

by year, though it may be partially attributed to this cause. Exhaustion of the soil has had not a little to do with the evil complained of, and at the risk of being deemed pertinacious and repetitious, we must persist in taking every opportunity of urging upon our readers the absolute necessity of liberal manuring, and judicious rotation of crops. The best seed that ever fell from the hand of the sower would fail to bring a satisfactory crop on much of the land that is unreasonably expected by its owners to give them a good harvest of wheat. The wheat-producing elements of the soil have been taken out by successive and excessive cropping. They must be put back again by manuring, and the balance of things restored by a proper rotation, if we are to have productive wheat lands. But this condition of affairs brought about, we still need, from time to time, a change of seed, and the question is where and how to get it. One of the functions of the Board of Agriculture, as defined by statute, is to obtain information on this interesting subject, and actually to procure new seed, as the wants of the country may require. Not much has of late been done by the body just named, to meet the necessity under consideration. Some Riga flax-seed was imported not long since, but we believe it was not regarded by the farming community as a very great acquisition. There are difficulties, no doubt, in the way of doing this much needed work efficiently, but surely the Board of Agriculture might render us more aid, if they would take the thing up with greater earnestness. Perhaps under the new order of things about to be established, some arrangement may be made by which the Government may do something for us. The United States Department of Agriculture has made it a leading object for some years to obtain a supply of new seeds. There, indeed, the thing has been over-done. Seeds of all kinds, some valuable, and more worthless, have been scattered far and near, the most liberal postal arrangements having been put in force for their distribution. Loud complaint has been made of the manner in which the seed business has been managed at Washington, but the foundation for this fault-finding has been the acknowledged want of practical judgment and common sense in the late U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture, of whom, notwithstanding the axiom which prescribes that we speak only well of the dead, truth requires it to be said that though an Isaac Newton in name, he was not an Isaac Newton in wisdom. But with all its blunderings, the Washington seed business is acknowledged to have done great good in the dissemination of new varieties of seeds, and we hope something will be attempted in this direction, ere long, by the Department of Agriculture for Ontario. The suggestion has been made, and it seems to us a wise one, that by means of a co-operative action on the part of the Government and the Provincial Agricultural Association, prizes, in the form of choice new seed grains, might be advantageously substituted for cash prizes, at the Provincial Exhibition. This is certainly one practicable method of going to work. County and Township Agricultural Societies might do much good by expending their funds in this way, and we are glad to know that some of them have proved themselves useful, in thus helping to supply the want under consideration. Our seedsmen may also aid us greatly. They are in the way of knowing what new varieties of seeds are put upon the European markets, and by means of their catalogues can at least supply useful information on the subject. Through them, individual farmers of enterprise and push can directly import seeds for trial, and we strongly recommend the adoption of this course. An exchange of seed from one part of our Dominion to the other, would so far be of benefit, and this can easily be accomplished. We would, in taking leave of this subject for the present, strongly urge that special pains be taken to clean all foreign seeds, lest we introduce and naturalize noxious weeds, that may do the country well-nigh as much harm as

the new varieties of seed grain do it good. Too much care cannot be used to prevent the multiplication of weeds. Some of the worst that now curse the country have been imported, and goodness knows we have already quite enough, native and foreign, without any further additions being made to their number.

Canadian Dairymen's Association.

We have received from Mr. James Noxon, the Secretary of the Canadian Dairymen's Association, a circular which, though it is of a personal and private nature, is in its general tenor of a public character, and we therefore feel no hesitation in giving our readers the substance of the communication, which is to the following effect:—

The First Annual Meeting of the Canadian Dairymen's Association will be held in the Town of Ingersoll, on Wednesday and Thursday, February 5th and 6th, 1868.

The Executive of the Canadian Dairymen's Association are desirous of making the annual Convention of the Society of the greatest possible advantage to the dairy interests of the country. With this object in view they have selected and noted the principal subjects that will be presented for the consideration of the Association. Ample opportunity will be afforded to members to introduce such other pertinent topics as they may choose, but the greater portion of the time will be devoted to those named here-with.

1. Purity of flavor in cheese, what are the requisites, how best procured?
2. Are curd mills beneficial, and would their general use be advisable?
3. What constitutes the superiority of the Cheddar system of cheese-making, and could it be adopted with advantage in Canada?
4. Statistical circular—could it be made useful in equalizing and maintaining the last price for cheese the current year?
5. How long is it desirable to press cheese? Would two or more days improve the quality or texture?
6. Is it not practicable to adopt the American system of making cheese once a day, and would it be preferable to making twice a day, as practised by our factorymen?
7. Best stock for dairy purposes.
8. What is the best hour and plan for milking?
9. What kind of salt most suitable in cheese-making, and how does the Goderich salt compare with the Liverpool dairy salt?

