



How to Foretell the Weather.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR, the following mode of foretelling the weather, which I have taken from an English paper, is worthy of consideration and observation here, though, of course, the same rule may not hold good on this side of the Atlantic. The other day I could not help overhearing in a railway carriage an amusing instance of judging the weather by experience. A gentleman, who was on his way to attend the annual dinner of the Canadian Loyalists, at Grimsby, said to his companion, in reply to some observation on the weather, that he was sure it would not rain that day, it never did on the 13th of October. On being asked the grounds of his opinion, he replied that he had attended the Grimsby dinner for twenty-one years, and he had never known it to rain on that day, and therefore he did not believe it would. This year his faith must have been shaken, as rain it did, in spite of the dinner, steadily, quietly, the whole afternoon.

The account I referred to is as follows:—"The late Marshal Bugeaud, when only a captain, during the Spanish campaign under Napoleon I., once read in a manuscript which by chance fell into his hands, that from observations made in England and Florence, during a period of fifty years, the following law respecting the weather had been proved to hold true:—'Eleven times out of twelve the weather remains the same during the whole moon as it is on the fifth day, if it continues unchanged over the sixth day; and nine times out of twelve like the fourth day, if the sixth resembles the fourth.' From 1815 to 1830 M. Bugeaud devoted his attention to agriculture, and, guided by the law first mentioned, avoided the losses in hay-time and vintage which many of his neighbours experienced. When Governor of Algiers, he never entered on a campaign till after the sixth day of the moon. His neighbours at Excideuil, and his lieutenant at Algeria, would often exclaim, 'How lucky he is in the weather!' What they regarded as mere chance was the result of observation. In counting the fourth and sixth days he was particular in beginning from the exact time of the new moon, and added three-quarters of an hour for each day for the greater length of the lunar as compared with the solar days.

This may possibly interest some of your readers. I have not yet had time to test the rule myself.

LUNA.

STANDARD WEIGHT OF THE BUSHEL—CORRECTION.—We regret to find that by a typographical error the standard weight of the bushel of corn was set down in our issue of October 15th at 58 lbs. It should be 56 lbs.

TUMOURS.—A subscriber from Ancaster writes: "Some of my cattle, and others belonging to my neighbours, are troubled with tumours growing on their neck and cheek, varying in size from a hen's egg to a cocoa nut. Sometimes they discharge and heal up, while others grow up afresh, and thus continue for months. If you can tell the cause, and the treatment they ought to receive, you will much oblige."

ANS.—Small tumours in the region of the head and neck are frequently successfully treated by the application of iodine ointment, in the proportion of one part of iodine to six parts of lard. When these tumours appear to contain matter, they should be opened freely, and dressed with diluted carbolic acid. Our correspondent mentions having sent a previous communication on the same subject, but the above is the only one that has reached us.

MUSKOKA.—"F.S.," Woodstock, sends the following: "I understand there is no limestone in the Muskoka district, and that being the case, is it possible to make a good wheat and grain-raising country of it, without spending more on super-phosphates than could be realized from the crops? Also, what crops would do best on such a soil?"

ANS.—There are many parts of the older settled portions of the Province that are destitute of limestone, and yet have proved themselves excellent wheat-growing districts. Much of the land in Muskoka seen by tourists, in the immediate neighbourhood of the lakes, is rocky and barren, but there are tracts of excellent soil, well calculated to produce any of the ordinary crops of the country. We have seen good samples of all the common cereals, field roots and garden vegetables, including melons, that were grown in Muskoka.

COAL TAR A SUBSTITUTE FOR PAINT.—William McDougall, of Baltimore, writes:—"In the January number of *Chambers' Journal*, the article on science and arts recommends coal tar instead of oil paint as a preventive of iron from rust. Could you inform me how the tar is prepared, or is it applied as it is, raw? I want it for painting sheet iron for roofing a large steam saw mill."

