

parts adjacent. Now the birds jaw, now the cattle holler, now the pigs skream, now the geese warble, now the kats sigh, and natur is frisky; the virtuous bed-bug and the nobby cockroach are singing Yankee Doodle and 'coming thru the rhi.' Now may be seen the musketeer, that gray outlined critter cv destiny, solitary and alone, examining his last year's bill, and now may be heard, with the naked ear, the hoarse shang-high bawling in the barnyard."

The situation of many farmers this spring is a living warning against holding crops for higher prices. Potatoes have been wintered in large quantities in some sections and are to-day marketable for less than they would have brought at digging. Wheat is in a not much better case. Another thing for which all must make up their minds is that prices will probably show a downward tendency for some time to come.

We kill our land unsuspectingly in summer, when moist, by letting our stock run on it. We hurt the stock in winter by having wet, naked stables, or sloppy barn-yards, or low, miry places where cattle are sometimes forced to drink.

The best soils are those which have the power of absorbing most from the air. The most profitable plants are those which draw their value from the air rather than from the earth. Sand takes up nothing. Plaster is a great absorbent; so is dry peat.

One-fourth the whole kingdom of Great Britain was sown to oats last year.

If any one has found a better "scare-crow" than a line of twine strung around a field, with jingling scraps of tin hung on it, it has not been reported. Trees which send their roots deep, like hickories, oaks, and beeches, are the best for pasture fields. Elms, maples, willows, etc., tax the surface soil more, and so rob the grass. But any tree is better than none. There is great cow-comfort in its shade, and that stands for more milk.

Whenever we find a country divided up into small estates, each and every owner working his lands with his own hands, we find a brave, patriotic, and free people, enjoying competence and domestic comfort with manly dignity.

The editor of the Anoka, Minn., *Union* saw "10 miles above St. Cloud, the novelty of a country lane, a mile in length, packed with snow three feet deep, and a farmer plowing in the field adjacent, within ten yards of the fence."

The Cedar Rapids *Times* claims the chmampion-ship for a young girl, "sweet sixteen," of Linn county, Iowa, as follows: For six weeks last winter, during the sickness of her father and mother, she attended forty-eight head of sheep, eight head of horses, fifteen head of cattle, and two calves, besides milking three cows, driving the cows one quarter of a mile every day to water, cleaning the horse stable, doing the house work, and taking care of her sick parents.

To keep up the fertility of our pastures it is evident that we must do our best to check the

growth of such vegetation as is rejected by stock as well as that which would injure stock, if it were eaten. But it is not enough to destroy the useless and injurious plants; we must encourage the growth of the valuable ones.

SLAY THE WEEDS.—A man of figures and patience counted the number of seed pods in a single plant of purslane (or "pursley") and found them to be 4,613; then took the average of seeds in the pod and found them to be ninety. Result, 415,170 seeds for a single weed: and here are his deductions: "If these were spread over a plot of ground and should all germinate, and a man should attempt to cut them with a hoe, and should average six plants at every blow, and make thirty strokes of his hoe per minute, it would take him thirty-eight hours and twenty-three minutes to cut them out. Or if these seeds were equally disseminated at the rate of four to the square foot, they would cover two and a third acres of ground. Again, allowing only one-third of these seeds to germinate, and that the product shall be only one-half as rich in seed as this plant, yet they will produce the astonishing number of 23,727,688,450 seeds, enough to cover broad fields with weeds the third year from one seed."

The Live Stock.

DOES IT PAY TO KEEP BEES.

To the Editor of the ONTARIO FARMER.

DEAR SIR,—Having often been asked the question, does it pay to keep bees, or is it safe to invest money in an apiary? I have always answered the question by saying that it does pay, and is safe to invest money in them, if the party investing thoroughly understands their nature and habits, and is willing to give them the proper amount of care, and provide them with suitable hives. I now propose to give a short account of my success in bee-keeping. Some fifteen years ago, I purchased two colonies, not with the intention of making money out of them, but for the purpose of providing myself and family with a luxury in the shape of nice pure white honey; but I soon became convinced that they could, with proper management, be made to yield a profit, besides supplying my table with a wholesome luxury. But as there were at that time no movable comb hives, I had to labour under a considerable disadvantage, as well as loss. Very often some hives would refuse to swarm until the season for collecting honey was nearly over, consequently the young swarms could not gather