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**C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,**  
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## The Rural Canadian.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1884.

THE *Farming World*, published at Cincinnati, O., is a well-conducted, wide-awake agricultural journal, which we gladly place on our exchange list. Its correspondence department covers a broad range of interesting and useful topics.

ROTATION in the garden is as necessary as in the field. Different kinds of vegetables require different kinds of food. While manuring will help much, it is in every way desirable to reverse the order of planting every year. Better crops will result

For people who have not a hot-house a few boxes in the windows are very convenient for starting early bedding plants. Cabbage, lettuce, tomatoes, etc., may be started in this way, and transplanted as soon as the ground and the season is ready for them.

A MORRIS (Manitoba) correspondent, when remitting his subscription for the RURAL CANADIAN, says: Times are not good hereabouts, wheat, 50 cts.; oats, 12½; barley, no sale; hay, \$4.00 per ton. We hope in the near future that our friend may be able to give a more cheering report of the farmer's prospect in his neighbourhood and throughout the great North-West.

THE transplanting of raspberry, blackberry, and currant bushes should be attended to in the first warm days, for the new shoots that will bear next year's fruit start early and it is better to place them where they are wanted before growth begins. These fruits are luxuries which every farmer may enjoy, and a little land, a little manure, and a little intelligent labour will furnish them.

A HEAVY clay, with a stiff clay subsoil, will be improved by subsoiling. By subsoiling is meant breaking and loosening the subsoil so as to permit water to sink freely through it, and to admit air and warmth, but not ploughing it up to the surface to cover or replace the top soil. Subsoiling is done by peculiarly shaped ploughs, which penetrate sixteen or eighteen inches deep, and do not disturb the upper soil. The subsoil plough may be run behind the common plough in the furrow.

OUR scrupulous contemporary, the *Orillia Packet*, is sure that an engraving of a pair of turkeys in the last number of the *Rural Canadian* was inaccurately described. In previous days, in a Western county of Ontario, a person was tried for stealing fowls. In summing up the case the judge intimated that any of the jurors who desired, might ask a question. One wide awake farmer, snapping his fingers, schoolboy fashion, said he had a question to ask, "Were the stolen fowls male or female?" The judge replied that was immaterial. Our friend of the *Packet* holds with the juror rather than the judge. There is nothing like accuracy in these matters.

## GLANDERS IN HORSES.

Few men knowing anything about horses and the diseases to which they are subject but recognize how desirable it is to have some effective way of dealing with animals suffering from glanders. Although this is peculiarly a horse disease, it is by no means confined to that class of animals. Cattle may take it, and so may sheep; so, too, may human beings. And the terrible characteristic of glanders is, that it is incurable. It is contagious and abominable as leprosy, and almost as much to be dreaded. Yet it is by no means uncommon to find men who own horses affected with the disease, and who persistently refuse to either destroy or isolate them. As a rule, they usually find their way into the hands of a class of men known as horse-traders—and a horse-trader is generally admitted to be the most unscrupulous man to be found in a community. Hitherto we have had no law in the country by which men who exposed glandered horses could be reached by the law, and there was neither authority to destroy nor isolate a diseased beast, nor to punish the man who owned him or trafficked in him. The Dominion Act on the subject of contagious diseases affecting live stock is, so far as glanders is concerned, a complete farce. But a Bill has been passed by the Ontario Legislature during the session just closed, which it is confidently believed will meet a long-felt want. Under this Act, which was introduced and carried through by Mr. Dryden, any two magistrates are clothed with ample authority to cause the destruction or isolation of any glandered animal, and to punish any person who knowingly traffics in any such animal. The provisions of the Act are very simple, and the machinery of the law may easily be put in motion. At the same time, adequate protection is given to any person who is the owner of animals suffering from this disease, and no injustice is likely to be done by even its stringent operation.

## DO POTATOES RUN OUT?

We sometimes hear it said that neither potatoes nor any other seed ever run out excepting through careless or improper cultivation. Doubtless there is much to be said in support of the theory that vitality of seeds may be maintained by supplying the proper nutriment, but the experience of the best farmers teaches them that varieties run out in the course of years and that new ones must be introduced. Thirty-five years ago the Pinkeye potato was a general favourite, but in time it degenerated and was finally given up altogether. At a later period every farmer planted the Peach-blow, a potato of such excellent quality that ever since every new variety is measured by old men by the standard of the Peach-blow. But by-and-bye this ran out also, and the Rose took its place. Does anyone need to be told that the Rose has degenerated? A dozen years ago it yielded prolific crops, and its flesh was white and mealy. Look at it to-day. The yield has greatly fallen off, and the flesh has become spongy and discoloured. The purple streaks one sees in it now awakens grave doubts as to the healthful character of the Rose, and one only requires to look at the large proportion cast aside at the table to be

convinced that the Rose has lived its full time. We trust that the farmers of the country generally will recognize this fact, and that this year they will plant some new variety. If they do not, depend upon it they will be the largest losers. They will not only lose in getting a reduced yield, but also in getting a reduced price. But it will be asked, what variety can be planted instead of the Rose? There are several good ones, and among others the White Elephant and the Beauty of Hebron. We also think it would be well if farmers sent for a supply of seed to the Lower Provinces, and especially New Brunswick. There is perhaps no part of the continent in which better potatoes are grown than in that Province.

## THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Session after session at Ottawa committees are appointed to enquire respecting the best means of promoting agriculture, but so far as we can see, nothing of a practical or useful nature has yet resulted from the enquiries made. As a rule these committees have been appointed for one political object or another, and when the immediate object aimed at was realized there was an end to the matter. This year has seen a repetition of the same old movement, but we hope to see more good come of it. One thing can be said of the present committee, and that is that it is not a merely political one. Fisher, of Quebec, and Mr. Bain, of our own Province, are practical and sensible men, and whatever they can do to promote the cause of agriculture in the Dominion and to make the work of the Department of that name something more than a fiction, we may with some confidence expect to see done. There is a great deal which the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa might do to advance the interests of the farmer in the several Provinces, and especially in the way of directing the attention of Europeans to the splendid opportunities open to them here; but the fact is that the Department is only a department of agriculture in name, and that it will never accomplish anything until it is reconstructed on a different basis, and officered by able and practical men. We trust that the committee of this session will be able to make some useful suggestions to that end.

## "SITTING ON" AN AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

At the recent meeting in Guelph of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union, our good friend of the *Farmers' Advocate* was brought up standing and, in our opinion, very properly so. Our Western contemporary has always been grumbling at the management of the College. Its fault-finding with the Government always seemed to us one-sided, partizan, and, of course, grossly unfair. The graduates of the College are evidently of the same opinion, and gave unmistakable expression to their views in terms following.

Mr. Ramsay submitted a resolution to the effect that the ex-students of the Agricultural College present desire to place on record their condemnation of the course pursued in the past by the editor of the *Farmers' Advocate* in decrying the College at every opportunity, and in publishing false assertions in reference to its operations. The resolution was promptly seconded by another ex-student. Mr. Weld stigmatized the resolution as a concerted scheme, and wished the students to substantiate their reports. Mr. Rennie, Hamilton,