In addition to discussion on the above topics, reports will be received from the various Cheese Factories in regard to their transactions during the past year. The matter of sending an agent to England will also, it is hoped, be satisfactorily arranged.

We trust there will be a large attendance at the important meeting to be held in February, and hope to give our readers a full report of the proceedings as early as possible. The report of the American Dairymen's Convention, held at Utica last week, has not yet reached us, but by the date of our next issue we shall no doubt be in a position to give an account of the meeting.

The Game Pest in Britain.

It is well for us occasionally to note the advantages as well as the disadvantages of our colonial position. Our old country farmers now and then grumble at the high price of labour and other difficulties which beset Canadian Agriculture, and conveniently forget the drawbacks that exist in the old world. High rents, heavy taxation, and various expenses unknown here, eat away the profits of the British farmer, and it would be easy to show by minute and elaborate comparison how superior in many respects is the lot of the farmers of this land to that of those on the eastern side of the Atlantic. Articles in our English

exchanges have recently drawn our attention to a grievance unknown here, but rife in Britain. We refer to the preservation of game, and the heavy cost thereby entailed on the tenant farmers. We have midge and other insect pests to contend with, but it is everybody's interest and aim to exterminate them. What should we say if one class of our population, specially privileged by law, were sedulously nurturing myriads of living creatures, a large part of whose food was obtained from the growing crops? Yet such is literally the case in Britain. Partridges, pheasants, hares and rabbits, are free commoners, and roam at will over the fairest fields of the farm. The destruction, thus caused is immense. Pheasants devastate the ripe wheat, and even tear up the seed in the newly-sown fields. Hares and rabbits commit great devastation upon the turnips, and the pheasants are only second to them in the mischief inflicted on the root crops. A Suffolk correspondent of the *Mark Lane Express* informs that journal that such is the injury done by pheasants on the newly-sown wheat, that he is obliged to employ relays of men night and day to watch and drive off the troublesome birds. He is put to the same labour and expense in harvest time to prevent their threshing out and consuming the grain in the stock. The journal just named contends that hares and rabbits ought to be put in the same category with rats, being in all respects vermin, and adds that "the injury they inflict on the farmer is incalculable." The turnip crop chiefly suffers from their ravages. The hare has a nice taste, and on entering a field of turnips will often nibble at a dozen bulbs, or even more, before finding one sweet enough to suit his dainty palate. A shepherd testifies that in the spring of the year the pheasants ate as many of the Swedes as his flock of sheep. They pick the rind off, so that the frost gets into the bulb and roots, which rot so soon as a thaw comes.

"But," says the *Mark Lane Express*, "the damage done to the crops is only part of the loss a farmer has to be from the game. He has to sustain his share of the expense of the prosecution of poachers, to maintain their families while in prison, and to crown all, by the last effort of the game preservers in Parliament, the rural police have been converted into game-keepers, and thus the expense of preserving the game in all its branches is thrown chiefly on the farmer. First, he feeds it; then he pays the police for protecting it; next, he bears the larger share of the cost of the prosecutions under the law; and finally, supports the families of the poachers while the latter are in prison."

This is a sufficiently long list of game grievances; but as if it were not enough, some of the M. P. game preservers are complaining that the police force in the rural districts is not adequate to the work of protecting their pets, and they urge that large additions be made to it. The Canadian farmer will surely gather, from this picture, incentives to contentment and gratitude.

Ontario Veterinary School.

Our readers will be glad to learn that this needed and useful institution is making a steady and healthy progress. The number of students progressively increases; nine second year's pupils have completed the first term of the present session. They have been conducted through portions of advanced courses in Anatomy, including dissection and demonstrations, Pathology, Physiology, and Materia Medica. We understand that a larger number than usual of first year's students have entered on the second term, which commenced January 8th. In connection with this, a course of instruction is given in the science and practice of agriculture, including the breeding and management of live stock, which is free to young men engaged in or intended for Canadian farming. Mr. Smith, the talented principal of the school, is most persevering and indefatigable in the prosecution of his duties, and he is ably assisted in the different departments by Professor Buckland and Drs. Thornburn and Bovell.