

Crops &c., in Prescott.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Wet weather is the rule with us now. It is a very unfavourable season for hay-making. We had a cold and wet spring, which was succeeded by extra warm weather with frequent showers up to a week or so past, since which time we have had generally rainy weather accompanied by heavy thunder. This is making the hay-harvest backward, and with the unusual scarcity of help this season, work will be very pressing among the farmers about this time. Hay is unusually heavy this season; so also is most other crops, thanks to the frequent rains with which we have been blessed. This remark however, will not hold good concerning wet and undrained soils. Neither has the season been so favourable for the corn crop as if it had been drier, especially during the months of May and June. But "what is good for one is bad for another," as the saying is, and I suppose we must abide by it. The extraordinary hot term of this last month has, however, worked wonders in the growth of this great cereal.

Weather has been favourable for the wheat crop—only the spring variety is, in any large amount, grown hereabouts. The mildew is working to a very large extent in late sown fields. Early sown pieces have escaped the ravages of this pest, and are now about ripe for the harvest. Other crops give a very high promise of good yields. Taken as a whole, the prospect is that this season will, as the last, be a highly favourable one for the agriculturist. With fully or more than average crops, and the present good prices, farmers will have good returns, and trade and the country at large will prosper—an effect always consequent upon the fact of the former circumstance.

J. F. CASS.

L'Original, C. W., Aug. 2nd, 1866.

The Thomas' Bee Hive.

"Thomas C. Hill," of Sydney, Cape Breton, writes as follows to the patentee concerning the above hives, under date "12th July, 1866":

"I cannot tell you how delighted I am with your hive. The more I know of it the better I like it, and if it equals a low hive in producing surplus honey, I shall say at once that it is perfect. In every kind of hive that I have tried, I had only to try them to see their faults. In yours I can see no fault, nothing in which I could wish for improvement. When I first heard of it, I imagined that the depth of the combs would present a serious obstacle in the way of lifting them but, but now I would sooner examine two of yours than one Langstroth hive. I have no trouble now about stings. I never use gloves although I have a pair, and seldom a veil. I examined every comb in 15 of your hives the other morning before breakfast. I now have 26 of them in operation and hope next year to have 100. I am in hopes that before next spring it will be easier for me to import hives from you than it was last spring. Under confederation I think it likely that we will have a direct trade.—indeed I believe it has commenced already."

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—At the close of the letter from which the above extract is made, the writer speaks of having previously sent a communication for insertion in the CANADA FARMER. Not having received the communication referred to, we beg to say to Mr. Hill, who is we, understand, an experienced aparian, that we shall be glad if he will take the trouble to write us another letter, in place of the missing one.

ESSEX PIGS WANTED.—"A Subscriber" is anxious to obtain some Essex Pigs—male and female—in order to cross and improve his present stock. Breeders of this variety of pigs will do to advertise in our columns.

POTATO DIGGING MACHINE.—Mr. W. W. Kitchen, of Grimsby, writes as follows:—"Mr. E. Hamill, of London, C. W., enquires in THE CANADA FARMER of July 16th if there are any potato diggers made in Canada; if so, where they are to be got, and what price." Potato diggers are manufactured for sale at Mr. Samuel Morse's foundry, Milton, C. W. Price about \$25 each. One man and team is supposed to dig ten acres of potatoes in a day. A machine has been used in this neighbourhood, and gave good satisfaction. One will be on exhibition at the Provincial Fair in Toronto, this fall."

POLITICAL NEWSPAPERS versus FARMERS.—"J. F. Cass," of L'Original, C. W., writes on this subject as follows:—"No more opinion of the newspaper press concerning the condition of the crops is of any weight compared with the reports of the farmers from all parts of the country. Who ever saw a city newspaper report anything adverse to the old stereotyped phrase 'full average crops'! He is a 'croaker' who would report anything having a bearing in a contrary direction. They work for the reduction of the price of the products of the farm, not for ascertaining the real state of their growth and the prospects of their yield. They work against the farmers interest in favour of the non-producers, and, at the same time, labour under the pleasing garb of making themselves appear as the farmers' friends—as witness the denunciations by the political press of the new retaliatory tariff, taxing corn and other coarse grains from entering Canada from the States. But enough: this fact is too apparent to admit of contradiction."

Then let the farmers have a journal that will look after their interests, one that will ever be alive ever-thing pertaining to their profession. And let there be a department in it containing notes from farmers, from all parts of the country, concerning the weather, as to what effect it will have upon the crops; and the state of the crops themselves, the prospects of the probable yield, &c. The farmers of Canada have their FARMER. Now it remains with them, to a great extent, whether it shall come up to this standard. They are to say whether we are to have a faithful record about the weather and the crops, one in which all parts of the country will be represented, and which will be taken as authority everywhere. Such a work was commenced in some of the earlier issues of this paper, but there seems to be now no special department devoted to it. We are sure several farmers could be found in every county of Upper Canada who would send notes concerning the state of the weather and the crops, say once a month, for publication in the CANADA FARMER. These notes could be so condensed and put into form by the editor to suit the requirements of the paper, and would for a summary, relating to the subject, at once be of the greatest interest and value to farmers and to the country at large."

