



## Comparative Merits of Guano and Barn-yard Manure.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

Sir, Referring to the subject of comparative value of Peruvian Guano at \$10 per ton, and of stable manure commented upon in your issue of 18th Oct., it is right that there should be no doubt upon a subject of so much importance in the economy of the farm.

Let us suppose a farmer, upon the completion of his harvest, setting to work to get in his fall wheat, and determined so far as his intelligence will allow him to get it in as quickly as the short interval will admit of, and at as small an expense for manure as possible, consistent with the assurance of a prime crop. He has at most three weeks for his operations. His stable manure is to be used it must be brought, hauled, turned and spread, and must be of the very best, and in the best condition to make the comparison a fair one. All this must be done before the seed can be put in, and can only be satisfactorily accomplished in suitable weather. The cost of this operation may be computed, supposing the farmer to have enough manure on his own premises, which is never practically the case at the lowest estimate, at \$2 per ton. As no farmer can produce natural manure sufficient for his purposes, and as large quantities have invariably to be procured elsewhere, frequently from a distance of several miles, we will be within the mark if we set down the cost of manure on the ground at \$3 per ton.

Now it is as easy to apply guano as it is to sow the seed, the mode of operation and the time occupied being the same for one as for the other. The price of Peruvian Government Guano is quoted at \$60 per ton of 2,000 lbs.

It is considered by chemists that 2,000 lbs of Guano is equal to about 30 tons of farm-yard manure.

The comparison of price is therefore as follows:  
30 tons farm-yard manure at \$3 per ton..... \$90  
2,000 lbs. Peruvian Guano at \$60 ..... 60

Saving by use of Guano..... \$30

To make a just comparison we should credit the Guano with the saving of valuable time in getting in the fall wheat, and which is very often the saving of the crop.

Every farmer knows the importance of early seeding, especially in this climate.

These remarks are offered not to disparage farm-yard manure without which artificial manure would be of small value, but that it may be more economically used, and with better effect, than by the present mode of using it.

By applying guano alone to land, hitherto well manured with farm-yard manure, wonderful results would follow; and the farmer would thus have it in his power to use his farm-yard manure on land where no artificial manure could be applied with advantage.

That this mode of manuring land would be not only less laborious but more economical than the indiscriminate use of farm-yard manure must commend itself to the common sense of everyone.

CULTIVATOR.

Toronto, Oct. 25, 1866.

THE AMERICAN BEE GAZETTE.—In reply to enquiries about this periodical, we may state that J. H. Thomas, of Brooklyn, C.W., is agent for it, and will send it for one year to any address in Canada, on receipt of one dollar.

STONES VS. DRAINS.—Thomas E. Lockie, of Toronto, writes "With reference to your article on Stones on Cultivated Lands" in last number, allow me to suggest that where land is not thorough drained, small stones would help to loosen the soil, and serve some of the ends of drainage though imperfectly. It is no better to drain the land well, and then have the surface as like a garden soil as possible, neither stones nor Canada thistles are commonly seen in gardens, and if not there, why should they be in fields? Your extract is dated 1773, when drainage was scarcely heard of."

LARGE POTATO YIELD.—"J. M.", of Hamilton, writes:—"I planted a single large potato, of the long red kind, in my garden on the 16th May, and on taking it up this day I found forty potatoes, weighing fifteen pounds, most of them very large. I also had a meshannock in the same ground that weighed two pounds. Can any of your readers beat that?"

FRacture OF A Mare's Hind Leg.—G. W. Thomas of Phoenix Farm, Arran, sends the following account of a fracture and its cure:

"A four-year old mare the property of James Monkman, J.P., of Arran, was harrowing on the 2nd May last, when in turning, the trace got round her leg and cast her. I was called in to see her, had to make my examination by moonlight, and found that she had received a compound fracture of the metatarsal bones, of the off hind leg, a little below the inferior tarsus. The owner was advised to shoot her but I said no, not having the least doubt but she would be all right by the fall. I would not sling her, as most of the farmers in this vicinity are bad nurses for sick horses. I procured splints, cotton batting, and bandages, manipulated the bones into their proper position, applied the splints &c., and ordered her a bran mash. May 3rd 6 o'clock A.M., found her standing, splints and bandages all right; pulse about forty, with very slight fever. I ordered cut grass and bran mashes—after treatment, none. I saw her Oct. 4th, she is quite well; can trot and gallop in the field, as smartly as the other horses. Mr. Monkman's son told me he rode her, but of course I interdicted that for the present."

BREEDS OF PIGS.—A correspondent writes on this subject as follows:

"Some time ago you gave a description of the "Essex" breed of Pigs, with a lively cut of a very fine pair of them, with which I was much pleased, and I fancy your readers generally would not find fault if you should see fit as soon as you can make it convenient, to give a description of some of the other valuable breeds of Pigs, such as Improved Berkshire, Suffolk, York-shire, &c., with cuts of the same. I think the people should be better acquainted with the different breeds than they are, even judges at our County and Township Shows might be somewhat benefited."

