

best quality narrow flooring, using tar or paint in the joints, or with two thicknesses of cheaper lumber with building paper between them. Paint the inside with a mixture of coal tar and gasoline, three parts of the former to one of the latter, or as may be necessary to make the mixture flow from the brush. Use no heat, nor light any matches within "forty rods" of the gasoline or the mixture, or in the silo, until the gas has all passed away. Rip a piece of 4x4 or 6x6 cornerwise and nail in the corners. Use movable boards, cut to proper length, to fill in the doorway, two thicknesses with paper between. In other words and in short, make an air-tight pit. Fill the bottom with clay 4 to 6 inches deep, or with waterlime concrete. It is recommended when the silo is very deep, say 20 feet or more, to fill in say 10 feet, and put a covering of boards (they need not be close together); then fill 10 feet more, put on another covering, and so on. This will keep it from pressing outward, to the injury of the building. A thin layer of whole corn, laid butts outwards, all around the edges of the silo, would answer the same purpose as the boards, and might be put in every four or five feet.

Notes From England.

A rumor current a short time ago to the effect that the embargo on Canadian cattle had been removed caused Messrs. Swan, the well-known live stock salesmen, to enquire of the Board of Agriculture, to which Major Tennant replied: "Canadian cattle will continue to be slaughtered at the port of landing, and there is no immediate prospect of their being released from that condition."

The Board of Trade and the Chambre de Commerce have been discussing the matter of importing Canadian hay, and the former body has decided to call a meeting of exporters to make arrangements for hay inspection at Montreal, and so provide against the shipments of bad qualities. The French merchants have instructed the secretary of the Chambre de Commerce to write to the French and English Ministers of Agriculture for information. Mr. J. V. Keeble, representing the firm of Keeble Bros., Peterboro, England, large hay and straw merchants, has, on the recommendation of Sir Charles Tupper, been visiting Canada in connection with the hay trade, and has made extensive purchase, including 1500 tons at Montreal. He thinks that a practically inexhaustible demand for Canadian hay can be found in Great Britain at the present time, if the merchants attended properly to its export.

The Earl of Aberdeen went down to Windsor on July 17th, and having been introduced to the Queen's presence, kissed her hand on his appointment as Governor-General of Canada. He proposes sailing for the Dominion on the Sardinian on Sept. 7th.

A Royal Commission on Agriculture is being appointed, which, it is understood, will consist of eleven or twelve members, two or three of whom will be peers, three or four members of the House of Commons, and the remainder experts in Agriculture and political economy. It has not yet been decided who will be the chairman, but the desire of the government is said to be that a prominent Unionist should accept the post. A member of the late Conservative Cabinet, who has been asked to preside, has declined on the ground that his other engagements would prevent him from devoting that attention to the work which the importance of the enquiry warrants. From present proposals, the duties of the Commissioners will be to enquire and report upon the extent, nature, and probable cause of the depression now or recently prevailing, and whether it can be alleviated by legislation or other measures.

A deputation waited on the Minister of Agriculture in London on the 17th July, for the purpose of pressing upon him the advisability of removing the restrictions on the importation of Canadian cattle, whereby at present all such animals are slaughtered at the port of arrival. Prior to waiting on Mr. Gardner, the deputation had a meeting in the Westminster Palace hotel, at which Sir Chas. Tupper, High Commissioner for Canada, was the principal speaker. Mr. Gardner, in his reply said he regretted the decision at which he had been forced to arrive. Future inspection would be continued similar to that in the case of the United States cattle. It was argued by a large and influential body that slaughter at the ports should be maintained perpetually. With that opinion he had not the slightest sympathy, and he would allow nothing to interfere with the restoration of the privileges which the deputation asked when he felt that he could do so consistently with the conscientious discharge of his duties. The argument that it should not be in the power of one Minister to impose such restrictions as the compulsory slaughter at the port of landing, would logically lead to the repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act. It might be argued that he, to whom was intrusted the duty of administering the law, had formed his conclusions on a wrong basis; but he asked them to wait for the publication of certain reports to be laid before parliament. He resented the suggestion that the question of the diagnosis be referred to some scientific authority outside the department. His advisers had given many years to the study of the subject, and it was by the adoption of their advice that our flocks and herds were practically free from disease at the present time. There seemed no immediate prospect of the restrictions being

removed, but he cherished the hope that it might soon be his good fortune to give effect to what were the wishes of both the deputation and himself.

