

without these helps, but without owning them himself. He can manage this best by taking his lot in a neighbourhood where he can exchange his work for teamwork. The first tools are very few: an axe, set of drag teeth, a hoe and spade, will do for two years, as neighbours can help in case of need.

I do not think there is a surer way for a man to make himself a home than in the backwoods, but he must be content with humble fare and hard work, sweetened by the pleasure of independence, and the satisfaction of supporting himself by the labour of his own hands.

ERNEST R. JACOBI.

Township Clarendon, Ont.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—We cheerfully publish the foregoing comments, and are always glad for farmers and others to discuss in a proper spirit the opinions or statements advanced in this journal. Our correspondent is perfectly right in giving us credit for not wishing to discourage immigrants from settling in Canada; but we do not think the remarks to which he refers can have that tendency. The advice given was meant to dissuade the new-comer from rashly parting with his money, advice in which the writer of the foregoing letter seems fully to concur, and which on every suitable occasion we would emphatically repeat. Persons who come out to this country without capital, and with only their strong arms and resolute will to rely on, have comparatively little risk to run: but those who bring with them a small amount of ready cash, are always beset by interested or injudicious parties, who would persuade them to make immediate purchases of land; and such hasty bargains, in a large proportion of cases, end only in disastrous results. The consequent disappointment and failures do more, perhaps, than any thing else to discourage others, and retard the settling up of the country. We hold the resources of Canada in the highest estimation, and after having personal experience during several years of farm life on some of the finest portions of the western States, we have no hesitation in giving the preference, on many important accounts, to this country. It has brought comfort, independence, and a home to thousands who in the fatherland would never have emerged from a condition of servitude and poverty. To the British emigrant especially is this portion of the New World particularly suited. We repeat, though it seems scarcely necessary, that our words of caution are not meant to deter the settler from coming amongst us, but to warn him against too hastily parting with his money on his arrival. Let him purchase his experience first, at the cost, not of all his capital, but of a little patience and cheerful labor, and he will purchase his land in due time, with every prospect of achieving independence, and it may be wealth.

Hop Queries.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Is the muck from beaver meadows suitable manure for the culture of hops on sandy loam soil, or would it be better mixed with other ingredients? If so, state how it should be prepared. Would leached ashes be a good mixture on such soil? Please state how far apart hops should be planted; also, the best method of poling, whether two or three poles to a hill, or one pole and twine attached; also, what kinds of hops are best adapted to this climate, and where sets can be had. Is fall or spring best for putting out sets?

THOS. MARSHALL.

Acton, Ont., Nov. 5, 1867.

ANS.—The muck of beaver meadows is always more or less rich in organic matter, and its mineral constituents will correspond to the character of the soils through which the drainage passes. It would, no doubt, be beneficial to hops on either light or heavy soils. We would prefer exposing the muck for a year in a heap, incorporating with it quick-lime, turning the whole once or twice. Leached ashes may be beneficially applied either separately or with the compost. The hills of hops should be on the square not less than six or seven feet apart,—the latter distance, or even more, is recommended in rich soils. The free access of light and air, during the period of growth and ripening, is essential to the

full development of the hop. Whether two or three poles to the hill be adopted, depends chiefly on the length of the poles, and the strength and variety of the plant. The Jones' variety, so much cultivated on the clays in England, do best with three, and sometimes four, poles to the hill, from ten to twelve feet long. But for the coarse sorts commonly cultivated in this country, we should, as a general practice, prefer only two poles, say from 14 to 18 feet long, according to the strength of the plant. As to the best kinds of hops adapted to our soil and climate, what is termed the "Cluster" in the States, (the identical "Grape" in England, we believe,) is certainly a finer quality than is commonly cultivated here. Cuttings of this sort might no doubt be obtained in the vicinity of Coopers town, N. Y., and, perhaps, in a few places in Canada. We are of opinion that as hop culture is now becoming an important branch of our agriculture, in some localities, an effort should be made to test the most approved English varieties, with a view of improving the flavour and general quality of our article, so as better to adapt it to the wants of that market. Whether we plant in spring or fall, depends chiefly on the character of the season, and the condition of the soil. Land for hops deeply cultivated the preceding year, and, where necessary, well underdrained, may be planted early the following spring, with almost a certainty of success.

Our correspondent, on referring to a series of articles on Hop culture that appeared in our journal the beginning of the present year, will probably find something to his advantage.

LONGSDORF'S PATENT PAINT.—W. Drone, of Kirkwall, writes:—"Would you be so kind as to inform me if Longsdorf's Patent Paint can be procured in Canada, or if it would be necessary to write to the manufacturers in Pennsylvania for a supply? Would you also state your opinion on lye as a wash for young apple trees?"

