

primæ viæ, &c. Called on to go 10 miles to extract a splinter of stick from the coronet of the hind foot of a horse. Did not see the cow again till the 20th. Improving fast. Ordered to continue the saline medicine for three or four days longer—bran mash three times per day, and to allow her to run in a paddock a couple of hours or so for a few days, and to have free access to a pail of saline water. 29th: the animal is quite well, and yielding a good supply of milk.

I am, &c., G. W. THOMAS.

Arran, Co. Bruce.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—In our opinion, the cow was suffering from some derangement of the digestive organs. If she had been affected with Pleuro-pneumonia, it is not probable that recovery would have taken place so soon. We do not approve of such complicated drenches as you administered. Mixtures that are composed of so many medicines are generally injurious.

### Salt as a Manure, &c.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—In reading your synopsis of Dr. Voleker's annual report, you say in your remarks thereon, that "the effects of salt when used as a manure have not as yet been very satisfactorily determined in Canada, &c." Last spring, I thought I would try the effect of a top dressing of salt, and accordingly I bought ten bags of Liverpool salt, and sowed it on barley, wheat, and oats with very marked results. I sowed about 150 lbs. per acre; but I am convinced that I ought at least to have sowed twice that quantity. I left strips in each field unsowed, in order to test the "efficacy of salt as a fertilizer."

I have no hesitation in saying, that even so slight a dressing of salt as I supplied to my cereals added one-third to my crop. My neighbours say that the salt had a wonderful effect. I understand that a public-spirited merchant in town intends to bring into port, this fall, a vessel-load of refuse salt from Montreal. And I am confident that the land about here will get a pretty liberal dressing of salt another season.

Crops of all kinds are looking very promising in this vicinity. Fall wheat will probably be below an average, and so will hay, both clover and timothy. But spring wheat, barley, peas, oats, potatoes, &c., never looked better in the memory of the oldest inhabitant. Turnips are growing finely, and so are the weeds.

I noticed one field of hops in this neighbourhood, and they are looking finely. We are having very poor hay weather. Barley will soon be ready for the reaper.

Black warts on plum trees.—You gave, on page 206, No. 13, Vol. III., a remedy for black warts on plum trees. A neighbour of mine accidentally discovered that leached ashes was a preventative, by observing that a fine tree that stood near an old leach barrel was free from those disgusting excrescences, while all the rest of his plum trees withered before the fell destroyer. I set out several plum trees seven years ago, and as yet I have not discovered the first sign of a wart. I put a dressing of leached ashes around the roots every year. MERRIMAC.

Hope, July 23rd, 1866.

### Canadian Nettle Fibre.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—I send you a small sample of fibre of *Urtica Canadensis*, or Canadian nettle. You will observe it is not very strong but this arises from its exposure to the snows of last winter.

As the plant is an indigenous perennial, growing very tall, it becomes a question whether it cannot be added to the list of farm crops, thereby adding to our industrial resources.

As there are many corners on our farms where it can be profitably brought in, you might be good enough to invite attention to it.

I am, &c.,

A. KIRKWOOD.

Ottawa, 21st July, 1866.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—The sample of nettle fibre referred to above is particularly fine and silk-like. The genus *Urtica* affords useful fibre in many countries, and our Canadian species could no doubt be profitably utilized by proper cultivation and preparation.

POULTRY KEEPING.—We are in receipt of a communication on this subject from J. P. H. Newburg; but as it neither contains any new idea on the subject, nor relates any valuable experience, we do not see that our readers would be interested or instructed by its publication.

GOOD FEEDING.—G. L. Ernestown, of Ernestown, Co. of Addington, writes as follows:—"On looking over the columns of THE CANADA FARMER of June 15, I observe an account of the weight of Mr. E. B. Perry's, of Rhode Island, Short Horn bull calf which weighed 318 pounds at 4 months old. (Mr. P. should have stated what he fed his calf on.) Mr. P. would like to know if any one else has a calf that weighs heavier and grows faster.

In justice to Canada, I can state that I am now raising a bull calf—a cross from a Galloway bull and a Canadian cow—which weighed 312 pounds at 3 months old; and at four months old weighed 434 pounds he was fed only on skimmed milk and Indian meal since he was 13 days old."

TOMATO SOUP.—A "Constant Reader" sends the following recipe:—"Make a good stock of a knuckle of veal and an old fowl, boil six hours, then take 3 large onions, 1 carrot, and small head of celery, slice and fry in  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. fresh butter for about twenty minutes or half-an-hour, add 2 or 3 ounces of fine flour, and a dozen large tomatoes previously squeezed and the pips taken out, wet them with about a good quart of your white stock, boil for an hour and a-half. Rub all these ingredients through a tammy cloth, then put them into your soup pot with a little more of your stock, boil up, skim, and add salt and pepper to taste; but when made for invalids, for which this soup is in much repute, pepper is generally dispensed with. A pat of fresh butter can be added just previously to dishing. Fried crusts are usually served with this soup."

