

Correspondence.

COMMUNICATIONS INVITED. In our Prospectus, we state it to be one of the main objects of this journal "to afford the Farmers of Canada an ever-open medium for addressing their brother Agriculturists throughout the Province," and we earnestly desire to make this a leading feature of the CANADA FARMER. In order to be enabled to do so, our readers must betake themselves to the pen, and send us jottings on all manner of subjects connected with farm experience and rural life. Topics are plentiful, and there are thousands of practical, experienced, and observant men in Canada, who are quite capable of discussing them in an interesting and instructive manner. Various blunders, however, are apt to deter those who are every way fit for the task. Modesty, fear of criticism, horror of appearing in print, conscious defects of style, grammar, spelling or handwriting, a spirit of procrastination—these, and the like, prevent many who ought to write, from doing so. We beg our readers to lay aside all excuses, and do their best. Note down whatever you think likely to be useful to your fellow-cultivators, give us your facts, figures, experiences, observations and suggestions—never mind if the style be homely, the grammar defective, the spelling incorrect, or the writing ungraceful. It will be our care to whip into shape whatever may need improvement. We do not, of course, promise to publish whatever may come to hand. Several communications may be sent on the same topic, or a contribution may be of value, but may require abbreviating or condensing. Our correspondents must not conclude that they have wasted their labour, even though they may not recognize their productions in our columns. They may indicate subjects, supply ideas, furnish facts and suggestions, which may form material for editorial articles, and in that shape be helpful and valuable in promoting that end for which, we trust, all our readers will earnestly co-operate with us, viz: the advancement of Canadian Agriculture.

LEACHED ASHES.—A correspondent in the County of Oxford wishes to know what is the chemical analysis and manurial value of wood ashes after lixiviation or leaching, and whether it will pay to haul a hundred loads from an ashery eight miles distant from his farm? Ashes consist of salts, such as silicates, phosphates, sulphates and carbonates. The carbonates and sulphates of potash and soda, as found in ashes, are soluble, and are dissolved out by the leaching process. The silicates, phosphates and carbonates of lime, magnesia, iron, and manganese, are insoluble, and thus remain in leached ashes. A portion also of silicate of potash remains undissolved. Far the larger part of leached ashes is carbonate of lime. The next is phosphate of lime or bone dust. The quantity of this constituent varies much in different kinds of timber. The ashes of oak contain only about 6 per cent. of phosphate, while those of the beech have been found to yield as much as 20 per cent. of their whole weight of this valuable fertilizer. The ashes of the fir and the pine contain from 10 to 15 per cent. of phosphate. A cord of leached wood ashes (or 100 bushels) contains 50 to 60 lbs. of potash. In one cord of leached ashes, dry weight, there are, according to Dana:—

Phosphoric acid	117 lbs.
Silica	146 "
Oxide of iron	17 "
Oxide of manganese	51 "
Magnesia	119 "
Carbonate of lime	3072 "
Potash combined with silica	50 "

Leached ashes, though of less general value than unleached, are still a very valuable fertilizer. The salts which water alone fails to dissolve, are rendered soluble in the soil by the influence of other salts, the atmosphere, and contact with vegetable life. They may be used either as a top-dressing, or after being mixed with other manures in the compost-heap. Whether it will pay to haul them eight miles is a question, the answer to which must depend on circumstances. Leached ashes are very heavy, and though perhaps in good sleighing, with a team and teamster who have little else to do, it might be wise economy to draw them that distance, we are inclined to think that, ordinarily, the cost of hauling so far would purchase a larger amount of fertilizing material

in more concentrated form. But there are plenty of Canadian farmers within half a mile or a mile of an ashery who could not do better than devote their spare time to hauling and applying leached ashes to their land. On this general subject, and especially on such points as the value of leached ashes compared with barn-yard manure, the description of soil and crop to which they are best adapted, and the quantity to be applied per acre, we shall be glad to receive communications from our readers who have had experience in these directions.

DRAINING.—J. B. of Tyrconnel, writes:—"With your permission, if nothing turns out to prevent me, it is my intention to write a piece on draining by-and-by, as I have been doing a little at it this last fall, and may I ask you if you would be so good as to give it a touch of your pen to correct my mistakes and fix it in a reasonable shape to come before the public, should you find it worthy a place in your paper?" Certainly: with the greatest of pleasure. Tell us all about your drain-laying, both with wood and tile, and whatever seems likely to be a stimulus or a guide to others, we shall gladly insert.

"OUTSIDE CONTRIBUTORS."—W. T. G. asks:—"Will you receive articles on Horticultural subjects, including Pomology from outside contributors?" Ans. Yes, very gladly.

W. S. Woburn. Your letter on "Planting Apple Trees" will appear in our next.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, JANUARY 15, 1864.

