

did not consider it worth while to use the mowing machine, so I went at it with scythes, and I assure you, reader, that it was no child's play. In the low places it was heavy and tangled, but on the drier ground it was so short that the scythe could scarcely catch it. The part of the field seeded with red clover and timothy yielded two fair crops, which was chiefly red clover.

The next year the result was similar, except that the part of the field seeded with red clover and timothy was now nearly all timothy, and a much heavier crop than the preceding, while the alsike produced a still lighter crop and continued to do so each succeeding year.

What I have stated is neither an exaggeration nor an exception. The truth is, alsike clover will not flourish unless the ground is constantly moist, and is, therefore, not adapted for high land. A neighbor who cultivated it more extensively met also with a signal failure. I know of only one case in this vicinity where it has given satisfaction. In that case it was sown in the flats of a river.

This instance, together with the fact that it is to be found in nearly all the water runs on my farm, leads me to the conclusion that it may be cultivated with advantage on some low lands, but I would advise those who purpose trying it or any other new thing, to be cautious lest they be duped as I was.

MOSES PIERCE, JR.

Brinsley, Ont., March 6th, 1874.

SEED REPORT.

I purchased one bushel of your Farrow wheat last spring, and twelve pounds of the Late Rose potatoes. I am well pleased with them both; I sowed the wheat on quite a foul piece of ground, so grassy and thisty that I did not draw the swath next to the fence in, and the season was much against the wheat crop in this vicinity. Notwithstanding all these disadvantages, I threshed thirty bushels of better wheat than the seed was. It was twice as good as my other wheat in the same field. I could have sold all I wished to spare for double the price of ordinary wheat. It has paid me well.

The potatoes surpass anything I have ever tried for both quality and productiveness. I manured them in the field.

STILMAN W. HERRINGTON.

Mountain View, P. E. Co., Ont.

[Numerous reports from various parts of the country have been received, and the Farrow wheat has given more satisfaction than any other kind we sent out last spring. In some parts of the country it has succeeded no better than other varieties.—Ed. F. A.]

Mr. Thos. Fletcher, of St. Thomas, informs us that from two Light Bramah hens he procured two hundred and seventy-five eggs during the season of 1873. They commenced laying on the 10th of February. They set and hatched chickens, and cared for them until they could care for themselves, during the time.

ASHES AS MANURE.

SIR,—I noticed an extract in the Advocate, taken from the *American Agriculturist*, that wood ashes—leached or unleached—is a valuable fertilizer, and would pay better to be used by every farmer than sold to the ashman for 10 or 12 cents per bushel.

In consequence of such advice I have made many experiments without any visible effect for the better. I have driven out wagon-loads of unleached ashes, and spread it broadcast from a quarter to half an inch thick, on old meadows and pastures, without any benefit. I have applied it on corn and potatoes, leaving one row done and the other undone, throughout the field, but without any apparent difference between those that were ashed and those that were not. I applied it also on fruit trees with no better success, and likewise in the garden, on all kinds of vegetables, but without any visible effect whatever.

The Americans come here with barges from Albany, buy up all the leached ashes they can find, take them down along the Hudson, get all manures and combustibles from the cities, mix them all up together and then sell them to the gardeners.

Now, is this the way we must do, or is there any way we can supply them from the ash

house sufficiently? and what crops can be benefitted as represented? A little information on this subject will be much appreciated by a subscriber.

P. B. WERDEN.

Picton, March 13th, 1874.

[We had some conversation with a good farmer a short time since, who had applied hundreds of loads of leached ashes on his farm, and applied it to different crops, but could see no benefit to his crops on the parts of the fields which had received the application. We should be pleased to have accounts from any of our subscribers that have used leached ashes and derived benefit therefrom in an unmixt state. We do not doubt that by mixing other ingredients with them they may be made very valuable. Perhaps our informants might mention the best ingredients to add to make them most beneficial.—Ed. F. A.]

SHADE TREES.

I see a proposal in your esteemed paper for a change of time of doing the road work, but I can't see that we could be benefitted by it. I think, however, if we could have a law passed for the protection of shade trees along the highway, something that farmers would be encouraged to do as a portion of the statute labor, something to attract and catch the rain clouds and give us a shower now and then, it would be much appreciated, as they would not only be very valuable in our extreme drouths, but they would also protect us from the breath of the cold north-wester that so often destroys our vegetation and sets us a-shivering.

