

pit or under a covering of long litter. As pit-room is not often very abundant in such gardens, and the chrysanthemums, although reputed hardy, are likely to suffer from severe frosts, stand the pots on a layer of coal-ashes at the foot of a wall or other sheltered place, and when there is any appearance of frost cover them with a thick layer of long litter or newly-collected leaves, and place a few boards on the top, especially if leaves are employed, to prevent them blowing about. Here they can remain until all danger from severe frost is past, and then they can be uncovered. In the early part of the spring turn them out of the pots, knock away all the soil, and select the strongest suckers with a few roots attached to them, and then put them singly in small pots. This will save the trouble of striking the cuttings, and a little time will also be gained. When established in the small pots they can be shifted on in the same manner as those raised from cuttings.—*Gardner's Weekly.*

Onions.

Prof. W. J. Beal, Michigan, furnishes the following report:

A row ten feet long of each sort was planted on sandy, leachy soil, and all treated alike. They were harvested at the close of the growing season.

	lbs.	oz.
Nash's gray mammoth, poor, unripe.....	9	10
White globe, mature.....	11	10
Early red globe, nice, mature.....	12	12
Giant rocca, uneven, immature.....	15	5
Improved large yellow cracker, mature.....	8	9
New Queen, early, amount to little.....	6	8
White flat Italian, very early.....	7	3
Early flat red.....	7	14
Southport late globe, not mature, large.....	12	14
Yellow Strasburg.....	3	11
Margajole, one-half scullions.....	3	14
Large round giant Madeira, immature, large.....	15	14
White Portugal, pretty, white, and striped with pink.....	8	8
Yellow Danvers, mature.....	11	6
Red Wethersfield, not all mature, good yield.		

From our short experience I should recommend the Red Wethersfield and early red globe for red onions. They are not considered quite as good quality as the yellow and white varieties, but they yield well and keep well, and are thought to be rather more hardy. For yellow onions I prefer yellow Danvers and improved large yellow cracker. The white sorts are the most delicate. They need careful handling. I like best the white globe and white Portugal.

Shaping the Tops of Trees.

Mr. Smith, the veteran nurseryman, but repeats an old and yet an ever new and interesting fact, when he speaks of the almost intelligent nature of fruit trees, and the readiness with which they conform to the training and wishes of the skilful and intelligent cultivator. It is interesting to see a man who knows all about the matter go up to a tree, take hold of its branches, tell what ought to be done with it, what limbs taken out, what branches spread apart, just how to shape the cut, just how to saw a limb—that the sun may enter the whole top and the tree become a truer and better tree. These things are a part of necessary care and management, are as important as manuring or grafting, and have as much to do with the yield of fruit as fighting caterpillars or digging for borers. It is true they are apt to be neglected, or their importance overlooked—but the judicious cultivator attends to these things and makes them tributary to his success and his profits. Trees may be changed, molded at will, and become just such things as the master would have them. How necessary, then, that the master should be intelligent, and know just what he wants his trees to be.

Years ago, when we produced large quantities of fruit, we always kept apples in excellent condition during the entire year. At a recent agricultural convention in Utica, N. Y., a quantity of fair apples were exhibited, which were plump, fresh and of good flavor, quite as good as the same kind of apples are ordinarily on the approach of spring. The apples had been put up in refuse boxes the year previous, and in the following manner: A layer of dry sawdust was sprinkled at the bottom of the box, and then a layer of apples placed in so that they do not touch each other. Upon this was placed a layer of sawdust, and so on till the box was filled. The boxes, after being packed in this way, were placed on the wall in the cellar, up from the ground, where they kept perfectly, retaining their freshness and flavor until brought out.

Correspondence.

Canada Thistles.

SIR,—Noticing something in your ADVOCATE concerning the Canada Thistle Act in Canada, I wish you would please give us an outline of the Act as it is enforced in Ontario. Also, could you inform us if there is any way of destroying them, for it will be necessary for our several districts to take some precaution at once, otherwise many of our best farms will be overrun by them.

ALBERT GAY.

Pownal, P. E. I., Sept. 30th, 1876.

SIR,—By the Act of 1865, of the Parliament of the late Province of Canada, by Vict. cap. 40, it was made the duty of every occupant of land in Upper Canada to cut down the Canada thistles growing thereon, as often as necessary to prevent them going to seed, and a penalty of not less than \$2 or more than \$10 was imposed for each offence upon every owner, possessor or occupier of land who should knowingly suffer the seed to ripen so as to endanger the spread thereof.

It was also made the duty of every overseer of highways to see that the provisions of the Act are carried out within their divisions of cutting the thistles growing on the roads; and to give notice in writing to every owner, occupier or possessor of land within his division whereon Canada thistles are growing and in danger of going to seed, requiring him to cut them down within five days.

In case of default of the owner, &c., to comply with the notice, the overseer is authorized to enter and cut the thistles, except where the land is sown with grain.

In case of non-resident lands, no notice is necessary.

By Sec. 3 the Clerk is to notify Station Masters of Railways to cut thistles growing on Railway lands, and in case of neglect for 10 days, overseer to enter and cut down the thistles.

Sec. 4 provides for recovery of expense of cutting down the thistles where the owner has neglected, after notice by the overseer, to do so; to be collected like ordinary taxes.

Sec. 6. Penalty for selling grass or other seed containing Canada thistle seed, from \$2 to \$10.

