

ally made very light. See that the covers are well secured with sheet-iron, or something to strengthen them, also observe whether the box is large enough to carry sufficient seed to go up and down a long field when depositing a heavy seeding, say four bushels per acre.

It is a great advantage to a purchaser where wood-work is varnished instead of being painted; he then can judge better of the quality of the wood and excellence of the workmanship, but all such implements should be well painted soon after being bought, as the varnish will last very little time when exposed to the weather.

On a small farm a corn cultivator should be selected which can be altered to a shovel plow, or adapted with wings, etc., for various cultivating operations, and here again steel fittings instead of iron will give much greater satisfaction, and repay amply the additional outlay.

In the selection of a mower, reaper, etc., a wide field is opened for choice. Most machines are good, and most have some one point of superiority. On all farms growing less than fifty acres of hay and one hundred acres of grain we recommend a combined machine, provided that machine be also a "self-raker." Bear in mind that in machinery simplicity is the parent of efficiency. The fewer cog-wheels, etc., used to gain the desired motion, the better. The bearings should be long and carefully fitted. A nicely finished reaper will generally warrant you in believing that all shafts and motions are properly turned and accurately adjusted.—*Hearth and Home.*

Poultry Department.

POULTRY BREEDING.

With the present largely increased demand for eggs and dressed poultry in all the leading markets, and that, too, at highly remunerative prices, our farmers and their wives and daughters should endeavor to pay a good deal of attention to the breeding of Poultry. They are really the most profitable stock that can be bred on a farm, in a small way. They cost little to keep, beyond the trouble of looking after them. They find their own food for one half of the year, greatly assisting the farmer to keep down the numerous insect enemies of his crops. For the other half they can mostly live, and thrive well too, on inferior grain, scraps from the kitchen, and many things that would otherwise be thrown away. But to be made profitable, the poultry must have some good qualities, and more attention should be given to preparing them for market, and marketing them at the proper season. Do not bring them in to sell when there is little flesh on them. Do not crowd them all into market at one season of the year, as is too much the case. Above all, endeavor to keep improving your stock. If you have common barn door fowls, cross them with thoroughbred males of some really desirable improved variety. If eggs are the object, work into the laying varieties, such as the Black Spanish, Hamburgs or Brahmas. If early and fine birds that readily fatten for market, are wanted, go into the Dorkings, Games or Cochins. Feed well, and give warm shelter in winter, if you want early eggs. Give your attention to the matter, and you will succeed with anything you undertake. There is no need to pay extravagant prices for such birds as you may need to commence improving your Stock with. If you write us what you want, we will procure them from those who are honest and reliable breeders, and reasonable in their prices.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

AN ENGLISH WAY OF KEEPING HENS.

Sir,—I am a young Englishman, have been out in this country about sixteen months, and like it very well—although the style of farming is rather different from the old country. I have been a constant reader of your valuable paper, and as I have received a great deal of good sound instruction from it, I thought I would contribute a little. Therefore, I will tell you of a way my father in the old country has got of keeping hens. It is a notion he got

from the Paris Exposition. First, I must tell you, the farm he is on (a rented one) is about three hundred acres, equally divided between pasture and arable land. He keeps about two hundred hens. The plan is this:—He has three movable hen-coops—one large size, about eighteen by ten feet. This holds about one hundred hens. It is placed on four wheels, so that two horses can easily move it from one field to another. It is fitted up inside with perches and nests. The other two are about half the size, mounted on two wheels, and accommodate 50 hens each. The wheels are about the size of those on a two-horse cultivator, so that the coops do not stand very high from the ground. The hens need very little feed except in the depth of winter, and they will not stray far from the coop. They are very useful in a field when it is being ploughed, as they will follow the plough, picking up the grubs, worms, and such like things. And as soon as a field of grain is drawn in, you can take in the hens, and they will pick up all the grain that is shelled out. I don't know whether hens would eat the Colorado Potato Bug or not, but if they would there would be an easy way of getting rid of the pests—just by setting your hen coop in the middle of the potato field. The hens do first, rate, and I think they like it better than being round the barn yard. I believe the 200 hens father keeps averaged about 1000 eggs a week for the summer months last year, and the store-keeper that bought them said they weighed more than any other eggs he got. Altogether I think it is the most economical way for a farmer to keep hens. There is also a saving in the manure, which is not wasted, as it most likely would be if the hens were kept round the barn yard. I believe that is all I have to say—if you think it is of any use, insert it, if not, I suppose you have a waste paper basket handy. Yours truly, J. G. BURMAN.

