

From the United States.

[BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

May 18th, 1881.

Gen'l LeDuc, the Commissioner of Agriculture, gave me an interesting account of the manner in which he was propagating the wild potato of Chiloe. After distributing the small quantity of these wild potatoes sent to him from the Island of Chiloe, South America, he found but one left. This he planted in a pot, and as rapidly as the sprouts appeared, he cut them off and planted them in new pots, so that at this time, from the one potato he has about 20 separate potato plants. He states that he first tried this experiment of propagating potatoes from slips with the Early Rose in 1876. In that year he purchased one potato of the Early Rose variety, planted it, cut off the shoots as they came up, set them out, and from the cuttings thus planted from the one potato raised about 25 hills.

The Veterinary Surg., Dept. of Agriculture, has been making an extended investigation and experiments in relation to *Swine plague* in the U.S. His recent investigations have caused him to contradict many prevailing errors, and to submit some valuable suggestions to the farmer and stock raiser. He states that salt and ashes, sulphate of iron, sulphur, assafetida, black antimony, lime, coal, carbonate of soda, soap, oil of turpentine, and quite a number of other similar substances, singly and in various combinations, have been used very extensively in different States and at different seasons of the year, but notwithstanding diligent inquiry, he has failed to find a solitary case in which any of these substances, or any combination of them, have produced favorable results, or in which their use has been followed by a decrease in the mortality, that might not be ascribed more reasonably to other causes. Sulphate of iron or copperas, he says, especially, is of no value either as a preventive nor as a remedy. He states that experiments by himself and others demonstrate that Swine Plague may be communicated to other animals, such as sheep, dogs, rabbits and rats, and by them in turn communicated again to swine. He then makes the following suggestions:

The most effective means of prevention consists, first, in promptly destroying and burying sufficiently deep and out of the way the first animal or animals that shows symptoms of swine plague, if the disease is just making its appearance, and in disinfecting the premises, or if that is difficult, in removing the herd at once to a non-infected place or out of the reach of the infectious principle. If possible, the herd should be taken to a piece of high and dry ground, free from any straw and rubbish—if recently plowed, still better—and should there receive clean food and no water except such as is freshly drawn from the well. If this is complied with, and still danger should be anticipated—for instance, if one or more animals should have become infected before the herd was removed, or a possibility of either food or water for drinking being or becoming tainted with the infectious principle, the danger may be averted, or at least very much diminished, by administering three times a day in the water for drinking, either about ten drops of carbolic acid each time to every 150 lbs. of live weight, or a teaspoonful of hyposulphate of soda for every 100 lbs. of live weight, till all danger has disappeared." He further states that the separation of the infected or suspected animals must be prompt; that in feeding the healthy animals must be first cared for, as the attendant may carry the disease from the infected to them. That, even dogs and other animals may carry the infectious principle from

the diseased animals or the yard they occupy, and that buckets, pails, &c., which are used in feeding the sick hogs may become the vehicle of the infection to the healthy. These remedies for preventing the spread of the disease are the most successful. Upon the means of cure he says:—"All the medicines, secret and otherwise, used so far—and their number is legion—have not done a particle of good, or if they have, I have been unable to hear of it. Usually those farmers who have used the most medicine, or the greatest variety of medicines, have lost the largest number of hogs, possibly because, relying upon the medicines, they neglected all other sanitary measures."

Several States of the Union have during the past winter offered a bounty for the purpose of encouraging the cultivation and manufacture of sugar. The State of New Jersey, by an Act of its Legislature, offers a bounty of one dollar for every ton of beets, sorghum, amber or other cane cultivated and manufactured into sugar. Michigan has an Act exempting from tax all buildings and machinery used for making sugar from beets or sorghum, and paying a bounty of \$5 for every 100 lbs. merchantable sucrose sugar made from beets or sugar-cane raised in the State.

LOTUS.

Canadian Canned Products.

A GRAND INDUSTRY TO BE DEVELOPED.

