

we may leave *our cousins* to take care of themselves." Now, this is frank. In behalf of the Canadian butter-maker we might well wish that Mr. Monrad's advice would be accepted by his American brethren; for if anything is surer than another it is that "the cousins" will "take care of themselves" and absolutely refuse to have anything to do with butter stored with preservaline when once they realize what the preservative method means. "Preservaline" is *borax* in some form or other, and is therefore not fit for human food. In other words, it is a poison, although of course not an immediately injurious poison; its ill effects are cumulative. The properties of borax may be gathered from the facts that it is a germicide; that it is a dye, and that when used as an ingredient in soap (which is sometimes the case) it is so *corrosive* that the fibres of stuffs washed by it are soon destroyed. If preservaline should become of common use in American butter exported to England we cannot imagine a better advertisement for our butter makers to use on every package of butter they make for shipment than this: "*Warranted not to contain borax or any other preservative except common salt.*" It may be added that Denmark is so jealous of its reputation for making good butter that by an act passed this year the use of any preservative in butter except common salt is strictly prohibited. Purchasers of Danish butter are thus guaranteed against borax.

The San Jose Scale Again.

This pest is making its advance slowly but surely. It has got into Canada, but as yet, we are glad to be able to say, only to a very limited extent. Its importation within our borders has been traced directly to nursery stock imported from New Jersey, and it is said that there are no instances of the occurrence of the scale on our side of the line except where it has been introduced this way. So far this is satisfactory; but what we should like to hear is that decisive and effective measures have been taken to prevent its *further* importation. No half-hearted methods will suffice. The business of protection must be *thorough*. We have had one instance lately of what thoroughness means, in the way our health authorities have dealt with the threatened small-pox invasion. We know what thoroughness means, too, in the way both the United States and the Canadian national authorities have agreed to deal with infectious diseases in animals. We understand that so far our Departments of Agriculture have been relying on the co-operation of the fruit-owners in their dealing with the scale. Inspector Orr reports that the fruit-growers are thoroughly in sympathy with the Ontario Department's efforts to stamp out the disease already introduced. But the mischief of the "co-operative plan" in dealing with plagues that menace public property is that if one man fails to "co-operate" he breaks down the efficiency of the whole scheme. *The Canadian Horticulturist*, we are glad to notice, is one that believes in "co-operation" no more than we. It says that "there must be legislation empowering the destruction of infected trees, whether their owners are willing or not." This is the only effectual way for dealing with any such matter. *The Horticulturist* gives an instance of a fruit-grower who refused to accept \$250.00 from the Ontario inspector as compensation for allowing some infected trees in his orchard to be cut down! This example shows the uselessness of relying wholly upon co-operation. A good law is needed, and one that will be well backed up by executive authority. The importation of the scale should be prevented also. This is a matter, however, for the Dominion authorities to deal with. Its menace to the material interests of our entire fruit-growing population is exceedingly serious.

Law Against Weeds.

An act has been introduced in the Legislature of New South Wales by the Minister of Lands (or Agriculture), which is the sort of thing we ought to have in this country. It first declares certain weeds to be "noxious." Then it renders it compulsory on every owner or occupier of land to

eradicate these noxious weeds. The task of administering the act is thrown upon certain local boards (already in existence) which for the purposes of the act are to be known as "Noxious Weeds Destruction Boards," who have also to destroy the noxious weeds on all lands occupied by them, on all travelling stock routes, and on all camping grounds. Power is given these local boards to compel owners or occupiers to destroy these weeds, or else to destroy the weeds themselves and sue the owners or occupiers for the expenses of eradication. If the expenses remain unpaid the local boards may let the land, and recover the expenses that way. If the local boards neglect to exercise their authority in the matter, the Minister of Agriculture may act in their stead. Ample powers are given the Governor-in-Council to prohibit the importation of noxious weeds or their seeds; also to declare other weeds than those named in the act as "noxious" when such declaration may be necessary. This is a good and wholesome law; and we should like to see a similar law enacted in every province in Canada. It is no use fooling with the weed question, and waiting for "co-operation" to eradicate these destructive pests. We are glad, too, to see that similar laws are being projected in some of the more progressive States of the American Union.

The Honey Crop for 1897.

Readers of FARMING who keep bees will be interested in knowing that there is every probability of honey commanding for 1897 prices considerably in advance of those of 1896. Mr. R. F. Holtermann, Lecturer on Beekeeping at the Ontario Agricultural College, who is himself an extensive beekeeper, informs us that the clover honey crop in Western Ontario is exceptionally good, but that the basswood honey crop is a total failure, having been scorched dry during the intensely hot weather of July. In Eastern Ontario the whole crop seems to be a total failure in some localities, the bees having been starving while they should have been gathering surplus. In Quebec province Mr. Holtermann says the season has been the worst for seventeen years. In the other provinces of the Dominion beekeeping as yet is not carried on extensively, and the crops can hardly have any effect on the market. But from the shortage in the crops above referred to, and from the fact that the apple crop promises to be both light and poor, Mr. Holtermann predicts that the demand for honey will be considerably in excess of last year, and that prices will also be considerably better.

Wood Ashes as Medicine.

