

At Grand Rapids, Mich., where there are immense deposits of gypsum, it requires ten railroad cars a day to convey from that place the quantity required by farmers as a fertilizer.

Recent experiments in England have shown a net profit of \$105 per acre upon land that was systematically irrigated; whereas, upon similar land of the same tract, when the irrigation was omitted, the net profit was only \$15 per acre. The "Great American Desert," that once occupied so large a space on the maps of Western Territories, will nearly all be made productive by irrigation.

The manufacture of beet sugar promises to become a very large interest in California, where the yield of the beet is enormous, and the climate highly favorable to its abundant yield of saccharine matter. Two large sugaries are in successful operation; one at Alvarado, the other at Sacramento. A third is mentioned as about to be organized on one of the Tule Islands (Sherman) where forty tons of beets per acre are expected to be raised. An average crop on the uplands is about twelve tons per acre, worth at the sugary \$5 per ton.

During the last few years experiments in growing and curing raisins have been made in various localities; in Sacramento, Santa Cruz, Tulare, Napa, and other counties; all of which have been entirely successful. The raisins produced have been repeatedly and thoroughly tested, side by side with foreign varieties, and have been found fully up to the standard of the best imported. Quite a number of cultivators are preparing to go extensively into this business, and it is probable that California will soon be a large producer and exporter of this article of commerce.

The orange grows and matures by outdoor culture in California without requiring greater attention, care or labor than peach or apricot. This has been satisfactorily demonstrated by numerous experiments in various localities. Major Holden, of Stockton, found his trees, even at six years old from the seed, to bear fine crops of fruit. And wherever the orange flourishes the lemon will do as well. Very few crops are as profitable as the orange, and a large production of this fruit in California may confidently be expected.

The vast quantities of figs that annually reach the markets of the United States, chiefly from the countries that border the Mediterranean, cannot be imported at less than about twenty-two cents per pound in bulk, and California may, and probably soon will, in a great measure, supply this demand. In that favored section the fig tree, at ten years old, is found to yield on an average 150 to 200 pounds of dried figs per year, and 200 trees can be grown on an acre, making for the acre 30,000 pounds, which, at ten cents per pound, gives \$3,000.

## Miscellaneous.

"Excuse haste and a bad pen," as the pig said when he broke out.

By the use of machinery invented within the past twenty years the farmer's boy can often do the work of ten men.

The Ontario Car Company, of London, have received a contract for the supply of six hundred cattle, flat and box cars for the Canada Southern Railway.

The barn and outbuildings, belonging to Mr. Wm Kennedy, Verulam, was destroyed by fire, on Thursday night last. Loss about \$2,000. Insured for \$1,000. Suppose to be the act of an incendiary.

Mr. T. W. Cooper, Provincial Land Surveyor, of Guelph, left on Monday morning with a large party of men, on an extensive survey for the Dominion Government in Manitoba, and we understand will be absent for six months.

High cultivation means deep and thorough working of the soil, thorough pulverization, liberal manuring, clean culture, and bountiful crops of all kinds, and, coupled with good judgment seldom disappoints the expectations of the farmer.

The N. Y. Times says:—The rain which fell on Saturday night and Sunday was an event of far greater importance than usually attaches to the occurrence of May showers. In this immediate neighbourhood it saved crops of many millions of dollars aggregate value. How much it was needed could hardly be imagined by one who had not seen the extreme backwardness, especially of the smaller crops, such as strawberries and peas. Even more signal than the benefit to these, however, was the putting an end to several of the devastating forest fires in this State and Pennsylvania.

The Messrs. Graham, of Alderborough, started for Manitoba last Friday. It will be remembered, says the St. Thomas Home Journal, that they were sufferers during the Riel troubles and were obliged for their personal safety, to leave the territory. They were so well satisfied with the country, however, that they now return to it with the intention of making it their future home. Mr. Donald Sinclair of North Yarmouth, with three sons and a daughter, left for the new province last Monday. Mr. Sinclair's sons a few years ago bought farms in Michigan, but hearing such glowing accounts of the North-west they concluded to sell out and seek new homes in the better country. They are the right sort of men to settle in Manitoba.

