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RURAL NOTES.

ANOTHER light crop of peaches is in prospect in the Niagara district. The intense cold of the past winter, together with a local ice-storm, appear to have destroyed the fruit buds.

THE codling moth is of an ash-colour, with a copper-coloured spot on the end of each wing, and flies with body perpendicular. It is the worst enemy of the apple, and ought to be killed at sight.

EVERY farmer should be able to do his own grafting. All that is required is, to cut the cleft smoothly and to bind the graft in the safe-wood with grafting wax so as to exclude the air; nature will do the rest.

A LIGHT harrowing, followed by heavy rolling, is one of the best treatments that can be given to fall wheat at this time of the year; and it is all the more desirable in a season that plants are thin on the ground.

THE correspondent of an exchange tells farmers how to use dynamite for blowing up stumps and trees. It seems to us, however, that the farmer's best use of so dangerous an explosive is to have nothing to do with it.

SOUR milk, whey and buttermilk are good liquids for mixing with the soft food of poultry; but, then, almost everything that has a material existence is acceptable food for poultry. The hog himself is not more omnivorous and hence the absurdity of putting fowls on any particular diet.

THE tendency of early pruning is to throw the tree into producing fruit rather than wood, but it is better to delay the lopping off of large branches until the flow of sap slackens, which is usually late in May. Fall pruning promotes the growth of wood, while spring pruning favours fruit-bearing.

It is very poor economy to pay a farm hand good wages and give him poor tools or a poor team to work with. Another of the mistakes of farmers is to keep as help men guilty of impure conversation, especially if they associate with the family. Such men should be discharged at once, no matter how efficient they may be.

WHEN one reflects on how much of sustenance for the farmer and his family is raised

in the garden, one cannot but wonder that so little attention is paid to garden culture. Instead of giving to it a superficial attention at odd moments, or after all the field crops have been planted, the garden should be every farmer's first and principal care.

CAT-POLES are often difficult to drain, and the stagnant water lying in them during the summer is a fruitful source of fevers. A good way to neutralize the malaria of such places is to plant them with willows, or any other variety of tree that thrives in wet ground, as they act like pumps or drains by exhaling moisture through their leaves. The Australian eucalyptus is now largely used for this purpose.

THE advocates of Graham bread have not all the reason, or the argument, or the science of the question on their side; for one of the best chemists in Germany, Dr. Max Reubner, states that, independent of its better taste, the white bread is more economical than the black, because a larger portion of it is digested. That is to say, a smaller quantity of the white bread is needed against a larger quantity of black to satisfy the demands of the body.

To such an extent is the manufacture of bogus butter carried on in the cities of New York and Brooklyn that many farmers in New York State are said to have gone out of the manufacture of the honest article. A committee of the State Senate has been enquiring into the matter, and they estimate that the yearly consumption of bogus butter is 40,000,000 pounds, which is about half the quantity consumed in the entire State. One of the worst results of this industry is that it is destroying the export demand.

It is doubtful if any other part of the continent is so favourable for dairy farming as our own Province. In many of the American States the making season for butter and cheese is longer, that is to say, it opens earlier and closes later; but then drouth frequently prevails for a considerable portion of the season, and the failure of pastures results in a corresponding failure of the milk supply. In Ontario, on the other hand, dried-up pastures are the exception, as, owing to our peninsular position the rainfall is more evenly distributed.

REPORTS of the fall wheat are generally

favourable. It has come out of winter quarters in a very healthy state, although somewhat thin on the ground, and April weather does not appear to have done the plant any serious harm. There was some hard frost in the first half of the month, but the cloudy days reduced the danger from this source to a minimum. It is only when frosty nights are followed by bright, sunshiny days that much harm is done. Still it is yet too early to predict anything with certainty of the wheat crop of the year.

ABOUT one-third of the fall wheat of the United States is grown in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, and in these three States, as well as in Ontario, the crop was a failure last year. The average yield per acre was slightly in favour of the Province; but in the previous year, when the crop was a bountiful one there as well as here, the Province led by nearly ten bushels per acre. The averages of spring wheat, barley and oats were higher in the Province for both years also, and we have no doubt whatever that for a series of years we will be found to stand first. These are facts that our farmers should ponder over, and that should make them more appreciative of the advantages they possess.

IT rarely happens that we are visited with cyclones in Ontario, but in the Western States they are of almost daily occurrence during the summer season—sweeping over localities of limited area and destroying everything in their way. It is difficult to account for the frequency of the cyclone out west, but the cooling areas of the Rocky Mountains and the heated areas of the desert region have probably something to do with it. A wind, as every student of natural philosophy knows, is caused by the air of a warm region rising and the cold air of some more or less distant region rushing in to supply its place; and if the air moves from two or three directions to a common centre at the same time a cyclone is often created. In our North-West territories cyclones are rarely heard of, and it is worthy of note in connection with the theory suggested above that the great American desert does not extend into Canadian territory. This is one more reason why the Ontario farmer should remain where he is, or, if bound to migrate, that he should prefer a prairie region where cyclones are unknown to one where they are as common as the "cronk" of the wild goose.