

there are too many Shows. No doubt there are more than Editors can attend, still we like to have them present when we can. The privilege is a great one. You say they do not pay. This may be true also, but I believe they are the stepping-stone to others, and if you stop them you knock the bottom out of the whole concern. J. N.

Springwood, Nassagoweya.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—The above letter has reference to an important subject, which we should like to have thoroughly discussed. Our correspondent holds an honourable position in a County Agricultural Society, and has rendered much good service to the farming interest in his locality. His views are, therefore, entitled to respect, and though they do not altogether coincide with our own, we cheerfully give them a place in our columns. Having so recently stated our opinion in regard to the question at issue, we forbear further comment, and will only add, that, in our judgment, the management of the Provincial Exhibitions will not suffer by any fair comparison with that of Township Exhibitions. It is no easy task to manage any of these public affairs, nor is it ever possible to give entire satisfaction to all.

Fat Cattle Show at Guelph.

THE Fat Cattle Show in connection with the County and Township of Guelph Agricultural Societies, was held on the Fair Ground on Tuesday, when over 200 fat cattle were exhibited on the Fair ground. Most of the animals were sold before being brought into town, although quite a number changed hands thereafter. The cattle entered for competition were quite equal to those exhibited last year. Mr. Evan Macdonald showed a splendid three-year old ox, which weighed 2205 lbs. Mr. John Tuck's ox was very little inferior weighing 2140 lbs. They are the heaviest oxen which have been ever brought into Guelph, and fetched high prices. There were some fine specimens of fat cows and heifers, heavy and in prime condition. The most successful exhibitor were Mr. Alex. White, who took the first prize for a splendid cow, Messrs. J. S. Armstrong and Mr. S. Hodgskin. Mr. Kenneth McKenzie showed a very fine fat heifer, which carried off the first prize in her class. Those shown by Mr. Sam. Barber and Mr. Joseph Parkinson, were also greatly admired. Among the Sheep Mr. F. W. Stone showed two very heavy fat sheep, one of them weighing 310 lbs. and the other 320 lbs. The heaviest one took the first premium. Mr. James Wright had also a lot of fine sheep. In the two shearling class Messrs. Stirton and Waters exhibited two splendid sheep, the heaviest and best for their age that have ever been brought into Guelph. Those shown by Mr. Henry Tolton were also very fine animals. Among the swine Mr. Wm. Evans showed a spring pig only seven and a half months old, which outdistanced all competitors. It was a splendid porker, and the admiration of all. Mr. T. Card had an enormous sow on exhibition, weighing some 900 lbs. It nearly filled the sleigh, and was withal pretty fat. Mr. Peter Armstrong also exhibited a very large and well fed hog, which took a prize. Mr. J. S. Armstrong and Mr. J. Card had a fine lot of spring pigs. The turkeys, geese, ducks, &c., were as usual excellent, large in size and very fat. Altogether there were seventy-one entries, and the show may be considered a very successful one.—Guelph Herald.

How to Prepare Flax-Seed for Feeding Purposes.

SOME of our readers have desired information on the above subject. The following extract from a letter which appeared recently in a trans-Atlantic journal, may be of service to them:

"The seed must be prepared in some way before given as food, either ground into meal, or crushed, and boiled into jelly: the latter is the best.

"I have read of different parties recommending the boiling of flax-seed, and advising from 1½ to 2 gallons of water for every pound of seed. Such, in my opinion, would be only wasting fuel in the boiling of water, as four times the quantity of seed stated could be prepared in that quantity of water. It is to be supposed that all parties who propose feeding with flax-seed and preparing it by boiling it into jelly will have a large pot or boiler, in proportion to the number of stock they intend to feed. What I would recommend first is to have a vessel in which the seed could be steeped for at least twenty-four hours, putting in as much seed as would be required for a boiling, and filling the vessel with hot water—if boiling, so much the better; then to cover the vessel ever with a strong cloth to keep in the heat.