With pleasure we learn that two canning establishments are to be erected and put in operation in Hamilton, Ont., this summer. One of these buildings is to be of stone, two stories high, 40 x 144. In this building 150 women and girls will be employed for four months in the year, and 50 for the remainder of the time. This company is meeting with considerable encouragement from farmers and fruit-growers of the district, and some having made contracts with the company, and are growing from five to ten acres of tomatoes this season specially for canning purposes. This very important industry of preserving fruits and vegetables in hermetically-sealed tin cans was introduced into the United States as an experiment about twenty years ago, and has in every particular been a grand success. It was first begun in Baltimore on a small scale, and that city still maintains its supremacy in this trade, having established a number of large factories, which give employment to great numbers of men, women and children. Establishments of this kind are found in the various States of the Union, all giving evidence of increasing business and profitable results. Nearly every kind of fruit and vegetable is preserved by this process; and when these goods have been exhibited at the great Exhibitions in foreign countries they have attracted unusual attention, and the exhibitors have received many orders from European dealers, where the goods are highly appreciated and eagerly sought after.

The export trade in canned fruits, vegetables and meats from the United States, although in its infancy, has already assumed gigantic proportions, and is rapidly increasing. As far back as 1877 their yearly canned exports amounted to 21,000,000 lbs., which was valued at more than one million dollars. Large cargoes of these goods are sent to nearly every country in Europe; also to Australia and Egypt. From the official statistics of the Dominion we learn that Canada last year imported and entered for home consumption 294,780 lbs. of American canned fruit, which was valued at \$22,634; also 98,650 lbs. of canned and prepared meats, which were valued at \$12,768 making a total of 396,430 lbs., valued at \$45,402, which we paid to our American neighbors for goods the greater part of which we can produce as cheaply as

they, and in every particular as good. All we lack is the enterprise. Nor must it be forgotten that we import large quantities of similar goods from other countries, while we allow hundreds of bushels of choice fruit to go to waste yearly. There is nothing to hinder the canning business from being as successfully carried on in this country as in the United States. True, we have not so great a variety of fruit; but when we remember that canned tomatoes and peaches, among the fruits, are principally sought after by consumers, there being little or no call for any other kinds, we find we are on an equal footing with our neighbors, for as fine peaches and tomatoes will grow in Ontario as anywhere, as well as a great variety of other fruits. As above shown, American and other prepared and canned meats are largely consumed among us, canned fowl, especially turkey and chicken, also beef and tongue, being most in demand. These articles also could be profitably produced here, and this would keep within our own country a large amount of money which is now sent abroad, and which, if kept at home, would enrich Canadian farmers instead of American. It is to every farmer's interest to look into this matter. If they will not interest themselves in matters which pertain to their own welfare, they cannot blame officials for neglecting them. If the agriculturists will bestir themselves in questions relative to their welfare, the time has come in which they will be ably seconded. We would advise, when local capital is lacking to establish canning establishments, that joint stock companies be formed; but in any case competent and experienced men should be engaged as managers. Canning has been carried on to a limited extent in different parts of the Dominion for some time, but we now wish to see this business come to the front. To do so, those engaged in it must exercise more care. Fault is frequently found with the Canadian article, some dealers claiming they are not as good, as a rule, as the American article, and by some they are not as attractively put up. The largest dealer in canned goods in this city recently told us he preferred the American goods, and sold them almost exclusively, because much of the Canadian goods were not of as good quality. Besides this, some of the canning establishments were careless in labeling, he having bought several packages of goods labeled "chicken," which turned out to be rhubarb, much to the disgust of himself and his customers. A handsome appearing package is also required. This is a very important point, which is now in a measure overlooked by Canadian canners. These evils are not the fault of the raw product, but of the manipulators, and can be easily remedied. It must not be supposed that all the Canadian canned products are in any way inferior. Such is not the case, many of them being of very superior quality, but by the carelessness of a few individuals the trade in them has no doubt received a slight check. Our existing duties give canning establishments a decided advantage in this country. If farmers will consider this subject, we feel sure they will be surprised at the direct and indirect profit it is sure to give, both to the producers of the meats, fruits and vegetables and to the manipulators of the same.

THE GOOSEBERRY GRUB.—The following destroyer of this pest is recommended by an English gooseberry grower:—When our gooseberry bushes have been attacked by the caterpillar, we have freed them from those terrible pests by using the following mixture, viz: Three parts of powdered quick lime to one of hen manure thoroughly mixed, and applied early in the morning in the centre of the bush where the branches start from. We use about a teaspoonful to each, which falls down the stem and dresses the roots. The mixture should be applied on a quiet day; it not only destroys the caterpillar, but nourishes the bush.