

Rural Canadian and Farm Journal,

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

THE CANADIAN FARMER AND GRANGE RECORD.

Vol. VIII., No. 11.
Vol. IV., No 11.—New Series.

Toronto, November, 1885.

\$1.00 per annum in advance.

RURAL NOTES.

HALF hardy shrubs may be protected against the severe cold of winter by surrounding them with evergreen boughs. To bind them up closely involves risk; they should always have about them a circulation of air.

Put harvest implements under cover, and give their iron-work a coat of oil. Don't leave the plough in the furrow when the work of the season ends. Get stables ready for early housing of farm animals. See that roots are well secured before the first hard frost comes.

A VETERINARY surgeon has been appointed by Hon. John Carling, Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa, to proceed to Essex and quarantine every farm on which there has been an outbreak of hog cholera. This work was attended to in part a few weeks ago; but the disease still continues to spread.

THERE are complaints of rot in the potato crop this year, especially from the country bordering on the shore of Lake Ontario. The rainy weather of August and November no doubt contributed to the spread of the disease, if, indeed, it was not the cause. On high lands five or six miles back from the lake no injury seems to have been done.

Young boys of the farm are often found to be more fond of the society of the hired man than that of their parents; so also as regards young girls and the domestic servant. For this reason the heads of families cannot be too careful as to the character of the persons they employ. An idle, dissolute or profane servant is a dangerous inmate of any household.

In putting up roots for market the best plan is to pack them solidly in headed barrels, ventilation being provided for by boring augur holes in the sides. Potatoes should not be put up until they have had the preliminary sweat. They should be clean, and of uniform size. Turnips do not require such careful handling, but the smoother they are, and the more uniform as to size, the better they will sell.

The long evenings can nowhere be so profitably spent as on the farm, giving a taste for reading and study. Many a young farmer or son of a farmer has a chance to improve his mind during the next six months, if only he will apply himself diligently and systematically. One or two good books on grain-growing, or live stock, or fruit-culture, well studied during the winter evenings cannot fail to tell on the results of work in all future years.

For dairy farming a few simple rules only are necessary. Select cows that give promise of being good milkers. Breed them to a bull of full blood, for a bull is half the herd. Feed liberally, for in so doing your cows will feed you and feed the land also. Provide warm shelter and a plentiful supply of water. Treat your cows kindly; feed and milk them regularly; keep their stables clean and well ventilated; and trust them to make a liberal return.

We have this year had a series of tests for butter and cheese conducted at the Provincial and Industrial Exhibitions, and cattle men have been greatly interested in the results. It is a very good idea, and the lessons may prove to be profitable as well as instructive. But dairymen risk a good deal in making such tests. There is danger of the cows being subjected to too great a strain, with possibly fatal effects. An American exchange notices the death of two fine animals recently as a result of those tests.

THE destruction of the barn and cattle stables of the Model Farm by fire is, fortunately, not a very serious matter. Only one first-class animal was lost, for it happened that almost the entire herd of thoroughbreds was on exhibition at the time. Had the fire occurred at almost any other season of the year the loss would have been very heavy; and this suggests the propriety of some measure of precaution being taken for the future. A night watchman should be on duty at the Model Farm stables.

THE Fat Stock Fair at Chicago this year is to be followed up by a National Convention, to be held in the interest of cattle owners generally. It is intended at this convention to discuss the cattle trade in all its relations; and, in addition to addresses and papers by several well known men, special subjects will be considered by committees to whom they have already been referred. This convention ought not to pass unnoticed in Ontario, and we hope to see the Province represented at it.

We should suggest to the readers of RURAL that early steps be taken to establish Farmers' Institutes in the various electoral districts of the Province. An appropriation was voted for this object by the Local Legislature last session, and the Commissioner of Agriculture was authorized to make a grant of \$25 to any Institute established in an electoral district where a similar grant has been provided by the County Council. In order to be ready for the holding of winter meetings, it is important that the Institutes should be organized as soon as possible.

CORN-HUSKING is work that will be carried on throughout this month in the corn-growing districts. It is a good time for selecting corn for next year's seed, and care should be taken to pick out the largest and best filled ears. As a rule these are the earliest, and corn that matures early, and that yields the largest quantity of perfect seed to the ear, is the most likely to produce a crop of its kind. A dry and moderately warm place is the most suitable for winter-keeping; in a moist atmosphere, and exposed to extremes of cold in winter, the vitality of the seed is apt to be destroyed.

MR. FULLER, of the Oaklands Dairy, manages his fine herd of Jersey cows like a thorough business man. The cows are milked at a stated hour, morning and evening, and each cow's yield of milk is weighed and an entry of it made in a book. Strict accuracy is required of every attendant; no one is allowed to trust his memory for a figure, but the entry for each cow must be

made as soon as she is milked. Tests are also made from time to time of the quantity of cheese and butter each cow's milk will produce, and in this way the value of each animal of the herd is carefully determined.

It is not wise to rush to extremes. Because a crop fails one year we should not abandon it the next, nor even reduce the area. But that is just what many people will do; and next year the crop may turn out to be a good one, and it is almost certain to bring a better price. The simple fact that it is a failure this year will alone serve to make the demand for it more active. We have this year been unfortunate with spring wheat, and following the usual rule farmers are likely to sow less next year. But there is no reason to expect that another summer will turn out to be like the past one. There are no two seasons alike; and, unless there is good reason for believing that the demand for an article is permanently declining, it is, nine times out of ten, a mistake to abandon its production.

PEAR-BLIGHT has been made a subject of special study this year by Dr. Startevant of the New York Experiment Station. The doctor has proved to his own satisfaction that the disease is due to living germs; that these germs can live and multiply in any damp spot where there is decomposing vegetable matter; that from such places they are raised into the air when dry, or may be carried up by moisture; that from the air they lodge upon the trees, and when the conditions are favourable they pass into the tissues and cause the blight. He has observed, as a rule, that the germs usually enter a tree through the tender tissues, such as are found in the blossoms and at the tips of expanding shoots, and so they pass down into the body of the tree. For preventive, he advises that trees be not forced into too rapid growth, and for remedy he recommends that every affected branch be cut off a foot below the lowest spot where the disease shows and then burned.

Why is it that so few of our farmers think to make butter in winter instead of summer? Just consider it: In summer they are busy with seeding and harvesting of crops, and milking and churning take up time that would be better spent in rest. Good butter cannot be made without care. The milk needs to be kept at a certain temperature in order to get the largest quantity and the best quality of cream; and all the operations of churning, curdling and packing must be carried on with extreme nicety, if first-class butter is to be turned out. We all know, however, that first-class butter is the exception rather than the rule of the summer dairy, and that between low prices and the "pesky" fly, the farmer has cause enough for vexation of spirit. But suppose that cows come in about the middle of September. They are in good condition after the summer's rest. There are no flies to disturb them. There is no need of ice to cool the milk or preserve the butter. The late pastures, followed with a good supply of hay and roots, will keep up the milk flow. The farmer will find time for every detail from milking to marketing. Better butter will be made, and better prices got for it. And work on the farm will be more equally distributed.