Norwichville, August, 1871.

Personal and Editorial.

With this number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, I shall enter upon my editorial duties. Owing to the lateness of the time at which I commence, only a week before going to press, and not a scrap of anything ready, I can not say all I would wish nor do much more than get the paper into proper shape by using the best materials I can find in the few leading agricultural papers now at hand.

From a long and extensive experience of Agricultural life, dating back to the early days of Canadian settlement, an extensive range of travel to observe the modes of husbandry in other lands; and a connection of over ten years with the leading agricultural press of America, I trust I do not over-estimate my ability to make a paper that will find favor in the eyes of the agricultural community, and well deserve their most generous support. Agriculture need no longer be looked upon as a mere life of drudgery and hardship as it once was. Those days have passed. It is now fast rising to the dignity of a profession. Men of ability and culture are fast crowding into its ranks, sick of the dark and crabbed paths and petty jealousies of the artificial world outside of nature. Education is breaking the barriers of ignorance. Science, intelligence, and capacity to observe and reason, are making agriculture become the noblest pursuit of man.

J. MACKELCAN.

THE WESTERN FAIR.

Judging from the entries made, the Western Fair this year will be ahead of last. We are inclined to think, however, that it would have been better to have arranged matters so that it should not come off in the same week as the Provincial Fair. Several prominent stock-breeders would have exhibited at both Shows had they not come together.

Should the weather prove dry and fine, there will be a very large attendance of the better class of farmers of the western portion of Ontario.

The attempt to get up a Central Fair at Toronto, in the Grounds of the Crystal Palace, on Sept. 19th-21st, has proved a miserable failure. There were but two Short Horns, a few Ayrshires and Galloways, 26 Sheep, about 50 Pigs, and the balance made up of poultry, fruit,

and vegetables. Even of horses there were but very few, although special inducements were offered to bring out the fast horses driven in the city.

MODEL FARM.

We understand that the Commissioner of Agriculture has decided to purchase 600 acres of land near Mimico Station, on the G. W. R., six miles west of Toronto, upon which to locate the proposed Agricultural College and Model Farm. How he came to select such a spot, laying as it does, alongside of the great lagoon, known as the Humber Marsh—and for all we know, embracing that favored spot within the limits of the Farm—with the land at best of indifferent quality; we do not pretend to know. We trust it is not too late to reconsider his decision, as the price paid, \$50 per acre, ought to secure a better location and really first-class land.

We shall give a column of veterinary matter for the use of those who desire information in regard to treating diseases of live stock. Write when anything is the matter and we will do what we can to help you.

We beg to call attention to the advertisement of Messrs. W. & J. Peters' Sale of Short Horn and Devon cattle in another column. The Devon Stock is well known as being among the very best in Canada.

Twenty-three head of Short Horns, comprising 20 cows and heifers and 3 young bulls, were recently selected in England by Messrs. John Thornton, London, L. Hampton, and W. C. Van Meter of Ky., and sent out to the Clarke Co. Importing Company. The whole of them were recently sold by auction in Kentucky, and brought \$19690, being an average of \$856 each. At the same sale, 17 cows and 19 bulls bred in Kentucky, brought an average of \$204 each.

The County of Waterloo Agricultural Fair takes place at Galt, Oct. 3rd and 4th. One great feature of this Fair is that the leading breeders of Waterloo and Wellington will expose for sale on the second day, a large quantity of thoroughbred stock, principally Short Horn cattle, and Leicester and Cotswold sheep.

By an oversight, the letter in our Sept. No., from Dr. Landon about Carter's Ditching Machine, read 200 rods done in 4 hours, instead of 200 yards—a good deal less than two hundred rods, but even that was exceedingly good work.