P. B. W., Picton.

[It is well for us to take pattern from our American cousins in anything that may be for our advantage. By their agricultural papers we learn that they set apart a day for planting trees. They call it "Arbor Day." The day they take in the west is the 20th of April. Last year we offered prizes to the boys and girls who planted out large numbers of trees, and many were the reports received of the numbers planted by both boys and girls. We again make an offer of two packages of flower and vegetable seed, one for the girl and the other for the boy that sends us accounts of the largest number of trees properly planted by themselves on or before the 20th day of April. We think that some of our legislators might with advantage introduce a bill for the extension and encouragement of tree planting along the roadsides.—Ed. F. A.]

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

Dear Sir,—The class of acts regulating these societies is perhaps the most important affecting the interests of farmers, and is freer from complication and bewilderment than many other acts of our one-house Legislature. I have long been of opinion that this is the most useful legislation in the country, as encouraging the most important interest, and it is therefore desirable that it should be as perfect as possible, and I venture to hope I can suggest some improvements which will tend towards that. I have two objections to the present system, and they are so involved that, after stating them, they will appear pretty much as a duplex objection. The first is the arbitrary sum of \$700, or any arbitrary sum, apportioned to a county or an electoral division; the second is the existence of county societies at all as such; indeed they are but a larger township society, possessing special privileges, located in a particular district, and not extending to even a considerable part of the county. They appear to have functions which I think inadequately performed, and they have advantages which are decidedly unfair as towards township societies. One township society I was connected with, one year raised the prescribed fifty dollars from fifty members, and being the only township society which in that year made the requisite return to the county society, became entitled to, and after some trouble received \$140, the county society appropriating to its own purposes, as allowed by law, \$560 of the Legislative grant. Another township society in another county, of which I was a director, collected its first year sixty-one dollars from as many members, and received from the

county society thirty-six dollars, that same county society retaining for its own use \$280, as allowed by law. Nothing need be said of such a state of things but to suggest a remedy, as anything more unfair cannot well be conceived.

The remedy I propose is to give a pro rata grant to county and township societies. To the latter I would give dollar for dollar for any sum of fifty dollars and upwards, subscribed by fifty or more members, for the general purposes of the society, and a special grant of fifty cents per dollar for the purpose of encouraging the purchase of improved live stock. This I think is a more judicious way of doing so than that mentioned in the Advocate some time ago as contemplated by Government of spending \$200,000 in the purchase of stock as a Government enterprise—an unwise and unfair one, of which more may be said sometime. I know nothing of the working of county societies but what I learn from acts of Parliament and official papers; but if they have functions to perform, and supply a necessity which I am unacquainted with, and which cannot be performed by township societies, I would make their grant one and a half dollars for every dollar, when a hundred and more was paid by a hundred or more members, and a special grant of dollar for dollar. But if, as I think, there is nothing required from county societies but what can be furnished by those of townships, there is no occasion for this difference, and certainly these latter deserve encouraging. They are all over the country in nooks and corners, and bring into play a class of men who seldom hear of county societies, and could not attend them if they did, but who are not less the bone and sinew of the country. One important duty of these societies should be furnishing correct agricultural statistics to Government. At present, this devolves on the county societies, who send forms to the townships to be filled up, sometimes after the date when such forms should have been returned—generally about October. This is quite too early; there is a large quantity of grain unthreshed then, and some roots are not harvested. Let the returns be sent in about the first week in February, when threshing is generally so nearly completed that a farmer can tell the result of his harvest. And let the forms to be filled up be sent direct from the Department of Agriculture to each society, not from one to another. A good secretary-treasurer would collect such statistics if he were paid for it; but it would require considerable time and diligence, and whether the directors would feel justified in paying for such extra work out of the grant, is a question. If all societies were put on an equal footing, the grant might be modified to meet this. "Whatever is worth doing at all, is worth doing well." These statistics would not be universal, as there are places where there are no societies; but they would be so general as to give a correct approximation of the whole. They would require to be verified, and this might be done by a magistrate or clergyman, or better, by the municipal council, under seal in form of a certificate, as the councillors living in different parts could speak of their knowledge. I object to an affidavit, as our acts of Parliament require. Such a multiplicity of oaths administered by such a variety of persons must tend seriously to lessen the sanctity of an oath. This is a grave consideration, and deserves the careful thought of all who value truth and confidence. A condition of the grant should be furnishing reliable statistics, and of the special grant a certificate that its object has been complied with. It may be objected that making these returns so late would embarrass the Government in providing the necessary funds, but a finance minister would easily calculate the requirements of this year from those of two or three past; besides, Government never steers so close as to be within a few hundred or a few thousand dollars. It is evident from the two facts I mention above, that the richer a county is in agricultural societies, the worse it is for those societies under the present system; and the poorer it is from want of spirit or means, the better are the societies paid, even to extravagance. This matter must be so interesting to farmers that perhaps some of your correspondents better acquainted with county societies will take it up.