Mr. John M. Stahl has a good deal to say in the *American Agriculturist* about wood ashes. Speaking of them as a medicine for farm animals, he says he has found them of great value. He has raised swine rather extensively for more than twenty years without cholera or swine plague, and has not lost one per cent. of his hogs from disease. He keeps wood ashes and charcoal mixed with salt constantly before his swine in a large covered box, with holes 2 in. by 6 in. near the bottom. The hogs will work the mixture out through these holes as fast as they want it. He selects ashes rich in charcoal, and mixes three parts of ashes to one of salt. There is no danger of the swine eating too much of this mixture, or of pure salt, if it is kept constantly before them, and they are provided with water. The beneficial effects of the mixture are more marked, especially when the hogs are fattened on fresh corn. A little wood ashes given to horses is also, he maintains, very beneficial. In thirty-seven years' experience upon the farm he has lost but one horse, and this was overheated in the horse-power of a threshing-machine during his absence, and the only "condition powder" he has ever used has been clean wood ashes. The ashes may be given by putting an even teaspoonful on the oats twice a week, but he prefers to keep the ashes and salt mixture constantly before the horses, and has made for it a little compartment in one corner of the feed-box. His experience is that the best condition

powder is a mixture of three parts wood ashes to one of salt; and that when it is given regularly, and reasonable care and intelligence are used in handling the horse, no other medicines are needed.

Shying in Horses.

This matter was the subject of an interesting discussion at a recent meeting of English veterinarians. It is usual to connect shying with some defect of vision. As a theoretical explanation this has a plausibility which disarms doubt and leads one to accept as authoritative the oft repeated statement. It is urged, however, that experience is against this theory. Nearly all young horses shy, but when properly broken and got into regular work cease to do so. Some are improperly broken, and continue to shy more or less. A few are guilty of shying all their lives, no matter what care is taken to form their habits. One of the speakers, Mr. R. C. Irving, said:

"If shying depended upon imperfect vision, one would expect horses to shy in about the same degree at all kinds of strange and terrifying sights. This is not the case. Some horses will never face an engine of any kind. Some will stand perfectly still alongside a threshing-machine, but always shy at a locomotive road-engine. Some horses shy only when passing a train, and, strange to say, of these one will object to meet it, whilst the other objects to overtaking it. A horse that will face a locomotive will often shy at a newspaper on the road or a bridge over it. Whilst one horse shies dangerously on a country road, and will pass anything in a crowded street, another is steady along the country lane and unsafe in town. This behaviour cannot be reconciled with the theory of imperfect vision. It seems more a matter of temperament and habit. The defect, in fact, is in his brain, not in his eye; this is confirmed by experience of horses with defective eyes. Horses with partial or complete cataracts, with small or large corneal opacities, behave in much the same way as before their defects were noticed. A quiet, good-mannered horse remains as he was, and shying does not seem, when it exists, to get worse as the vision becomes more and more defective."

Our contemporary, *The Australasian*, in commenting on the subject, says:

"It is notable in this connection that Hayes, in his book on 'Horsebreaking,' does not treat of shyness in his chapter on 'Faults of Temper,' but includes it in the chapter on 'Faults of Mouth,' and gives advice for its treatment. It may be concluded, therefore, that he considers shying mainly as a bad habit which has not been overcome by proper breaking and training."

CANADA'S FARMERS.

I. Mr. Robert Beith, M.P.

We have great pleasure in beginning our series of portraits of "Canada's Farmers"—a series that we propose to continue at intervals throughout the year—with a fine photo engraving of Mr. Robert Beith, M.P. Mr. Beith is well known throughout both Canada and the United States as an exceedingly successful breeder and importer of Clydes and Hackneys, and as one of the best judges of these breeds of horses on the continent. Although so well known and so long before the public as a horseman, Mr. Beith is yet only in the forty-fifth year of his age, and so, we hope, has many years of usefulness and happiness before him. He is a native Canadian, having been born and bred in the township of Darlington, near Bowmanville, where he has always resided. Mr. Beith is a horseman because of his natural love of horses. He has always been a horseman; and, what is more, ever since he was a boy, he has been a prize-winner with horses of his own breeding. He has also been a very successful importer, and has brought over from the old country no less than eleven different importations of Clydes and Hackneys. He was one of the first men in Canada to go into Hackneys. His successes in the show rings of the Toronto Industrial, the Canadian Horse Show, and other meetings, both in Clydes and Hackneys, are too well known to need repeating. Mr. Beith's services as an expert judge of horses are in frequent demand. At the late Philadelphia Horse Show, one of the best horse shows ever held on the continent, Mr. Beith was one of the three judges that acted in all the Hackney classes. He has also been judge at Madison Square Garden, N.Y., at Chicago (twice), and at all the leading Canadian shows. Mr. Beith is at present president of the Hackney Horse Society, director of the Canadian Clydesdale Horse Association, and vice president of the Canadian Horse Breeders' Association. Last year he was vice-president of the Clydesdale Association. As is well known, Mr. Beith has entered political life, and has represented the riding of West Durham in the House of Commons since 1891. In his own county no man is held in higher honor or is better liked than Robert Beith, and even apart from party considerations, it would scarcely be possible for any one to be elected in his place so long as he would wish to retain his seat. The firm of R. Beith & Co., of which Mr. Beith is the senior partner, has won an equally well-deserved reputation for straightforward and upright dealing, not only in their own county, but also throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion.