

# The Rural Canadian.

VOLUME X., No 3.

TORONTO, MARCH, 1887.

\$1.00 in advance.

"The best paper of the kind published in Canada to-day."—*Durham News*.

## THE RURAL CANADIAN,

—: WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED THE —:

FARM JOURNAL, CANADIAN FARMER AND GRANGE RECORD,

An Illustrated Monthly Magazine for the Farm and Home.

— AT \$1.00 A YEAR. —

A Live Agent wanted in every Village, Town and Township in the Dominion. Liberal inducements to suitable parties. Apply at once to

C. BLACFETT ROBINSON, - - 5 Jordan St., Toronto.

### TO ADVERTISERS

The already large and rapidly growing circulation of the RURAL CANADIAN renders it a good medium for reaching a most desirable class of our population. List of rates mailed to any address on application.

## The Rural Canadian.

TORONTO, MARCH, 1887.

### TESTING SEEDS.

A great deal of vexation of spirit and disappointment can be spared by the proper testing of samples of seeds, which are about to be sown. It is only a question of a few days less than a week. A great flourish is being made of the fact that persons will shortly be able to send seeds to have their vitality tested at the new Experimental Farm at Ottawa. Our friends can just as satisfactorily, and with far less trouble, test their own seeds at home by any of the following simple methods:

Take a sheet of blotting paper, upon which count 100 seeds; cover with another piece of blotting paper; dampen and keep damp. Place beside a stove or in some warm place, at a temperature of seventy to seventy-five degrees; in four or five days the seeds will have germinated. By counting the number of unspouted seeds the exact percentage of reliable seed can readily be arrived at. White flannel may be substituted for the bottom layer of blotting paper; a common brick, placed in water sufficient to reach nearly to its top without covering, will answer to place the seeds on; or a piece of cloth folded in two, and laid in a small box containing damp earth, the seeds to be put between the folds of the cloth, covering the whole with an inch of soil. Leave for a week; raise the upper fold of the cloth, and with it the top soil. The good seeds will soon be perceptible. Any of these plans are inexpensive, and can be relied upon. By counting out one hundred seeds, the percentage is more easily arrived at than by putting in a quantity, such as a spoonful or a pinch. The heat need not be kept so high at night; by allowing it to drop a little will be following nature.

To examine samples for other seed: Take a piece of black board, or a dark coloured cover to a book, spread a small quantity upon it, and the strangers will be on view. Examining by rubbing in the palm of the hand is not reliable.

### ARTIFICIAL MANURES.

So much fraud has been practised on the agricultural community by dealers in so-called artificial manures that the Dominion Government last year passed an Act of Parliament to protect farmers from these swindlers. This act came into force on January last. Manufacturers or importers will now have to deposit samples of their fertilizers with the Minister of Inland Revenue, with a certified analysis of their contents. A copy of that analysis must be on every parcel, package, bag or barrel containing the fertilizer when delivered to the purchaser. If the material does not come up to expectation, the purchaser can forward samples to the Minister to be compared with the deposited sample; and should it be lacking in any of the properties, heavy penalties can be inflicted. The certificates have to be printed or branded distinctly, and affixed in such a manner that there will be no danger of their being lost.

The purchaser will be able to know from the analysis the quantity of the several articles composing the fertilizer. He can by these means ascertain whether he is paying too much, as he can easily get to know the commercial values of the different materials. So it will be the farmer's own fault if he is swindled into paying \$40 per ton for stuff worth only about \$2, as has frequently been done. It is not a great while since a pretended manufacturer from Guelph took in a lot of agriculturists by selling phosphate in bags, of course taking their notes in payment. When delivered it was nothing else but dried night-soil, a spoonful or two of ammonia being thrown into each bag to give it a strong smell. Farmers, beware of vendors who rely upon their samples smelling strongly of ammonia. A single spoonful will give a strong odour to a quantity of other material. Ask to see the analysis, and keep a copy when ordering your artificial manure. The passing of this useful law means death to sanding guano, and we may now expect to get the pure quill, and do our own adulterating.

SUPERPHOSPHATE can be cheaply made by mixing one hundred pounds of bones with thirty-five pounds of sulphuric acid and ten pounds of water. The bones should be placed in an old barrel, the larger ones broken to help to dissolve. Then pour about half of the acid into the water; stir the mass, and in a few hours add the balance of the acid. As this will be rather strong, it will be advisable to reduce by mixing a little plaster. Be careful that the sulphuric acid does not touch the clothing or person of the operator, else it will leave its mark.

SUBSCRIBE NOW FOR THE RURAL. The farmer who does not take it is himself the loser.