In my letter in the March number, there is a formidable mistake, "3s. 6s. 11" should be 3d. 6d. 11. Yours truly, Cardiff, March 16. P. L. HARDING.

MARKET FEES.

DEAR SIR,—I cannot see why farmers should pay for the privilege to sell their produce. It is a piece of imposition on farmers that they have submitted to too long. I never found a person who could give a good reason in favor of the practice. Market fees go into the corporation treasury; the man who takes the fees is paid out of that. That is, the farmers pay him; he is a gentleman, who lives at the farmer's expense. Why should I pay to back a wagon to the sidewalk in the sun, rain or storm?

I suppose some would say, "Because the corporation law is such." The sooner unjust laws are removed the better. Farmers pay their taxes, why should they pay part of other peoples'?

Farmers, we call your attention to this subject, look at it, and if you think it right, support it, if not, we ask you to help to put it down. We, as farmers, should unite to enforce our rights and not allow others to run over us. It is not the man who wears the finest coat and perfumes the strongest who has done most to improve Ontario.

Clarke P.O.

JAMES MCCULLOUGH.

THE HULLLESS OAT.

DEAR SIR:—

You having invited information respecting Hullless Oats, I beg leave to state that my father, the late James Nisbet, got some of the oats in question from E. Wilson, Esq., late of North Sherbrooke, which grew freely and as easily as other oats; but both these parties found them useless as a crop, being not over half the length of straw, and not over the quarter of the grain, which was good wheat there was of it. The fowls eat it with avidity, which was all the use we ever made of it, although other stock would doubtless have made good use of the grain if it had been ground.

Mandaumin.

DAVID NISBET,

M'CARLING WHEAT.

SIR:—

I grew four acres of McCarley Wheat last spring, on sod, and it yielded thirty-five bushels to the acre, or one hundred and forty bushels in all. I consider it the best spring wheat in this part of the country. I had the Five Wheat in the same field and the McCarling yielded about ten bushels to the acre more than the Five. This is one of the many advantages I have received from taking the *Advocate*.

THOMAS KELLY.

Walton, Feb'y 26, 1874.

Veterinary.

INFLAMMATION OF THE BOWELS.

Inflammation of the bowels is usually brought on by sudden exposure to cold, or severe exertion on the part of an overfed horse, and colic neglected or wrongfully treated. The symptoms have been already described; it may be as well to add that fever, shivering and restlessness will be seen generally to precede the actual attack, the mouth being hot and the lining of the nose somewhat inflamed.

We are great believers in early and copious bleeding for this disease. Before the surgeon arrives give clasters, but never strong purgatives. For the injection mix half a pound of Epsom salts, or half an ounce of aloes in warm water or very thin gruel, and throw up plenty of the liquid. Give thin gruel to drink, and draughts, each containing two drachms of aloes every six hours, till the bowels are fairly opened. If no surgeon be near, a blister will be the next resort; the whole of the belly should be well blistered with Spanish fly. Let the legs be well bandaged, and be rubbed to secure good circulation; let the horse be warmly clothed in a well ventilated stable. Give green meat and mashes.

There will be found nothing so effectual in drawing out internal inflammation as a fresh skin (say sheepskin) just taken from the carcass and applied warm to the belly. The action of the fresh skin is marvellous. So rapid is the transmission from the inflamed parts of the horse to the disintegrating properties that are there proceeding, by capillary attraction to the skin laid on the outside, that in a few hours the skin will become perfectly putrid whilst if it had been left elsewhere, the sheepskin would have taken at least 24 hours to become in such a putrid state. It is thus apparent that the disintegrating process which has begun in the bowels or lungs is thus transferred to the externally applied sheepskin, causing it rapidly to putrify. When inflammation has left, the food must be very sparing, and gradually increased to a generous diet.—*Toronto Mail*.

INSECT.

The first of the natural cherry, but the apple tree is a truer insect from eggs laid as early as the extremely to live eighteen moth deposits twigs from the in August, distinguishing the spring is the of this insect cluster of eggs vigorous was state.

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A PRACTIC

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