The water in which the seed is steeped can be used for boiling it in. If the convenience be sufficiently large, there could be as much boiled at a time as would do for three or four days. Care must be taken to keep the material stirred up in the boiling, otherwise it will burn in the pot or boiler, and also to keep the water replenished as it reduces in the boiling. The boiler can be kept constantly full by having a bucket, and ascertaining how many quart-the bucket contains, and how many buckets the boiler contains. The prepared food can be divided in quarts, and an equal portion given each beast, according to size and age, say from 1 lb. to 1½ lbs. and 2 lbs. to each animal.

"In using the jelly, it should be mixed with other food, say, chaffed hay and straw. By sprinkling the jelly over such, all descriptions of stock will use it with avidity."

A Cheap Barometer.

Every farmer should carefully observe the "signs of the weather," and shape his business to suit. He may not be able to foretell the state of the weather by a barometer or by observing the movements of index pointers; but if he will commit to memory the following quaint effusion of Dr. Jenner, who was celebrated in his day for his practical sense, he will find in them a useful guide:—

The hollow winds begin to blow,
The clouds look black, the glass is low;
The soot falls down, the sparrows sleep,
The spiders from their cobwebs peep.
Last night the sun went pale to bed,
The moon in haloes hid her head;
The boding shepherd leaves a sigh,
For, lo! a rainbow spans the sky.
The walls are damp, the dishes smell,
Closed are the pink-eyed pimpernel.
Hark, how the chairs and tables crack—
Old Betty's bones are on the rack,
Loud quack the ducks, the peacocks cry
The distant hills are seeming nigh;
How restless are the morning swans,
The busy bees disturb the hive,
Low o'er the grass the swallow wings,
The cricket, too, how sharp he sings—
Puss on the hearth, with velvet paws,
Sits wiping o'er her whiskered jaws;
Through the clear stream the fishes race,
And nimbly catch the incautious snail;
The glowworms, numerous and bright
Illumed the dewy dell last night;
At dusk the signal toad was seen
Hopping and crawling o'er the green,
The whirling wind the dust obeys,
And in a rapid eddy plays;
The frog has changed his yellow vest,
And in a russet coat is drest;
Though June, the air is cold, and still,
The mellow blackbird's voice is shrill,
My dog, so altered in his taste,
Quits mutton bones on grass to feast;
And see yon rooks, how odd their flight—
They imitate the gliding kite,
And seem precipitate to fall,
As if they felt the piercing ball;
Till surely rain, I see with sorrow,
Our joint shall be put off to-morrow.

Remember that there are three variable qualities of the atmosphere, from which result variations in the weather; these are, its weight, temperature, and moisture; and, by a careful observation of these it is possible frequently to predicate the weather we are likely to have.—N. Y. Tribune.

The Salmon and Trout in Australia.

SIR,—I forward, for the information of your readers, the following extracts from letters just received from Australia, giving an account of the progress of the salmon and trout fry:

"Hobart Town, Tasmania, Aug. 23, 1864.

"I have had the pleasure, for some months past, of informing you of the continued satisfactory progress of our sunny charge, and, on the present occasion, I am glad to be able to give you an equally favourable report of their condition, and a considerably better one of their numbers.

"In a former communication I informed you that we had not been able to reckon the trout above 120 in number; but since they began to feel the cravings of hunger and to partake of the food supplied them, to our agreeable surprise, they have made their appearance in increasing numbers, and we estimate them at 400 instead of 120.

"In one of the tubs in which we had deposited some of the salmon ova we had never been able to count

more than ten or twelve fish; but on raising and removing the large pebbles, considerable numbers were found quietly reposing below, and we discovered that, instead of a dozen, we had nearly a hundred!

"If those in the fixed boxes increase upon us in the same ratio, their numbers will of course greatly exceed our previous anticipations. The salmon, however, are only beginning to take their food with avidity."

From another source, it is now ascertained that the number of living salmon in the breeding-ponds is not less than 6,000, and there is reason to believe may be as large as 10,000, and of trout there are quite 400.

From Melt Jurne I hear that they have 400 living salmon-fry, looking as well and healthy as their native element in England.—JAMES A. YOUL, in *The Field*.

Waratah House, Clapham Park, Oct. 21.

