all getting machines to get them from shops near a railroad station, for in case of accident the time lost is considerable in the threshing season. I always go to the nearest station and telegraph for the repairs I want, and they are down to the station by the next train. I must give Hall's people great praise for their promptitude in forwarding repairs.

J. O.

Northumberland, May, 1864.

## Key to Epitaph, on Page 110.

BENEATH this stone lies Katharine Gray,  
Changed from a busy life to lifeless clay,  
By earth and clay she got her part,  
And now she is turned to earth herself  
Ye weeping friends, let me advise:  
Abate your grief and wipe your eyes;  
For what avails a flood of tears?  
Who knows but in a run of years,  
In some tall pitcher or broad pan,  
She in her shop may be again.

Saltfleet, April 25, 1864.

HENRY LUTZ.

## Does Farming Pay?

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Having read attentively the numbers of the CANADA FARMER already issued, I have noticed a great desire on the part of your numerous correspondents to impress their advisers, with the easiest, most practicable way of making money. Some speak in the strongest terms of the profits easily realized by a dairy farm, others are in favour of stock raising in general, some would invest in Sheep alone, and some even in bees or poultry. From the different statements made, I cannot see a fair case or a good balance sheet properly made out, but it may be owing to my shortsightedness, and consequently not the fault of your correspondents. In the statements given of the profits arising from various systems of farming so strongly recommended, it appears to me that the most important point has been overlooked, namely, the return made for the capital invested in land, stock, and implements. Then the working expenses must be thought of before striking a balance, which in many instances I fear will look small on paper. In the ordinary business of the country, money pays from 8 to 10 per cent, and when writing of farming as a paying avocation, this fact should be taken into account. Should any of your correspondents be able to furnish the readers of the CANADA FARMER with a good margin of profits of farming such as I have mentioned, I for one should like to settle in whatever part of the country he may hail from. But from the experience I have had in the last twenty years, which have been devoted most closely and exclusively to farming, I have concluded that agriculture in this cold and changeable climate, is a very poor investment for capital, and will not return more than from 2 to 5 per cent, which is a very low rate of interest just now.

CALCULATOR.

WHY does a donkey prefer thistles to clover?  
ANS.—Because he is an ass!

The principal of a public school, who wanted permission from his patrons to corporally punish his pupils, had free permission given him in the following response from a fond and tender parent—"Dear