ANS.—We are not aware that there is any agent for the paint in Canada. We have no experience in regard to lye for the purpose specified. We have heard it recommended, but should be chary of making the experiment. Lye is a strong caustic, which we fear might injure the trees as well as the insects it is intended to destroy.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, CANADA, NOV. 15, 1867.

Britain's Prosperity.

It would be difficult to say when predictions about the "decline and fall" of England were first indulged in. One might think, at any rate, so long, and with such results, as rather to discourage those who are inclined to affect the prophetic style. In every variety of phrase the world has been assured, for the last hundred years, at any rate, that those saucy Islanders were degenerating—that the position they held among the nations was markedly changing for the worse; and that it was simply a matter of a few years, when their glory would finally and for ever take its departure. Still, somehow, these dogged, and, it may be, somewhat saucy people, have quite refused to be looked upon as used-up. Physically, they have the idea that they are as good men as their fathers, and nothing has been urged to show that in this notion they are mistaken. Morally, they are—after all reasonable deductions have been made—better than they were any time in the past which their greatest detractors could fix upon. Politically, notwithstanding all the affected contempt for their non-intervention doctrines, and readiness to do anything in reason to avoid war, instead of blindly and foolishly mingling themselves up with quarrels in which they have no interest; notwithstanding that it is said they have no ally and no friend, when after all were they more powerful, more thoroughly a first-class power, than now? While, in a social and financial point of view, what period in England's history could be fixed upon with which the present might be unfavor-

ably compared? Every one knows the celebrated passage of Macaulay in which he speaks of being continually told of decay, while by everything around he was reminded only of progress, and that of the most marked and satisfactory kind; and were Macaulay alive now, he would have occasion to use stronger language, and to say, "it is still progress, and at an accelerated rate; it is still improvement, and of an increasing satisfactory description." The people of the British Isles, aye, and we may say, of the British Empire, were never housed, clothed and fed in anything like so good a style as at the present moment; their wealth was never anything like what it is now; and, notwithstanding that, of course, there is a vast amount of poverty, side by side with gigantic affluence, we are inclined to think that that wealth, in spite of protest to the contrary, is getting always more equally distributed. Some of our more ignorant and prejudiced cousins over the way may delude themselves with the idea that the population of Britain is made up of a few "bloated aristocrats," and starving millions of down-trodden and outraged slaves, but the facts are against them. Unreasoning Anglo-phobists may fancy that the great mass of the people are longing passionately to get away from their prison, and are so ripe for revolt that the first sound of war would be the signal for social convulsion and every evil work; but moderately well-informed persons know better; and, were even such a testing time coming round, it would tell a vastly different story. Nay, such a time is not needed to tell the story of truth. Yearly statistics can do that pretty well, and though these are proverbially dry, yet, not seldom, they are after all of such a character as might give them, in the estimation of every true patriot, all the interest of a romance, especially when they can be regarded as not only so interesting, but so interesting because nearly as reliable as Euclid. Better still than such yearly tables, are abstracts extending over a longer or shorter period, by which the rate and character of progress can be more clearly marked. Such an abstract, extending over the last fifteen years, has recently been issued by the Imperial Board of Trade. The Britain of 1852 was thought to be a very prosperous, progressive country, but she was nothing like what she has since become. The national debt has been so far reduced, though not so greatly as might be desired. In the one department of customs, changes have been effected, affording a diminution of taxation to the extent of ten and a half millions of pounds sterling, while the aggregate receipts are still as large as they were fifteen years ago. The foreign trade has, during the same period, doubled—reaching in 1866 the splendid sum of almost six hundred millions. While the agricultural interest has never been more prosperous and contented—never producing more—never farming better—and never, upon the whole, realizing better incomes—the amount of imported food has become something startling. In 1866, cattle and sheep came in from abroad to the value of five and a half millions sterling; and in the shape of bacon, beef and pork, to three millions more. Butter and cheese footed up nine millions, and foreign cereals thirty millions in addition. It cost Britain last year twenty millions of pounds sterling to keep the teapots going; and that coffee also played no insignificant part is manifest from one hundred and twenty-seven million pounds weight of the berry having been imported. Comparing the figures for 1866 and 1852, the average consumption per head of the population shows an increase of forty times as much butter and cheese, double the amount of currants, raisins, tea and wine, and about one-third more sugar. True, it may be said that such a people are getting too comfortable, and that such "warm souls" will have little hesitation in sacrificing national honor to personal comfort; but it is long since it was settled that even for fighting—though that is not the great end of life, surely—an empty or scantily filled stomach is not the best preparative.