Ans.—We have already illustrated the breeds of pigs mentioned by our correspondent. The Berkshires and Yorkshires will be found in our issue of March 15, 1861, and the Suffolks in our issue of Oct. 16, 1865.

## The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, NOV. 1, 1866.

### The Markets.

PRODUCE of various kinds is now being moved to market, and on the whole, the prices given rule quite as high as under all the circumstances we could reasonably expect. The season of grain-buying has commenced later than usual this year, owing mainly to the delay of harvesting and threshing, occasioned by the long-continued wet weather. Possibly, too, the absence of any urgent demand the present season, and the degree of uncertainty as to prices, may have operated in delaying the movement of grain to market. This time last year we had a rush of American buyers, and the approaching termination of the Reciprocity Treaty, hurried produce forward. It was feared that as the time of its expiry drew near, the markets would grow slack, and prices decline. These fears were not realized, but they helped to hasten the delivery of grain and other products. There is a perceptible want of the bustle and stir which reigned last fall, and the produce business has certainly thus far been a very quiet one. A leading produce dealer in Western Canada gives it as his opinion, in a letter to the *Trade Review*, that the quietness in the produce market is caused by the fact that the extent of our grain crop has been over-rated,—that after threshing out, the farmers find they have not nearly the quantity they anticipated. We agree with the journal just named in the opinion it expresses, that while

this may perhaps be true of the particular section in which its correspondent resides, it does not apply to the country at large. Taking Canada generally, we think there is no longer reason to doubt, that the late harvest was fully up to the average, although the heavy rains caused much loss, and injured the quality of the crops very considerably. On this latter point, there is much complaint among our produce dealers. In the older settled districts the wheat was mostly harvested before the wet weather set in, but even there the quality is below the mark, in consequence of midge-proof and other inferior grains having been sown instead of A No. 1 white wheat. In some sections we hear of wheat being offered for sale in so moist a state that neither millers nor grain-dealers dare touch it. There ought to be in all our large market-centres conveniences for kiln-drying wheat. These would be valuable even in ordinary seasons in preparing wheat for shipment to hot countries. Unless artificial heat is applied in drying the grain previous to grinding it, flour is very apt to turn sour, when shipped to warm latitudes. There is reason to believe a large flour trade might be done by Canadians with the West Indies and other tropical countries, if we produced an article which would endure the ordeal of great heat to which it must be subjected. It is said that one or two cargoes of Canadian flour sent to those regions, turned out badly, and hence there is hesitation about dealing with us. Kilns, therefore, might be turned to some account in the best of seasons, while in a season like the present, they would convert a large quantity of dubious grain, into a safe and sound material for milling purposes. Barley has been largely grown during the past season, but we regret to say it comes to market without that bright appearance for which our barley has been renowned in former years. There is, of course, less demand for it for the American trade than heretofore, in consequence of the high tariff now in force. Still some orders from the United States, both for wheat and barley, have been filled, and some of our shrewdest men of business, predict that the demand from that quarter will increase. It is contended that the Americans must have our fine wheat and barley, and that though they may hang fire at first, as they did at the opening of the wool season, they will have to order sooner or later. Peas have suffered much from the wet weather, and are injured both in appearance and actual value, by the cracking of their skins. This grain is in considerable demand by American buyers, and some of our produce dealers are shipping it to commission merchants to await the best prices likely to be offered. In connection with peas, one of the rare beauties of the present United States tariff shows itself. The shipper must make oath as to the use to which the peas are to be put. If they are to be ground up to make bogus coffee, the duty is only ten per cent.; but if they are for seed it is thirty per cent! Only in the case of definite orders can oath be made as to the purpose for which the peas are intended, and we fancy the coffee trade will be a large one this winter, at any rate on the Custom house exhibits! Business people on both sides of the lines may well exclaim concerning this precious tariff, "O reform it altogether!" The time is near now when we shall know by the sure test of experience the effect of the repeal of Reciprocity, upon our agricultural and commercial interests. Most of our last years' produce was sold before the Treaty expired, and the demand for everything we had to sell, was so brisk that we had no fair test of the effect of a loss of Reciprocity. Thus far we have not suffered, nor is there any reason for serious apprehension. Still there is a degree of uncertainty, and as the result, our grain dealers and millers are moving cautiously. It is well that they are, and meantime it will be the part of wisdom for all classes of our population to do what they can to encourage commerce with the Maritime Provinces, and other parts of the world; to develop manufactures; and in every possible way to promote dependence on our own energies and resources. By such means, the selfish policy of our American neighbours, will have the sting taken out of it, so far at least as we are concerned.