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RURAL NOTES.

THE craze over Jersey cows in the United States continues unabated. At a sale in Philadelphia, on the 8th ult., "the handsome and finely-marked cow Reita" brought \$1,150. Her heifer calf sold for \$400. Syren 2nd was knocked down at \$1,030; Blossom brought \$900; and Thrush \$800. Thirty-two cows averaged \$458.60 each; and twelve calves \$190 each.

CONTINENTAL EUROPE, as well as England, is suffering from land depression. A recent London paper states that grazing land in Friesland, "the garden of Holland," has fallen in value nearly 50 per cent. within a few years. Farms that formerly rented at from £6 to £8 per acre, have been recently let at from £2 to £3 per acre. American produce, put on the market at prices which defy competition, is assigned as the reason for this great depreciation.

GREAT BRITAIN largely imports potatoes, in addition to foreign breadstuffs and meats. From an official statement recently issued, it appears that the quantity imported in 1879 was "the astounding figure of 9,357,179 cwt.," which cost considerably more than twelve million and a half dollars. As with other food products purchased abroad by Great Britain, the expansion has been very great within a few years, having increased from an annual average of 378,000 bushels to 1,343,000 bushels.

AS BEE-KEEPING becomes more general, there is reason to believe that it will have to be pursued as a branch of farming, and large apiaries will be banished to the country districts. An American paper says: "The rainy fall made the bees very troublesome at West Fairview, Pa. Two citizens keep some 130 hives, and as bad weather made other food scarce, the bees invaded the stores and houses in quest of sweets. In one man's kitchen they remained sole tenants for a week. All fruit-canning and preserving had to be done at night. Numbers of people were stung while passing along the streets, and such a reign of terror was established that recourse has been had to the courts for a prevention of its recurrence."

THE recent assemblage at Aberdeen, Scotland, representing no less than 40,000 tenant farmers, who demand lower rents, is a most significant sign of the times, and shows that land reform in Britain is a foregone conclusion and an inevitable necessity. It confirms the views recently presented in this journal as to the future of British agriculture. Landlordism will resist while it can, and slowly yield to the pressure of circumstances. This lawful agitation is in striking contrast to the unbridled and outrageous proceedings of the same class in

Ireland. Educated and law-abiding, these Scotch farmers are content with the weapons of fact and argument, and with these are sure, sooner or later, to win.

SAYS the *Montreal Witness*: "A Frog-canning Company has been formed in Winnipeg for the purpose of supplying eastern cities, where they are in much demand; and large canning-houses will be built early in the spring in the vicinity of the town of Whittemouth, on the Canadian Pacific Railway, a locality much affected by froggy, we suppose. The frog comes from a highly respectable and ancient, not to say historic family, and has even inspired poets, as witness Aristophanes and his "Frogs," but nowadays he chiefly attracts epicures and bad boys. His flesh is alleged to be exceedingly tender, somewhat resembling that of chicken which has been fed on an excessively watery diet. If the Winnipeg industry should prove profitable, it might encourage some of our Quebec capitalists to enter upon the business, while boys who delight to torture these innocent though uncouth creatures would find it more to their interest to protect and cultivate them."

THE Journal of the American Agricultural Association, Vol. I., Nos. 3 and 4, forming a goodly volume of 264 pages, is on our table, and we hope to cull some valuable extracts from it for future numbers of the RURAL CANADIAN. This publication is issued by the Association whose name it bears, and supplied to all members. The annual membership fee is two dollars, and the Journal is more than worth the money. It seems intended to imitate, if not rival, the Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and certainly a most creditable beginning has been made in that direction. The articles in the double number just to hand are of great interest and value, especially two on "The Railroad and the Farmer," giving the *pro* and *con.* of the controversy now going on between agriculture and the great monied corporations that control the iron roads of this continent. Parties desiring membership in the Association, or copies of the Journal, will address J. H. Real, Secretary, 127 Water Street, New York.

HON. M. H. COCHRANE has shown a wise appreciation of the Hereford cattle, by importing eighty-six bulls of that breed for his ranch in Manitoba. An English correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* writes as follows in regard to this large importation: "These bulls are described as a grand lot, and have been selected principally from some of the best herds, as the sons of high-class sires, several of the sires being among the most famous bulls of the day. They are just the animals to bring into notice the claims of the Herefords as beef-making cattle. Among the names of

the most eminent breeders are Messrs. J. Hill, T. Fenn, Price Court House; T. Cauvendone, Stocktonbury; Hazwood, Goode, Ivingtonbury, and six or seven others. This enterprising purchase by Messrs. Cochrane, of so large a number of the best young bulis they could procure, must permanently and greatly strengthen the position in Canada of the plain farming robust and ponderous Hereford."

THERE are thousands of good farms in every Province in the Dominion whose market value is greatly detracted from by easily-removed and really inexcusable blemishes which are allowed to mar their appearance. They seem like little things, and yet they invariably strike the eye of the discriminating buyer. There is no need of particularizing in this connection, further than to illustrate our meaning. For the lack of a day or two spent in repairs, what might, without additional cost for material, be an excellent fence, is allowed to stand for years a tumble-down ruin. For the lack of a little ditching, a valuable spring makes a swamp and a breeder of malaria. For the lack of a few nails or a hinge, gates are sagging at every field entrance on the farm. Stones are scattered over the fields which, gathered together, would make good walks all over the place. But these are only a few things. Many other things will suggest themselves to the reader, which labour alone would radically change.

It is believed by many persons that posts set in the ground in a position the reverse of that in which they stood while growing in the tree, will last much longer than when set "top end up." Professor Beal, of the Michigan Agricultural College, has been experimenting on this point, and states the result as follows:—"In the spring of 1879 I selected seasoned sticks three feet long. These were cut in two, and cut in two, making four pieces of each. One set was placed in well-drained sand, the other in clay soil. In every case, two pieces were set side by side, with earth between; one as it stood in the tree, the other reversed. I tried thirteen kinds of timber. Some of these were young wood with bark on. All contained some heart wood. Those growing in sandy land have just been examined. In case of the beech, sugar maple, ironwood, black ash, and black cherry, the piece reversed or placed 'top end down' was somewhat most decayed. In case of red maple, American elm, butternut and red elm, the reverse piece was a trifle the soundest. In case of basswood, white ash, white oak and blue ash, there was no perceptible difference. I infer that were one piece decayed more than the other, it was caused by some trifling difference in the sticks. The freshly sawed ends in each case were placed uppermost, and came an inch or two above the ground."