It is unfortunate that, while the rain held off for months when it would have been of the greatest possible value to the grain crops, it should come down day after day when it can only injure them. Harvest has been general in the Southern and parts of Eastern counties, and nearly all the cut crops have been dampened a good deal. We regret also to learn that potato disease has broken out in several parts of Ireland, as the result of wet weather. The Bordeaux mixture is being freely used, which we hope will check the disease.

Last season the total shipments of apples from America was 1,203,538 barrels, of which Canada furnished more than half, or in exact figures 608,970, one city, Montreal, shipping over two-thirds of the Canadian total.

Doctoring cows for cattle shows has been pretty freely indulged in during this season's exhibitions. We are glad to know that participants in this cruel practice have been dealt with by the law. We give the particulars of one instance:

At Kirkintilloch Police Court, on July 17th, Mr. Thos. Muirhead, farmer, and his farm servant were charged with having, on the morning of Kirkintilloch cattle show, cruelly ill-treated and tortured a cow belonging to Mr. Muirhead by placing a board underneath the udder and pulling the board upwards by means of a rope thrown over a rafter in the stable until the animal was almost off its hind feet, and resting its weight on the udder, which was well stocked with milk. They were convicted, and the magistrate inflicted the full penalty of £5 or 21 days on the farmer, and £1 or 14 days on the servant. Two other farmers were fined a guinea each for like practice.

PURE-BRED SHEEP FOR AMERICA.

On Saturday, July 8th, Messrs. Alfred Mansell and Co. made an important shipment from Liverpool by the s.s. *Lake Superior*, of the Beaver Line. It consisted of 546 picked sheep of the breeds enumerated below, selected by and with the assistance of Messrs. Alfred Mansell and Co., of Shrewsbury, England. Most of the sheep were selected for show purposes by Mr. R. Miller, of Brougham, Ontario, which included specimens of all breeds for his numerous clients. Another extensive shipper was Mr. James Main, Milton, Ont., purchasing for himself and Mr. J. T. McFee. Then came Mr. R. J. Stone with a fine collection of Oxford, and accompanied by a splendid lot of Shropshires for Messrs. George Allen and Sons and Mr. J. J. Williams. Other shipments included the show ram of Mr. C. F. Clarke, highly commended at the Chester Royal Agricultural Show, and two show ewes from Mr. W. Kirkham, for Mr. F. D. Ward. Mr. R. Brown's best shearling ram and two of Mr. Lee's second-prize ewes were despatched to Mr. Asa Bates. A selection of shearling ewes, one ram, and a selection of Dorsets (ewes and ram lambs) were destined for Mr. M. Bailey. Mr. R. Miller's was a very valuable shipment, including, amongst others, Mr. Fenn's beautiful first-prize Royal ewes, Messrs. Bradburne's prize ewes, Mr. A. Tanner's show ewes, Messrs. Bradburne's third-prize ram at Chester Royal Show, and first and champion at the Hereford Show, and Messrs. Bradburne's prize ram lamb. He also had secured for Mr. G. McKerron a very valuable lot of Oxford, including most of the winners of the year. In addition to these prize sheep, a large consignment of field ewes were taken by Mr. Miller from Mr. Peter Everall, the late Mr. John Everall's flock, Mr. E. Miller, Mr. W. Dicken, Mr. John Darling, Mr. D. Buttar, and others. Cotswolds were represented by specimens from the prize-winning flocks of this breed, and were considered a very good lot. Mr. James Main's lot included a magnificent prize shearling Shropshire ram, Mr. R. Thomas's show ewes, ram and ewe lambs selected out of prize pens, a fine collection of Oxford and Cotswolds, and a small but very choice collection of Southdowns. Mr. R. J. Stone took out some very valuable Oxford, and his collection of Shropshires for Messrs. G. Allen and Son was considered one of the best selections made this season. It included Mr. Nock's show ewes for Messrs. I. J. Williams and Son, Mr. Minton's show ewes, Mr. Nevett's show ewes, Mr. H. Williams's prize ewe lambs, Mr. R. Brown's prize ram lambs, Mr. Thonger's prize shearling ram, a valuable and noted Royal winning shearling ram, Mr. Griffith's show ram lambs, and a choice selection of field ewes from Mr. Davies's, of Little Ness. The majority of the sheep are intended for exhibition at Chicago.

