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RURAL NOTES.

THE work of a farm should go on regularly from year to year, so that even in midwinter the farmer may make arrangements for the whole season. It pays to think ahead of the time for action.

To winter well, pigs should have a warm, clean bed, and as much wholesome food as they will eat. Store pigs need only enough food to keep them comfortable; they will thrive all the better when the time comes to shut them up for feeding.

A writer in the *Chicago Breeder's Gazette* does not take much stock in oil-cake as food for farm animals. The hydraulic presses in use at the mills, he says, do not leave much in the cake—not more than six or eight per cent. of fat-producing food. Corn, he claims, is richer in all the elements required in good, substantial food, and especially richer in phosphates, which go to make bone. Besides, corn is much cheaper than oil-cake.

AN authority on bee-culture says that in winters remarkable for bee mortality the air has been very moist. The reason given is, that honey is almost purely a hydro-carbon, and needing but little digestion it is readily assimilated and passes off as water and carbonic acid. The excretion being thus by respiration, the air must be dry that it may go on freely. If this is true it explains why the dry earth ventilation has been so successful. We would like to have the opinion of bee-keepers on so important a subject, and especially on the relation of dropsy or dysentery in bees to moist winter weather.

It is hard to find a farm without some blot on it—usually a bit of swamp or of springy ground. These blots are not hard to remove, and once the work is done the value of the farm is increased by a much larger sum than the improvement costs. The trouble with most farmers is that they are not satisfied to clear off the blots by degrees, they want to do the whole of it at once, and the consequence is that they cannot spare the time from other work, or that trying to do too much it is only half done. Better to finish the work piece by piece, as you have the time for it, and once well removed the blot is rid of for all time.

THE farmer who has only a small wood lot cannot be too careful of it. It is not good economy to clear away all the underbrush, or to cut down trees without any regard to their shape, size or vitality. The choicest of the young trees should not be touched, except to trim them neatly, they will take the place of the older trees by-and-by, and by a proper selection the wood lot may not only continue to give an indefinite supply, but even to increase in value. There are already many sections of Ontario in which the farmers are obliged to exercise a saving habit, in spite of the fact that ours is called a "wooden" country.

BEEF is cheaper now than it was a few months ago. There are two reasons for this. One is, that there has been a falling off in the shipments of fat cattle to England, the other is, that roots and coarse grains are abundant, and consequently every animal that

could be picked up has been stalled. But owing to the heavy drain of the last three or four years there is in Ontario a scarcity of first class animals, and while prices may be lower in Spring than now the lovers of juicy roasts and steaks must not be too sanguine of getting cuts exactly to their taste. The breed as well as the feeding has much to do in the producing of a fine quality of beef.

IN the setting out of young orchards the first thing to be considered is the hardiness of the trees. Many orchards in Ontario are decimated winter after winter because care was not taken to select varieties suited to our climate. In this matter the experience of one's neighbours is always valuable. What matters it that a certain apple is "choice" if the tree cannot endure the frosts of winter. First make choice of trees that you know are suited to the locality, and afterwards consider other qualities. Among these color is not the least important, for with, perhaps, the exception of the Rhode Island Greenings and the Newtown Pippin, red apples are always more saleable than green ones.

IF you are a corpulent body, as some bodies are, the following rules will, if followed, make you reasonably lean again.—On rising early take a cold bath and rub the body with hair gloves and exercise for half an hour. Breakfast upon lean meat, oat-meal, and tea, without sugar and milk, but with a little lemon juice in it. Dine upon plain meat free from fat, with beans, spinach, cabbage, and sourkroot, but no potatoes, sweets, pastry, or butter. Baked apples, and lemonade not sweetened may be added, and water for drink. For supper, tea, with lemon, oat-cake, and skim milk cheese. Between meals exercise must be taken until perspiration is produced. The loss of flesh should not be more than a pound a day.

THE towns and cities get their milk supply from the country. But sometimes they get more than milk; they get the proverbial peck of dirt which every man is supposed to eat in his lifetime. On emptying the pitcher which the milkman fills a sediment is often found, enough to turn a man's stomach. Whence comes it? From the udders and bodies of cows. They are milked as they rise in their stall, without any process of brushing or cleaning. If the stalls are not kept clean the milk will be tainted, and if the cows are not brushed before being milked there will be sediment in the pitcher. The farmer who is neat in the dairy will have a quick market, and get the highest prices for his milk and butter.

WINTER is a good season for farmers to recuperate. They work hard in the spring, summer and autumn months, they are out in the fields late and early, improving every shining hour. To work equally hard the year round would be a hard strain on them. They couldn't stand it many years without showing the effects in physical degeneracy. They would break down, just as merchants and business men do who never cease from their labours. But the winter is the farmers' resting time, it is his holiday, and he laughs and grows fat. But while kind to himself let him not forget that his horses deserve an equal care. They need a good accumulation of stored-up

force in the form of flesh if they are to do the heavy spring work as they ought. Don't neglect to keep the horses neat and clean, and to feed them with a generous hand.

UNITED States newspapers will persist in keeping Canada in the background, as far as they are able to do so. The old wheat figures of the 1871 census are every now and then made to do duty, and whenever an estimate is made for current years it is based on the figures of that unfortunate census. There is an article now going the rounds of the papers on the World's Wheat Crop, in which the average crop for the Dominion is given as 13,720,000 bushels, and the estimate for 1882 as 16,464,000 bushels. The statistics published by the Bureau of Industries show that for the Province of Ontario alone the wheat crop of 1882 was more than 40,000,000 bushels, or about 250 per cent. in excess of the estimate so widely published by United States journals. Why don't they publish the real facts? Is it because they are jealous of Ontario?

THE idea of an annual fat stock show, suggested by the Council of the Agriculture and Arts Association, is one that ought to be taken up heartily by the whole country. True, we cannot hope to approach the shows of the Smithfield Club, in England; but we can get up a very creditable one for Ontario, and it will continue to improve year by year as our farmers see what is attainable with good breeds and intelligent feeding. If the show is made an established institution of the Province it will be interesting to watch the competition between the Shorthorns, Herefords and Polls among cattle, between Cotswolds, Southdowns and Shropshires among sheep, and between Berks, Chesters and Poland Chinas among hogs. There is a great deal to be learned as to the merits of the several breeds for meat-producing purposes, as well as to the merits of the best systems of feeding.

THE Council of the Agriculture and Arts Association is not as wise as it might be. We fear, indeed, that it is getting into dotage, and that its usefulness is well nigh gone. The want of tact and sagacity—to speak of no higher qualities—which was shown a few days ago, when the Commissioner of Agriculture asked for advice on the propriety of establishing model creameries, is most remarkable. The matter was referred to a special committee, and the committee after a brief deliberation reported in effect that they had no time to consider it. The Council knew that the Commissioner wished to take action during the present session of the Legislature, if he was satisfied that the scheme was practicable and useful, yet they shelved the subject on the pretence of want of time and information. Why didn't they take time? and why didn't they inform themselves? Another day might have been profitably spent in deliberation, and if this was not sufficient the committee might have been instructed to continue the enquiry and report to the Commissioner before the close of the session. One of the objects for which the Council exists is, that it may give advice to the Government on measures affecting the agricultural interests of the country, and for the neglect or refusal to do so when advice is solicited it fails to justify its existence.