A very useful and handy pamphlet, "The Canadian Hand Book on Draining," has been published by Carter & Stewart of Aylmer, Ont. Our article on page 149 is from it. Copies can be had at our office; price 10 cts.

We have received a neatly got up little book entitled "The Patent Laws and Results of Census of U. S., 1871." It is published by Munn & Co., of the Scientific American, New York, and contains much useful information upon the subjects of which it treats.

Our readers will notice an advertisement of the Union Pacific R. R. Co., offering for sale the lands granted them by the U. S., as a bonus for building that Road. Already the business doing along the line is so great, that the Rolling Stock can scarcely meet the requirements of the traffic. The lands offered are mostly well watered and well grassed prairie lands in Nebraska.

Mr. D. Kennedy, Rideau Bank, in a recent letter says that the vindictive spirit shown towards us by the promoters of the Western Fair, has induced him to remit pay for two years subscription, and that our zeal and uncompromising advocacy of the true interests of the country at large, deserves that every lover of Canada should uphold us in our efforts. He says the FARMER'S ADVOCATE has proved True to its Name.

We have an application to insert an advertisement of prizes by lottery, amounting to between one and two million of dollars, with instructions to forward bill of charges for immediate payment. But deeming it not right to put such a golden temptation before our readers, we refuse to insert such, fearing the tempting prize might turn out like the Golden colored Pandemonium fruit in "Paradise Lost," most beautiful to the sight, but bitterness and ashes to the taste.

We have arranged for clubbing the FARMER'S ADVOCATE with a few of the best leading agricultural and horticultural journals in the United States, for 1872, at the undermentioned rates for a copy each of this and the other paper named:

Country Gentleman, Albany, N. Y., (weekly).....	\$3 00
Rural New Yorker, New York, (weekly) 3 00	
Hearth & Home, New York, (weekly) 3 50	
American Rural Home, Rochester, (weekly).....	2 50
American Agriculturist, (monthly)....	2 00
Beekeepers' Journal, N. Y., (monthly) 2 00	
National Live Stock Journal, Chicago, (monthly).....	2 50
Michigan Farmer, Detroit (weekly).....	2 50

The Central Fair at Hamilton comes off Oct. 4-6. The Central Fair at Guelph has been fixed for Oct. 10-12.

Sheep on a Poor Farm.

Some farmers of our acquaintance feel an antipathy to sheep, for the reason that they "bite close." We consider this their chief recommendation. They can only bite close where the pasture is short, and the pasture is short only on a poor farm. A poor farm will necessarily be encumbered with briars, weeds and brush, in the fence corners. Under such conditions, we would say to a farmer who has twenty dollars or upwards in cash (or credit for it, and then let him borrow the amount if he has to pay one per cent a month for the use of it), invest it in as many ewes, not older than three years, as you can get for that money. Put them this summer in such a field as we have described, and give them, in addition to what they can pick up, a pint of wheat bran and oat-meal daily, with free access to water and salt. They will first "go for" the briars and clean them out; every portion of that field will be trodden over and over again, and the weeds will have no chance. Fold them on that field during winter, and carry to them feed sufficient to keep them thriving. Get the use of a good buck in season, and in the spring, if you have luck (that means if you give them proper attention and feed regularly,) you will raise more lambs than you have ewes. The money will be more than doubled, and the wool and manure will pay for their feed and interest. In the spring you may put that field in corn, with the certainty of getting fifty per cent. increase of crop.—*American Agriculturist.*

SEASONING WOOD.—A writer in an English journal informs us that small pieces of non-resinous wood can be seasoned perfectly by boiling four or five hours—the process taking the sap out of the wood which shrinks nearly one tenth in the operation. The same writer states that trees felled in full leaf in June or July, and allowed to lie until every leaf has fallen, will then be nearly dry, as the leaves will not drop off themselves until they have drawn up and exhausted all the sap of the tree. The time required is from a month to six weeks, according to the dryness or wetness of the weather. The floor of a mill laid with poplar so treated, and cut up and put in place in less than a month after the leaves fell has never shown the slightest shrinkage.