From a correspondent we have the following information, which shows the state of agriculture in the county of Essex. He states that at Colchester recently there was put up for sale by auction a very nice freehold farm of 500 acres, really good arable land, a first-rate house and buildings and eight cottages, and this was sold for £10 per acre, including one of the houses. Sixteen years ago the same lot sold for £15 per acre. Another lot included 175 acres upon which £1,000 had been spent in draining, and this sold for £1,650. Thirteen acres of arable land sold for £250, and twenty-two acres of good marsh pasture land at £400. There was actually sold about a fortnight ago a farm of 200 acres, with house and buildings, for £550; the tenant had been paying £250 a year rent.

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Notes on Strawberries.

BY W. W. HILBORN.

We have had in this locality one of the most trying seasons during the ripening of the strawberry crop I have ever seen. The weather was very hot and dry at that time; many varieties were entirely destroyed by the intense heat; foliage, as well as fruit both ripe and green, were burned so badly that not a quart of fruit could be gathered from long rows, which a few days previous gave promise of a very heavy yield. Just as the fruit began to ripen we had three days in succession when the thermometer ranged from 90° to 93° in the shade, and this followed by continued dry weather with nearly as high temperature. Among the sixty varieties I have none that stood this severe test better than *Bubach*. It makes very large, strong plants, that send their roots down deep into the earth; this, with their mass of thick, dark green, heavy foliage, enables them to withstand more heat and drought than any other sort that I have fully tested. The fruit is of the largest size, of bright scarlet color, and produced in abundance—not surpassed in this respect by any other kind I have seen. It is quite firm for so large a berry, and will be one of the most profitable to plant near a market; ripens medium early. Blossoms pistillate.

Beder Wood.—Is a variety that gives promise of being a very valuable early market berry. Fruit of good size, bright red, roundish, good quality and moderately firm. The plant is a very vigorous grower, immensely productive and very early. Blossoms perfect.

Cloud.—Berries small, poor quality, no special value; shall discard it.

Crescent Seedling.—Still continues to be one of the great market berries, although it was injured quite badly this season with the drought. It should be grown in quite narrow matted rows. It makes a large number of runners, and if these are left to grow, the crop of fruit is not usually satisfactory. Keep the rows cut down to eight to twelve inches, and they will produce a crop equal to any other sort yet introduced.

Cap Jack.—Is of good size and quality, and on heavy soil is one of the best market berries, but on light soil it does not make strong enough foliage. Blossoms perfect.

Daisy.—Gave us some of the finest fruit gathered this season. It is a good healthy grower, quite productive, fine for the amateur.

Edgar Queen.—Another sort that gave promise last season of being a valuable market berry. This season the plants could not withstand the dry, hot weather; it must therefore give place to better kinds.

Farnsworth.—This new berry was sent out as of much value for market; with me it is very productive, but too small. It must go.

Gov. Hoard.—Is a large variety, of good quality, ripens early, bright scarlet; plant a good grower, productive, and worthy of an extended trial for market and home use. Blossoms perfect.

Great Pacific.—Was one of the most promising sorts on our grounds last year. Fruit large, good color, form and quality. This season it did not come through the drought in very good shape. I will, however, give it one more chance.

Haverland.—Few kinds will produce as many quarts as this when the season is not too dry. It has several faults, however, that will prevent it ever becoming a market berry; the fruit stems are weak and do not keep the fruit off the ground, and the berries are not firm enough to stand shipment. It has been recommended for market by many growers, and certainly makes a fine show of large-sized, bright, glossy red berries that would take the eye of any person visiting a plantation of them; but after growing them several years and watching them carefully I would not plant them largely, as so many better sorts can be had.

Jessie.—I have grown this sort six years, and never had a satisfactory yield from them until this season. It withstood the dry, hot weather remarkably well, and produce, as fine, if not the finest, crop of berries I had. It is of the best quality, large in size, dark glossy red, quite firm, and the plant is a strong, vigorous grower. Blossoms perfect; if it would succeed as well every season as it has this, it would be one of the most valuable berries we have.

Loell.—Fruit of large size, bright red, quite firm, good quality. Blossoms perfect; plant strong, vigorous and productive, worthy of extended trial for market; ripens midseason.

Martha.—A good grower, healthy and vigorous, and usually very productive; fruit of large size, bright scarlet. It did not succeed well this season, the hot weather proving too much for it.

Michell's Early.—This is no doubt the earliest variety we have. Fruit of medium size, good