

Weather-wise Animals.

An indefatigable meteorologist has gathered some curious observations on certain animals, who, by some peculiar sensibility to electrical or other atmospheric influence, often indicate changes of the weather by their peculiar motions and habits, thus :

ANTS.—An universal bustle and activity observed in ant-hills may be generally regarded as a sign of rain; the ants frequently appear all in motion together, and carry their eggs about from place to place. This is remarked by Virgil, Pliny, and others.

BATS flitting about late in the evening, in spring and autumn, foretell a fine day on the morrow, as do some insects. On the contrary, when bats return soon to their hiding-places, and send forth loud cries, bad weather may be expected.

BETTER flying about late in the evening often foretell a fine day on the morrow.

BUTTERFLIES, when they appear early, are some times forerunners of fine weather.

MOLLS and **SPRINKLES** also foretell fine weather when they are common in the evening.

CATS, when they "wash their faces," or when they seem sleepy and dull, foretell rain.

CHICKENS, when they pick up small stones and pebbles, and are more noisy than usual, afford a sign of rain; as do fowls rubbing in the dust, and clapping their wings; but this applies to several kind of fowls, as well as to the gallinaceous kinds. Cocks, when they crow at unwonted hours, often foretell rain; when they crow all day, in the summer particularly, a change to rain frequently follows.

DUCKS—The loud and clamorous quacking of ducks, geese, and other water-fowls, is a sign of rain; as also when they wash themselves, and flutter about in the water more than usual. Virgil has well described all these habits of aquatic birds.

DOLPHINS, as well as **PORPOISES**, when they come about a ship, and sport and gambol on the surface of the water, betoken a storm.

DOGS, before rain, grow sleepy and dull, lie drowsily before the fire, and are not easily aroused. They also often eat grass, which indicates, that their stomachs, like ours, are apt to be disturbed before change of weather. It is also said to be a sign of change of weather when dogs howl and bark much in the night. Dogs also dig in the earth with their feet before rain, and often make deep holes in the ground.

FISHES, when they bite more readily, and gambol near the surface of streams or pools foreshow rain.

FLIES, and various sorts of insects, become more troublesome, and sting and bite more than usual, before as well as in the intervals of rainy weather, particularly in autumn.

FROGS, by their clamorous croaking, indicate rainy weather; as does their coming about in great numbers in the evening; this last sign applies more obviously to toads.

GEESE washing, or taking wing with a clamorous noise, and flying to the water, portend rain.

GOATS afford several indications. When they fly in a vortex in the beams of the setting sun, they forebode fair weather. When they frisk about more widely in the open air at eventide, they foreshow heat; and when they assemble under trees, and bite more than usual, they indicate rain. *Ec.*

GREAT ESTATE SALES IN THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.—Two of the Greenwich Hospital estates (Spindlestone and Whittonstall) have been sold by auction at Newcastle. These estates, formerly in the possession of the Earl of Derwentwater, together contain about 5690 acres, and realized £196,000. The Spindlestone estate was first offered, and after some competition was knocked down for £116,000 to Major Browne, of Acklington, the Master of the Hounds. The Whittonstall estate was then offered, and one of the wealthy coal-owners of the North, Mr. Laycock, of Gosforth, became the purchaser at £80,000, with the timber in addition, which is estimated at another £25,000 to £30,000.

Late Rose Potatoes.

Messrs. Bruce & Co., Seedsmen of Hamilton, inform us that this variety of which they have growing about an acre and a half are looking very well.

If they bear out the character hitherto claimed of more prolific bearing than the Early Rose, we think that they will have a very heavy run in Canada for some years to come.

When we consider how rapidly new kinds of potatoes deteriorate under continued cultivation, gentlemen who are constantly engaged in experimenting on new varieties are deserving of special credit, and should receive every encouragement.

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, CANADA, SEP. 15, 1872.

We must again request our Correspondents to write *only upon one side* of the paper when sending manuscript, to the office of "THE CANADA FARMER."

To "Farmers' Clubs."

We shall be glad at all times to hear from the Secretaries, and our columns are ever open to reports of debates held at the several Farmers' Clubs about the Dominion.

Believing, as we do, that the establishment of farmers clubs, throughout the country, has done and is now working wonders in the elevation of the tone of Canadian farming; we are willing at all times to give the free use of our columns to practical discussions that may from time to time take place among practical farmers.

To Secretaries of Agricultural Societies.

We shall be happy to accord space in our columns for reports of Agricultural Shows held during the coming fall, but must request, that, as we have already much matter in hand, such reports be condensed as much as possible.

Give us the success of the show as compared with former years, the chief prize takers, and any points of special interest connected with the exhibition.

The Coming Provincial Exhibition.

The Joint Local Provincial Exhibition Committees have held several meetings lately in the city of Hamilton, to take into consideration the proportionate sums to be granted by the city and by the county of Wentworth severally.

These seem to have been lengthy and sharp discussions upon the proportionate sums that each should guarantee.

It was first proposed that the county pay one third of the whole grant if such do not exceed \$8200. Tenders having been called for it was found that the lowest came to \$3,000.

The city contended that they had been to great expense in the original purchase of the grounds and buildings, and had lately added at her own cost, seven acres to the Fair grounds.

They, the city, wished the county to take the same proportion as they did last year namely 2-5ths of the whole cost, while the county members would only agree to vote the lump sum of \$1,200. Thus it now stands and final arrangement await the decision of the Agricultural and Arts Council.

We must say that whereas these local committees used to meet in March or April, we think it is very unwise that final considerations should now be put off so late as the middle of July.

The Coming Fall Fairs.

The time is now almost at hand when our periodical Fairs take place.

We wish to draw the attention of our readers to the fact, that it has been by good free and lively competition alone, that our products and manufacturers have gone on from year to year increasing in value.

It is the clear duty of every farmer to exhibit something.

It is a very small-minded excuse for not showing to say, "Oh, I shan't get a prize."

If individual farmers would only contrast the class of stock before the days of regular fairs with that now to be formed in the country, would watch how, step by step, Agricultural machinery has, under the influences of public competition, gradually improved each year; they must, without doubt, trace all these benefits to the medium of the public exhibitions.