TO THE FARMERS OF CANADA!

In presenting the first number of THE CANADA FARMER to the Agriculturists of Canada, THE PUBLISHER desires to say a very few words by way of introduction.

The publication of this Journal has been commenced under the earnest conviction that the future prosperity of Canada must rest on the condition of her Agriculture; and that every Canadian, whatever his occupation, is personally and deeply interested in having the Agricultural capabilities of our country fully understood, and the system of husbandry brought to the highest possible point of excellence. THE PUBLISHER is fully convinced that the circulation of a first-class Agricultural Journal in Canada would tend greatly to promote these ends; and he is resolved that THE CANADA FARMER shall be such a Journal.

THE FARMER will be exclusively devoted to the advancement of the Agricultural interest. All party political questions will be studiously avoided. The desire is to establish a Journal which Farmers and Horticulturists of all parties and creeds can support with confidence; and through which they can send their views to their brother Agriculturists throughout the Province. In the discussion of Agricultural questions, a candid and conciliatory tone will be aimed at; and while the aids of science will be systematically invoked, the great end constantly kept in view will be to gather up the matured opinions of practical men on practical matters.

No labour and no reasonable expenditure will be wanting to make the paper a worthy representative of the Farming Interests of Canada. Already has a most efficient staff of able writers been secured. Mr. W. F. CLARE, of Guelph, a talented and experienced writer, will take the chief charge of the Editorial department. Dr. CROFT, the eminent Professor of Chemistry in University College, lends his great ability and reputation to the department of Agricultural Chemistry. Mr. BUCKLAND, the experienced Professor of Agriculture in Toronto University, takes charge of the Live Stock department. Mr. BEADLE, of St. Catharines, the accomplished Secretary of the Horticultural Society of Canada, takes charge of the Floral and Horticultural department. Professor

SMITH, a highly qualified professional man from the schools of Edinburgh, presides over the Veterinary department. Mr. SMITH, a successful and rising Architect of Toronto, will make important contributions to the Architectural department. Artists have been engaged to prepare illustrations; and a number of Reporters, Contributors, and Correspondents have promised their valuable aid in making THE CANADA FARMER a true reflex of the best Agricultural minds of our country.

It is gratifying to THE PUBLISHER that the Provincial Board of Agriculture heartily sustain the enterprise. He has purchased from the Board the copyright and good-will of the Canadian Agriculturist, their official organ—it is now merged in THE CANADA FARMER, and the official announcements of the Board will hereafter be sent to the public through these columns.

It is for the Agriculturists of Canada to say whether THE CANADA FARMER shall receive a fair trial at their hands. If the paper is to be made what it ought to be, it must be generously, unitedly sustained. It is the only Agricultural Journal published in Upper Canada—and a very little exertion on the part of those interested will place it in a position of unsurpassed efficiency.

The Farming Interest of Canada.

In commencing our labors as the special advocate of the farming interest of Canada, it may not be without advantage to show the enormous extent of the agricultural productions of our country, and the commanding position occupied by the Agriculturist in the industrial progress of the Province. The official census taken in January, 1861, fortunately furnishes reliable data for arriving at the agricultural condition of the country, and an official Report from the Bureau of Agriculture, issued in 1863, provides us with estimates of two years' later date. From these returns, it appears that the number of persons in actual occupation of land in Upper Canada, in the year 1860, was not less than 131,983, and in Lower Canada, 105,671. The quantity of land held was as follows:—

	U. Canada.	L. Canada.
10 acres and under	4,424	6,822
10 acres to 20	2,675	3,186
20 acres to 50	26,630	20,074
50 acres to 100	64,891	44,041
100 acres to 200	28,386	24,739
Above 200 acres	5,027	6,809

Total occupiers - - 131,983 105,671

It thus appears that there were, three years ago, not fewer than 237,654 persons in Canada who cultivated their own land; and if we add the army of farm servants, choppers, carpenters, blacksmiths, waggon-makers, harness-makers, &c., directly employed on farm-work, it will be seen at once how vast a proportion of the half-million of male adults in Canada are directly employed in the cultivation of the soil.

Then as to the capital employed. The estimated cash value of the farms and farming implements was, in January, 1861, as follows:—

In Upper Canada	\$ 306,442,662
In Lower Canada	178,870,271

Total value - - - - \$ 485,312,933

And this enormous sum does not include the live stock and crops on hand. The last census showed the live stock to have been then as follows:—

	U. Canada.	L. Canada.
Milk cows, No. of head	451,640	328,370
Oxen and steers	99,605	200,991
Young cattle	464,083	287,611
Horses, all kinds	377,681	248,515
Sheep	1,170,225	682,829
Pigs	776,001	286,400

At present prices, these cannot be valued at much under \$100,000,000; and the amazing rapidity with