## The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, AUGUST 1, 1866.

### Harvest Prospects.

FROM the extracts of our local cotemporaries, which we publish in another place, together with the views expressed in Prof. Buckland's letter, in our present issue, we have little doubt but that the coming harvest will be a favourable one for our farmers. With the single exception of fall wheat, every other cultivated crop promises to be over an average yield. In the Niagara district the, barley harvest has already commenced. We learn that the yield of this cereal promises to be good and the sample fine. We would impress on our agriculturists the necessity of CUTTING GRAIN EARLY before it is dead ripe, and the natural sap has escaped from the straw. The sample is invariably finer and weighs heavier, while, for fodder, the straw is worth, at least, five times as much.

### Among the Apiaries.

(Concluded from page 217.)

WE must not omit mention of our visit to the apiary of Messrs Thomas of Brooklin. It consisted, July 5, of 48 hives, to which additions have doubtless been made since, both by natural and artificial swarming. Of course we expected to find everything conducted in the highest style of bee-keeping at this apiary. Nor were we disappointed. The Messrs. Thomas are perfectly at home among their bees, and manage them like a well governed family or kingdom. They handle them without veil or gloves, merely using a little smoke to quiet them. We were shown the interior of several hives, most of them containing Italian

stocks, and were much interested in the system by which queens are bred and stocks multiplied. The Messrs. Thomas have nearly discarded natural swarming, and have adopted the artificial method. When a colony is numerous enough to admit of division, they take out a couple of frames, being careful to have one upon which is the queen. These two frames are put into a new hive, and two empty frames substituted for the two full ones taken out of the old hive. The new hive is then put in the place that had been occupied by the old hive, and the old hive is removed to a new stand at some distance from the spot where it formerly stood. The consequence is that a large number of bees find their way back to the old spot rejoining the queen and portion of the colony which had been transferred with her. The bees in the old hive on finding themselves without a queen at once go to work to raise one. While this is going on, young bees are continually being hatched. These know nothing of the old home, and adhere contentedly to the new one. In this way, two colonies are made out of one, and the uncertainties of natural swarming are escaped. The Messrs. Thomas are of opinion that bees do quite as well when artificially swarmed as they do when allowed to swarm in their natural way. We had an opportunity of comparing the Italian and common bee at this apiary, and have little doubt that the Italians will prove a great acquisition to the bee-keepers of Canada. The Messrs. Thomas are so convinced of their superiority that they intend as quickly as possible to Italianize their whole apiary. We had ocular demonstration of their being more prolific and better honey-gatherers than the common bee, and the Messrs. Thomas are satisfied that they are more hardy, and that they will collect honey from sources inaccessible to the ordinary black bee. The fact that they will gather from the red clover is a very great recommendation of them. They are more docile than the common bee, in ordinary circumstances, though when made angry they are more vicious and apt to sting. Altogether they seemed to be stamped with a characteristic of great energy. They are very quick in their movements, and are busier than the "little busy bee" with which we have so long been acquainted. They are also a more beautiful insect than the common black bee. As already intimated in our advertising columns, the Messrs. Thomas are prepared to supply Italian Queens to order.

We inspected the Bee-Hive manufactory of the Messrs. Thomas, as well as their apiary. Every part of their hive is made by machinery, so that the whole thing fits exactly. Since introducing machinery for the purpose, they can not only turn out a better but a cheaper hive. Hence they have recently lowered their prices to figures that are certainly very reasonable, considering the amount of work there is in one of their hives. We were glad to find that the demand for them is brisk, so much so that they have found it difficult to keep up with orders. They expect to sell at least 400 the present season. This speaks well for the advance of apiculture in Canada.

From our intercourse with parties with whom we have met in the course of our apiarian visits and enquiries, we are satisfied that so soon as the modern improvements in the management of bees become generally known, there will be a great deal more attention paid to this most interesting branch of rural economy. The fear of being stung is the great hindrance to bee-keeping. But this fear may be dismissed, if parties will only inform themselves, and take a few simple and easy precautions. By the use of smoke, for example, a stock of bees can be at once rendered quite docile. We would counsel all beginners to furnish themselves with a veil and gloves. They may not be necessary, but they help to quiet the mind, and promote self-possession, while in case of accident they are a complete protection from being stung. We can speak from experience on this point. It was not until we found from reading on the subject, what advances had been made in bee science of late years, that we plucked up courage to undertake