

as it is here, there is little excuse for it not being done.

Something as an absorbent of the excess of liquid should also be used; land plaster, kamit or, a plain Superphosphate are all good, or even earth is better than nothing. Wood ashes liberate the ammonia and are therefore a source of loss if mixed in the pile.

When farmers have done this they will find more plant-food is yet demanded, and then they can consider the question of artificial manures or fertilizers, but the first and most important step is economy with what is on hand.

Manure of course serves a purpose fertilizers never can, affecting the mechanical condition of the soil, improving the tilth, and opening up the soil in a way nothing else can, and for this the treatment of the pile must be considered, as well as time of spreading, etc., but for this few hard and fast rules can be laid down and farmers have had the experience to know whether decomposed or fresh manure gives them best returns.

The Hon. Senator Cochrane will have four train loads of cattle, containing in all over 1000 head, shipped this month from his Calgary ranch via Montreal to Europe. His son will take charge of this large shipment. Parties who have seen the cattle say that they are a magnificent specimen of North-western stock. To Senator Cochrane's energy and pluck may be laid not a little of the benefit now being derived by the large receipts of cattle from the North-west, being one of the first pioneers in this section of the country.

A delegation of British farmers have made a tour through the Northwest and appear to be delighted with that country. They are practical farmers, and the report they will make on their return to England is expected to exert a beneficial effect in sending people to that section. They made many practical suggestions to our Western farmers as to both grain and stock raising.

The yield of wheat in the Northwest is estimated to be fully up to the expectations of the most sanguine. No. 1 and No. 2 are worth 95 cents and 85 cents.

Manitoba is shipping 25 to 30 carloads of potatoes a day to the United States.

## AGRICULTURAL JOURNALS.

### EDITOR CANADIAN CULTIVATOR-

In welcoming this the introductory number of the CANADIAN CULTIVATOR, I cannot help at the same time expressing my gratitude that through your enterprise we are at last to have a purely Agricultural Journal in the Province of Quebec. Our sister Province of Ontario has many such and the good that they are yearly accomplishing has won for them the confidence and support of many thousands, even outside the limits of our own Dominion. The issue of this the first number of the Canadian Cultivator marks an era in our farm journalism which, for the agriculturist, means more than he probably is aware of, or is at first prepared to admit. Many there be who still scoff at so called book farming and who do not hesitate to express their contempt for books and newspaper articles on any and all agricultural subjects. While I am ready to admit that the purely theoretical farmer is seldom or never financially successful, there is at the same time no doubt that the progressive farmer is now, in nine cases out of ten, not only a reader of farm journals and books on agricultural subjects, but a deep student of them as well; the useful fund of knowledge that is distributed through the medium of these papers is of inestimable value and I know of no means by which the same end can be so readily and so cheaply accomplished.

One frequently hears it said: "I make experiments and so find these things out for myself." This may be well as far as it goes, but are those who thus express themselves right in keeping the experience they may have gained to themselves? What a sad picture of wasted time and energy is that of the man who, spending his life in trying to ascertain for instance the best varieties of apples for general profit and the surest means of growing and caring for the same, finds that by a few minutes perusal of his farm paper he might have learned what has taken a generation to find out. Surely it were folly for each and all of us to hew out a separate path through the wood when a well established one already exists? Time was when experiments formed a part of farmers' yearly work; now through the agency of the Government Experimental Farm this is far better done for him than his time and opportunity would admit of his doing for himself, and yet were it not for the medium of the agricultural press,

this, as well as much other useful information must remain to him as a sealed book. The life of a farmer by reason of his occupation is of necessity more or less an isolated one, both time and opportunity for comparing notes with his fellow men are thus denied him and unless through the channel of his farm paper how else can he expect to keep pace with the advance in other occupations or learn in time to save himself from the many various wily ways in which confidential travelling agents are wont to swindle from him his few surplus hard earned dollars?

I sincerely wish you, not only for your own sake, but for the welfare of the entire farming community as well, a lasting and ever-increasing circulation of the CANADIAN CULTIVATOR. W. A. HALE.

## HOW TO HARVEST APPLES.

Hand-picking should always be the rule with winter apples. Varieties that ripen irregularly ought to be gathered accordingly. Generally speaking, the latter sorts should be left on the tree until late, so as to give them opportunity to fully color up. Before-picking is begun, it is well to have a suitable place prepared in the orchard or nearer at hand for the temporary storing of the apples, unless there be two sets of hands for sorting and packing as fast as the fruit is gathered.

Apples keep longest if free from atmospheric moisture when taken from the tree. Small baskets, holding half a bushel each and suspended from a hook on the ladder, are more convenient and less liable to bruise the fruit than bags. Once gathered, the apples should be securely protected from the sun and storms until they are sorted. Many farmers who have fruit-houses, delay sorting over and picking until the approach of cold weather. The best method, however, is to sort the fruit immediately and lay all that is sound carefully into tight barrels, shaking the barrels gently two or three times during the process of filling, to insure the apples packing closely; they may then be tightly headed with the head heavily pressed down and secured to avoid all movement of the apples inside the barrel. The barrels should next be placed in some cool, dry spot. Apples will keep much better and their decay is retarded if they are not stored in cellars until freezing weather. In other words they require to be kept as cool as may be and not freeze. When the cellar is used for storing fruit, it should be well ventilated.

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