A farmers' club has been established at Pleasant Ridge. After adopting a constitution and bye-laws the following officers were elected. Mr. G. Terhune, President; R. A. Chatterton, Vice-President; D. Brunton, Secretary; S. Fairchild, Treasurer. Committee—Mr. S. Chatterton, Mr. J. McDermond, Mr. C. Cox. After the election of officers, the Club proceeded to discuss the question:—"Does summer fallowing pay?" As the time for adjournment arrived before the question was anything like exhausted, it was decided to resume the discussion at the next meeting, which will be held on the evening of June 1st, at 8 p.m.

Oshawa is one of a large number of places where laborers are exceedingly scarce. In referring to the matter the *Indicator* says:—The corporation sometimes cannot get a single man to work on the sidewalks and drains, and the brick yards are not half full. Carpenters and bricklayers are in almost as great demand. One builder alone, Mr. Dingle, would employ twenty five more if they could be obtained. There is we are glad to say, a prospect of obtaining emigrants. The town authorities have written to Quebec and Toronto for emigrants, and have received a promise from the former place. It is the intention, we believe, upon being notified of their arrival, to send up Mr. Burke to make a selection of the men we want so that we shall not be troubled with helpless sets as has been the case.

A correspondent of the Rochester (N. Y.) Union, writing from Batavia, N. Y., on way growing, says, that a gentleman in that vicinity, named Lusk, has a flock of pure Vermont blooded sheep that was sheared on May 10th. Fleeces were eleven months and seven days growth. Sixty breeding ewes, from which fifty lambs have been raised this season, sheared 720 pounds—12 lbs. per head.

One yearling ewe gave a 17½ lb. fleece—weight of sheep after shearing, 62 lbs. Add-on, six year old buck, sheared 27½ lbs. Weight of carcass 142 lbs. Peerless, one year old, sheared 23 12-16 lbs. Weight 115 lbs. Add-on 2d, one year old, sheared 20 1-16 lbs. Weight 102 lbs.

An Eastern exchange says that New Orleans is contending for the Western trade in earnest. The Illinois Central Railroad has an elevator at Cairo, and persons connected with that company own a large elevator on the levee at New Orleans, and a floating elevator for transfer direct from barges to the European steamers. Thus corn in bulk is handled as readily as at Buffalo or Chicago. About two hundred and seventy thousand bushels of corn, carried to New Orleans in barges, were transferred to steamers for Liverpool within ten days. The total freight and charges from Cairo to Liverpool amounts to less than the charges from Chicago to New York. An English company has contracted to furnish a fleet of iron barges for the river trade, and has subscribed one hundred thousand pounds capital to the enterprise.

From a New York city paper we learn that Mr. Seward, speaking of the great wall of China, which he examined during his late trip to the East, says:—"The Chinese have been for at least two or three thousand years a wall-making people. It would bankrupt New York or Paris to build the walls of the city of Peking. The great wall of China is the wall of the world. It is forty feet high. The lowest thirty feet is of heavy limestone or granite. Two modern carriages may pass each other on the summit. It has a parapet throughout its whole length, with convenient staircases, buttresses, and garrison houses at every quarter of a mile, and it runs not by cutting down hills and raising valleys, but over the uneven crests of the mountains and down through their gorges, a distance of a thousand miles. Admiral Rogers and I calculated that it would cost more now to build the great wall of China through its extent of one thousand miles, than it has cost to build the fifty-five thousand miles of railroad in the United States. What a commentary it is upon the ephemeral range of the human intellect to see this great utilitarian enterprise, so necessary and effective two thousand years ago, now not merely useless, but an incumbrance and an obstruction!"