ANS.—As readers who have carefully examined our pages are aware, we have repeatedly and warmly invited practical communications from the cultivators of the soil themselves. If this journal is adequately to fulfil its mission, its pages must be better patronized by contributions from farmers. Agricultural journals in the United States experience no difficulty in filling a large portion of their columns with such correspondence. We again repeat that we shall be particularly gratified by farmers "in every county of Upper Canada" sending us brief, practical, and reliable notes not only on the crop prospects of their neighbourhood, but also on their own farming experiences.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, AUGUST 15, 1866

Great Implement Trial at Auburn, N. Y.

ON the 10th of last month, a most important trial of implements, under the auspices of the New York State Agricultural Society, commenced at Auburn. We were present the three first days, and had ample opportunities to investigate the principles upon which the various implements were to be tested, to observe the preliminary proceedings, to watch the actual trial of a number of the mowing machines, and to inspect a variety of useful farm tools that were on exhibition. Our decided impression from all we saw and heard, was that the most valuable results might be expected from the competition among agricultural machinists, for which an opportunity had thus been furnished by the New York Society.

The programme of the trial invited manufacturers to subject every description of farm implements to a fair but searching ordeal. But while quite a number of miscellaneous implements were entered, the occasion resolved itself very much into a grand trial of the principal mowing and reaping machines. In these there is very brisk competition among our

neighbours across the lines, and as the demand for them is extensive, it is a matter of some moment for a manufacturer to acquire the reputation of making a first-class article. Between 70 and 80 mowers and reapers were entered in the several classes specified, the chief of which were single machines, combined machines, hand-rakers, self-rakers, one-horse machines, droppers, &c. A most elaborate enumeration of "points" to be considered by the judges, prescribed the principles on which the awards are to be made. A perusal of this document cannot fail to convince anyone of the minuteness and thoroughness with which every part of the important implements to which it relates, have been studied by inventors, manufacturers and users of them in the United States. The length and thickness of the grass and grain cut; the names of the weeds intermingled with the crop, their proportions, average length, and toughness of stalk; the total amount of grass and grain per acre ascertained both by measurement and weight; the evenness of the cut; the condition in which the grass and grain are left; the length of a stubble, and whether it is clean cut or torn off; the closeness with which the machine works up to stones, stumps and other obstacles, were among the "points" in relation to the work done. As to the machines, weight; price; extras furnished; material employed; workmanship displayed; metal used for journal bearings; heating of the parts; draft; speed; facilities for oiling; portability and compactness; contrivances for security and comfort of driver; temper of cutting-knife; whether sickle-edged or smooth-edged, were among the "points" to be carefully weighed. No. 40 was to represent the best work that can be done; No. 30 the best work that can be done with a hand-scythe or cradle; No. 20 inferior to any work a respectable farmer would tolerate; the gradation of work to be expressed by numbers intermediate to these. When all the points minutely specified are duly considered, the judges are to make up their verdict by replying to the following questions:—

(a.) Which is the cheapest machine. (b.) The most simple in its construction. (c.) The most durable. (d.) Which requires the least power. (e.) Which has the least side draught. (This will be determined by its capacity to perform a given amount of work, in a workmanlike manner, in a given time, in the most economical way.) (f.) Which does the most work in the least time. (g.) Which does the best work. (h.) Which is managed with the most facility. In determining the last question, they will consider—(i.) Which is the most portable when in operation, or otherwise. (j.) The arrangement for throwing in or out of gear. (k.) Accessibility of parts for convenience of oiling, tightening nuts, &c. (l.) Convenience and safety of the driver. (m.) Readiness with which the machine may be brought into perfect operation from a dead stand, and quality of work with slow motion. (n.) Time and room occupied in turning and avoiding abrasion of the turf. (o.) Adaptation to uneven surfaces, cutting at different heights, and to cutting different kinds of grass."

When the judges have determined these questions they will proceed to decide which of the machines is best adapted to the use of the farmer, by having the greatest number of merits and the fewest defects.

We mention these particulars, not as an exhaustive account of the principles laid down for the guidance of the judges, but as evidencing the thoroughness of the trial, and as furnishing an example which may be of use in future competitions under the auspices of our own Society.

The mowing machines were tested in a clover field on the farm of Mr. W. S. Leach, in the Town of Aurelius, four miles from Auburn. The crop was a moderately heavy one, but in a very prostrate and tangled condition. A heavy growth of the large coarse weed known as *Erigeron Strigosus* was mixed with the clover. Obviously a machine that would do good work in such a field might be relied on to perform its allotted task anywhere. It must be confessed that the test was a severe one. Nevertheless the machines bore it bravely. Those whose performance we saw, certainly did their work well. While we must own that all was good, there was of course also better and best; but as we noticed only part of the competition, we shall not anticipate the judges' award by any verdict of ours. Each machine cut an acre. There were no mishaps, and very few delays from