PLOUGHING AND PLOWING MATCHES.—In going to get a glimpse of the ploughing match at our State Fair at Rochester, we met at the border of the field a Canadian farmer just turning away with a friend in great disgust, and earnestly asking him "whether they called that ploughing in New York?" The incident is brought to mind—together with the undoubted fact that the standard of good workmanship in the performance of this operation is far too low among us—by the numerous reports of ploughing matches which come to us at this season in every issue of our Canadian exchanges. The papers are full of them. About a dozen are reported in the last number of THE CANADA FARMER, some under the auspices of county societies, others conducted by a-sociated towns, and several by single towns—all attracting considerable competition and large attendance. It is by such encouragement as this that good ploughing can be promoted here; and if our county and town societies were more awake to the means of usefulness they might command, and more active in the efforts they put forth, they would find a legitimate field of exertion in this and other similar directions which is as yet but poorly occupied, and too often, we regret to say, entirely overshadowed by far less appropriate or serviceable undertakings. We crowd everything into a few hours or a single day at the "Annual Fair," and then all interest in the Society is lost until another year comes around; indeed, we are fortunate if the "Fair" itself does not go mostly into the hands of the horse fanciers. The chief Show of the year should be strictly agricultural, and the Canadian system of ploughing matches, turnip matches, and so on, at other times, is one certainly worthy of imitation.—Country Gentleman.

Markets.

Toronto Markets.

"CANADA FARMER" Office, Dec. 23, 1864.

Flour—Little offering; superfine in good demand at \$4 10 to \$4 15 per bush for No. 1, extra, \$4 20 to \$4 25; superior extra, \$4 50 to \$4 60; fancy, \$4.

Fall Wheat scarce, with a good demand, selling at 85c to 91c per bushel.

Spring Wheat dull at 75c to 82c per bushel.

Barley weak at 55c to 65c per bushel.

Oats at 35c to 40c per bushel.

Rye 60c per bushel.

Pease in better demand at 65c to 60c per bushel.

Hay—Market well supplied at \$14 to \$16 50 per ton.

Straw \$9 to \$12 per ton.

Provisions—Butter—Fresh, wholesale, per lb., 14c to 17c; retail, per lb., 18c to 25c; in tubs, wholesale, per lb., 18c to 17½c.

Eggs—Wholesale, per dozen, 14c to 15c; retail, per dozen, 19c to 20c.

Hams—Wholesale, per lb., 8c to 10c; retail, per lb., 10c to 12c.

Pitch Bacon—Wholesale, per lb., 7½c; retail, per lb., 11c.

Cheese—Wholesale, per lb., 10½c to 11c; retail, per lb., 12c to 15c.

Lard—Wholesale, 10c per lb.; retail, 12½c.

Beef in small supply at \$2 50 to \$3 per 100 lbs.; second quality plenty, at \$3 50 to \$4 00, 6c to 8c per lb., retail; first class in demand for home consumption and export, at \$4 50 to \$5 per cwt., wholesale; 5c to 10c per lb., retail.

Calves \$3 50.

Sheep, by the car load, \$3 to \$3 50.

Lambs, by the car load, \$2 25; very good bring \$2 50.

Pork \$5 50 to \$6 25 per 100 lbs.

Venison, good back, \$3 50 to \$5.

Hides (green) per 100 lbs., \$3 to \$3 25, dry hides, 6c to 8c per lb.

Tallow 6c per lb.

Wool, 30c.

Calfskins (green) 10c to 12c per lb.; dry 16c to 18c.

Sheepskins (green) \$1 to \$1 25 each; dry, 16c to 18c.

Lambskins 87c to \$1 each.

Coal, Lehigh \$10, Scranton \$8, Bituminous \$7 50 to \$8.

Wood \$2 25 to \$5 50 per cord.

Salt \$1 50 to \$2 per bbl.

Water Lime \$1 to \$1 50 per bbl.

Potatoes in better supply at 35c to 45c per bushel retail.

Apples, \$1 to \$2 00 per bbl.

Ducks, 80c each.

Chickens, 25c to 35c per pair.

Turkeys, 60c each.

Geese, 50c to 40c each.