ANS. Coal tar is extensively used in coating iron articles of hardware, and is applied by heating the coal tar over a stove, which gives it a thinner consistence, and using a stiff brush to lay it on. Or the article to be coated is sometimes heated and dipped into the coal tar. Naptha is occasionally mixed with the tar to reduce it, make it dry more quickly, and give a degree of polish to the surface.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—The insertion of the Prize List has so curtailed our space for other matter, that we are compelled to defer several communications, which shall, however, receive our earliest attention.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, CANADA. NOVEMBER 16. 1868.

NEW SERIES

OF

The Canada Farmer.

TWO MORE issues will complete the FIFTH VOLUME of this journal; and we are justified by the unanimous voice of those best able to judge in our own Province, and by the constant laudations of our cotemporaries in Great Britain and the United States, in claiming that the task we undertook five years ago has been spiritedly and successfully accomplished. We but echo the general voice, when we claim that for the care and skill with which its reading matter has been written and selected, for the suitability of its fortnightly contents to advance the agricultural knowledge and system of the Province, for the beauty and profuseness of its original illustrations, and for the creditable style in which the *Typography* of the work has been executed, the farmers of this Dominion have had in THE CANADA FARMER a journal devoted to their interests unsurpassed by any other country.

The publication of THE CANADA FARMER was not undertaken in the expectation that a great profit would accrue from it to the proprietors. It was

commenced with the view of supplying a felt desideratum in a country so dependent for its prosperity on its farming interests, and in the hope of giving increased impetus to the ambition and efforts towards excellence of Agriculturists throughout the Province. But the confident belief was, at the same time, entertained, that a really efficient Journal would rally around it the cordial, and united, and generous support of the whole farming community. Our part of the work has been performed in a style of which we feel we are entitled to be proud. But that ample support which we expected to receive at the hands of the farmers has not been accorded. It is true that the circulation of THE CANADA FARMER has always been vastly larger than any other agricultural publication ever received in Canada; but the labour, and expense, and enterprise devoted to it have been far in advance of any other similar publication. We have spared no expense in keeping up the character of the journal—we have kept down the number of advertisements, so that the reading matter might not be lessened—and to aid the operations of the Township and County Societies, we furnished the paper to them at a rate which ought to have placed on our subscription-list the name of every man in Upper Canada pretending to be a farmer. But the lamentable facts are before us, that not one farmer in ten has subscribed for the paper,—and that no profit has accrued from its publication. The slightest effort put forth by the prominent farmers of each Township would have secured a circulation vastly in advance of what it has been, would have given us some compensation for our labour, and enabled us to increase from year to year the size and attractions of the journal.

Notwithstanding all this, the publication of THE CANADA FARMER might have gone on without change for years to come—as a labour of love—but for the Postal Bill of last session. This measure has, however, totally changed the position of matters. Heretofore, all agricultural newspapers have passed through the Post Office free of postage; but, from and after the first day of January next, a postage rate of one cent per copy is to be imposed upon them; and this not payable by the reader of the paper, but payable by the publisher in advance. The effect of this most arbitrary and absurd regulation—and which, so far as we know, strikes only at THE CANADA FARMER and one other publication—is to compel us to pay the Post Office authorities, in advance, no less a sum than \$1,680 per annum. This we cannot do, and continue to issue such a sheet as we have done, at the very low rates we have heretofore submitted to.

Under these circumstances, we have resolved to commence on the 1st of January, 1869, a new series of THE CANADA FARMER. We propose to issue it monthly instead of semi-monthly; but each copy to contain as much matter as two copies now do. We propose to increase, if possible, the interest and usefulness of the paper, and to add fresh attractions to its columns. But we propose, at the same time, that the price hereafter shall be uniformly ONE DOLLAR PER ANNUM, without abatement, leaving us, after payment of postage, 88c. net;—and we make our appeal to the Farmers of Canada, to sustain with a little more energy a paper in their own interest, and one that has done them no discredit, either at home or abroad.