

Moved by Mr. Alexander, seconded by Mr. Burnham, that the Rules for the Ploughing Match just read be adopted, and ordered to be printed.—Carried.

Sundry questions of detail in regard to the fitting up of the buildings from the Local Committee were considered and replied to.

The following resolution received from the Local Committee was then submitted:

Moved by His Worship the Mayor, seconded by Alberman Melie, and

Resolved.—“That the Board of Agriculture be respectfully requested in view of the holding of the Provincial Exhibition at this place, to take into consideration the propriety of granting some assistance to the Local Committee in the preparation of the necessary buildings, and this Committee truly pledges itself to use every exertion in the procurement of further grants to the Exhibition fund, and to use the whole in the construction of the buildings.”

The Hon. Mr. Carling, and Mr. Glass, Mayor, were in attendance, and gave further explanations.

It was then moved by Mr. Rykert, seconded by Dr. Richmond,

“That this Board appropriate to the use of the Local Committee the sum of \$1000.00, provided the city of London erect permanent buildings (except for sheep and pigs,) to the satisfaction of the board.”—Carried.

In view of the expected invitation by government of distinguished persons from the neighbouring Provinces to visit Canada this autumn, it was then moved by Mr. Rykert, seconded by Mr. Denison,

“That in the opinion of this Board it is highly desirable that an invitation be extended by the government to the Boards of Agriculture, as well as to the members of the Legislature and the Boards of Trade of the Maritime Provinces, to visit the Provincial Exhibition to be held at the City of London, in the month of September.”—Carried.

The list of Judges for the approaching exhibition was then examined, and vacancies filled up.

On motion of Dr. Beatty it was ordered that Messrs. Edwards and Fleming be instructed to visit London as soon as necessary, to give instructions for the internal fittings.

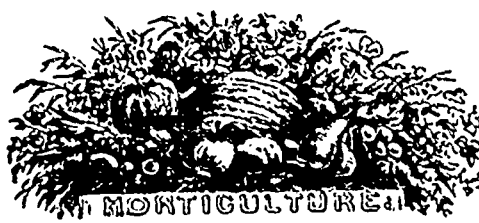
After some further business of a detail character the Board adjourned.

IMPORTED RAM. We learn from a local exchange that Captain Wallis, of Peterborough, one of the enterprising farmers who are fast raising the character of Canada West for choice stock, has imported a fine ram by the “Shandon,” now in port.

ITALIAN BEES AT THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.—We are glad to learn that the Messrs. Thomas of Brooklyn, intend to have a stock of Italian bees, with a beautiful queen, on exhibition daily, at the coming Provincial Fair. They will also have a supply of moveable comb-hives, and all the requisites needed in the apiculture.

THE DEHL WHEAT.—We learn that meetings have been held in Paris and Brantford for the adoption of measures to obtain a supply of this wheat for the farmers of Brant County. It is said to be a choice white wheat, as early and as hardy as the Red Mediterranean, and therefore not liable to be ravaged by the midge. A committee has been appointed to select and purchase a quantity of this wheat for next season's sowing. We perceive by an advertisement in the *Country Gentleman*, that for six cents forwarded in stamps to T. J. & J. T. Sheldon, Cleveland, Ohio, that firm promises to send samples and information to parties desiring to buy the “Dehl Select Wheat.”

CHEESE SHOW. Our New York neighbours are making arrangements for a large display of cheeses at their approaching State Fair. Some of the leading dairymen in Oneida County are on the alert to the matter, being resolved that the interest in which they are engaged shall take a prominent place in the public eye. A thousand cheeses are to be shown. The Executive Board have engaged to place at the disposal of the dairymen a large hall or tent, and it is expected that one of the most attractive features in the coming Exhibition will be “Cheese-makers' Hall.” The State Fair is to be at Utica, which is in the very heart of the dairy region.



Care of Orchards.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—In the Horticultural leader, in a recent issue, the subject of “Exhausted Fruit Trees,” is brought forward; and, as orchard management is a subject in which we are all deeply interested or concerned, a discussion of it will prove beneficial to the whole horticultural community.

As you observe, the soil in which fruit trees are planted is frequently robbed, by an injudicious system of cropping of most of its constituent parts, necessary for the healthy growth of trees. As a rule, manuring is dispensed with, and the combined effects of starvation, and injuries inflicted by cattle, soon disappoint the “great expectations” of the planter.

During the first five or six years of its existence, the young orchard should be thoroughly cultivated, and the soil kept in good heart, so that a sound and well-ripened growth of wood is obtained; for we cannot expect trees, any more than members of the animal kingdom, to arrive at a good old age, after having been starved and rendered decrepid during infancy. A sound constitution must be built up, and then all goes well. Yet, during this period in the life of an orchard, we may cultivate too much, and that without cropping. A gentleman in this vicinity planted out a large number of dwarf pears, which, during the first season, grew well. In the autumn the ground was ploughed, too close to the trees, and the consequence was that next spring quite one-half were found to be so much injured from the roots being cut, that they died, and a great many of the remainder languished through the summer, only to be killed by the frosts of the following winter. Many of the varieties were also unsuited to the quince stock, and would never have made healthy trees. In this case there was a lack of knowledge on the part of the proprietor as to selection of sorts, and a want of discretion in ploughing so near the trees, that many of them were heaved over considerably. In horticulture, as in all other pursuits, a want of knowledge and experience can only result in failure.