Sec. 7. Overseer of highways neglecting his duties liable to penalty of from \$10 to \$20.

Sec. 8. Fines to belong to the municipality.

By the Act of the Legislature of Ontario, 1868-9 32 Vict. cap. 41:

Sec. 1. Overseer of highways not to enter on duties imposed by Act of 1865 without authority from municipal corporation.

Sec. 2. All municipal corporations may authorize the carrying out of provisions of Act of 1865.

[There have been several legal cases in this county about them. Several parties are enforcing the law in this county; in some localities it is neglected, and law suits have taken place. The neglected, and law suits have taken place, when suits have been borne out as the law directs, when the work has been done in a legal manner. One farmer lost \$40 by trying to enforce the Act; he did not work in a legal manner. The law is a good one, and every good farmer should endeavor to have it enforced. The above synopsis has been kindly furnished to us by Mr. Meredith, Q. C.—Ed.]

Management of Exhibitions.

SIR,—I was glad to see in your last paper (the October number of the *Advocate*) an invitation to offer some suggestions as to the management of our exhibitions, the Provincial in particular. I beg to offer the following, viz., that as the Horse Department is by far the greatest attraction to the public, and they pay their money, 25 cents, for the purpose of seeing not only that but other parts of the show, they certainly ought to have a fair opportunity of gratifying their curiosity to the fullest extent. If they stay away, our shows would soon come to naught, and as the money taken at the gate is the great means of keeping things afloat, those who pay certainly ought to get the best value for their money. The Directors can give them. Now, sir, money the Stock Department, and the what do we find in the Stock Department, and the that you cannot find anything you may wish to see. The Cattle are even better classed than the horses. You do find a shingle telling you that this shed is allotted to the Devons, and that to Herefords, and the other to Grades, &c. But we even then often find them mixed, but with the horses it is such a

work to get even a glance at them, for the doors are most of them locked and the inmates of those open are not classed at all. For instance, the first stall you come to is occupied by a blood stallion, 4 years old and upwards, and in the next we find like enough an old mare and foal in the carriage class, or something of that kind, and the next may have some animal in the heavy class, and so on. Now, sir, why cannot this be obviated in some way? It has often occurred to me that it might, and also the doors of the stalls might be kept open for a part of each day; or better still, make the whole of them be brought into the ring, each class by itself, at a certain hour every day, and the farce of parading all the prize animals just as the show is closing would be done away with. As to my own personal knowledge, not half of those to whom premiums are awarded are ever brought out at that time, because every one is in a hurry to get off home. And as to keeping each class by itself, I cannot see why a certain number of stalls cannot be set apart for each class, and thereby avoid putting large beasts into small stalls, which is very often the case, and *vice versa* and accidents avoided. I am speaking more particularly of the show ground at Toronto, for there each building is by itself, and one might be set apart for the heavy horses and another for the agricultural, and one for the blood, and so on. And let it be clearly understood that at a certain hour each day such a class would be called into the ring, and those who would not conform to the rate should be debarred from exhibiting as long as the Board might think proper, or forfeit the prize to which they might otherwise be entitled. As to the sheep department, shearing, time, &c., I must say if the 25th day of April is to be the earliest date, in my opinion it is too early. The middle of May would be quite soon enough; and the judges ought to be charged to satisfy themselves that those competing are properly shown, and if they think proper, as the rule of the Society states, the sheep should be clipped on the ground. But of far more importance is the over fat condition in which most of the breeding animals are brought forward in all classes, and which cannot be too strongly condemned.

Very many of them do not breed at all. Many ewes bring a lamb into the world (but at what time?) and do they suckle it until it is fit to wean? I answer they do not; they only bring forth a lamb, and it is very soon removed, and the ewe dried, and then they are fed to the last extent and do not raise their lamb as they should do to be styled breeding ewes. It is also a question if they have lamb the following year; and the rams in like manner are quite unfit for serving ewes, being too fat and unable to attend to their business. One thing more; the entry ticket should not have the name of the owner on it or his place of abode, as it gives people room for fault-finding with the judges. Very often people say, Oh, the judges looked at the tickets and saw Mr. Stone's name or Mr. Somebody else, and then gave him the prize. By leaving out the name this would be avoided. What I would propose in the sheep line, is this, that the tickets be issued in duplicate for those shown in pairs, and then turn them into a pen loose and let the judges select the best; the number being the same on each pair, no mistake could be made. With these few remarks I am, Sir,

Yours, &c., D. M., Guelph.

Dairymen's Convention.

SIR,—I would like to have the views of some of your dairymen readers on the subject of holding a Dairymen's Convention some place in Western Ontario the coming winter. They are all no doubt aware that the Ontario Dairymen's Association holds its annual Convention at Belleville the coming winter. Now, there are a great many cheese makers, factorymen and dairymen who don't care to go down there, and yet would be glad to attend one near home. Why cannot we have one, even if it should be on a small scale? There are a great many important questions that could be talked over and discussed to the great advantage of all. One very important one which I think should be fully discussed is the advisability of making butter and cheese in the same factory, and also of making butter on the associated plan, as cheese is now made, and which has been referred to by the author of "Hints to Dairymen" in your valuable paper. The question will naturally come up—Where shall it be held? I will only say that the City of London has many advantages in favor of its being held there, and among them are its railway facilities, making it by far the easiest and nearest of access to the majority of the dairymen in Western Ontario. Let some of the leading dairymen take