Thus far, I have endeavoured to show that during the early stages of its growth, an orchard should be well kept, the ground made clean and rich, and a thrifty growth insured; then with judicious pruning handsome trees, and of course a handsome result, will be obtained. Mr. Robson, a correspondent of the *English Journal of Horticulture*, remarks:—“There is one thing that ought always to be borne in mind—good tillage in the first instance promotes rapid growth, and therefore it is advisable to bestow some pains in the first formation of a plantation.”

With regard to trees which have arrived at a bearing state, Mr. Robson's opinions coincide with mine, and I will therefore again quote his remarks:—“Trees, like men, have their period of youth, maturity, and old age, and when due encouragement has been given them, in the first period of life, the succeeding stages derive the benefit. Now, in a fruit tree destined to attain great dimensions, the earlier period of its existence is devoted to growth, rather than to producing fruit, and if left alone, or judiciously managed, its period of bearing comes on by degrees, and just in proportion its growth is less rapid. Though its growth and bearing vary according to the seasons and other circumstances, its maturity approaches sooner or later; and the aim of the cultivator is to retain it in a healthy state as long as possible; nevertheless there is a time beyond which his utmost skill is insufficient to do this. Probably some natural cause, as an adverse season or other misfortune, may bring on the tendency to decay, and

though the tree may have all the attention and assistance that can be given, it must in time succumb. . . . From what observations I have been able to make, I should be inclined to say that the spade (or plough) is an enemy to old trees, and, coupled with that, I am strongly disposed to add, that the knife is so also. Of course I am speaking of old full grown trees, past their best, for, like ourselves, old trees are unable to bear violent changes, when they no longer possess the vigour requisite to enable them to recover from any injury we may have done them. I certainly have never seen a fruit tree in a cultivated orchard, so old as those in some that have been long laid down in grass. . . .

“In classing both the knife and spade (or plough) as enemies to great age, I expect many will except the latter, and, perhaps adduce some good reason for doing so, but let us take an ordinary but somewhat severe example, and mark the result. Take two aged apple trees, that are still in fair bearing condition, and supposing both to be alike in health, &c., let one of them be headed down to a dozen or twenty branches, and grafted in the usual way. The scions we shall suppose to take pretty well (as they generally do if well managed), and a good growth ensues, which is followed by a certain amount of cutting and pruning, in the succeeding winter, to give the proper shape. This is repeated for two or three seasons, when, probably, it is discovered some spring that a large limb, involving quite one-third of the tree, has died, and probably next year the remainder follows. The other tree, on the contrary, never having been mutilated in any way, will remain in much the same condition as before, a little older looking, certainly, but still likely to live for many years. This picture is by no means overstrained, it being, in fact, of so frequent occurrence that the heading down of old trees is very little practiced now, and many whose experience is worthy of much attention, have expressed their disapprobation of meddling with old trees in any other way than by entirely removing them, affirming that extreme measures only tend to hasten their dissolution. I could point out many examples where old trees that had become crowded with mossy covered branches, did not seem to produce any more or any better fruit, by having their branches thinned, and cut into better form. Nature seemed to rebel against the proceeding, and refused to make amends in any way for the injury done.”

I think the success attending the experiment you adduce from the *Horticulturist*, was entirely owing to the stimulus given to the roots of the trees, by the application of manure,—and in that way only can aged or decrepid trees be made to assume their pristine vigour. As you observe, the trees are not exhausted,—but the soil in which they grow.

W. T. GOLDSMITH.

St. Catharines, July 16, 1865.

Hogs in the Apple Orchard.

NOBODY sends such apples to market as my neighbour, John Jacobs. He always has apples to sell, and gets the highest prices. Folks prefer large apples; and such are always packed in Jacob's barrels. You might search them with a candle, and not find a knotty fruit or a worm hole. Such Rhode Island Greenings and Roxbury Russets I have never met with in the old States. They are as handsome as anything in the virgin soil of the west.

I was going by Jacobs' orchard last summer, and I had the curiosity to call and examine for myself. Says I, “Neighbour, what is there in your soil that makes such smooth, large apples? They are a third bigger than anything I can get, and my trees look as well as yours.”

“The secret is not in the soil,” John replied, with a twinkle in his eye, “but on it. Do you see those granter's there? My pork brings me fifty cents a pound—eight in flesh and the balance in fruit. I began to pasture my orchard ten years ago with hogs, and since that time I have had no trouble with wormy fruit. Apples, as a general thing, don't fall from the tree unless something is the matter with them. The apple worm and curculio lay their eggs in the fruit, and the apples drop early. The pigs devour the apples, and by September every unsound apple is gone, and I have nothing but fair fruit left. The crop of insects for the next year is destroyed by the pigs. They root around under the trees, keep the soil loose, manure the land some, and work over what manure I spread. The apples help the pigs, and the pigs help the apples.”

I saw John's secret at once, and have profited by it. I never had so few insects as this spring, and I have given the pigs credit for it. In turning the orchard into a pasture, put in pigs—not land-pigs, with snouts like levers. You might lose trees as well as insects in that case. But well-bred animals, with judicious snouts, will root in a subdued and Christian-like manner.—*American Agriculturist*.