

As advocates of the matchless merits of the great Shorthorn race of cattle, we have controverted the claims set up on behalf of these few fancy strains of being superior to all other strains of the breed in useful or profitable qualities. This we have done in the interest of the great mass of the breeders and farmers of America, who are resorting to the Shorthorn blood for the improvement of their herds as beef and milk producers. In this discussion we have done nothing more than we deemed essential and necessary to truth and justice. That we have been right in insisting that the few fancy strains did not possess the superiority claimed for them over well-bred Shorthorns in useful qualities we are quite confident we should be able to establish by the testimony of at least nine-tenths of the practical breeders of America, if we had authority to examine them under oath! We have no hostility whatever to fashionable families of shorthorns. Indeed, we are always glad to get a fashionable pedigree, when we can get a good animal with it. It was only the other day that we were enquiring of one of the most zealous advocates of the fancy strains if he could inform us where we could find a bull that was in all essential points a first-class animal, and had besides a fashionable pedigree. His answer was: "Why, my dear sir, you expect too much; to fill your bill will require at least two bulls!"—*National Live Stock Journal.*

Canadian Agricultural Notes.

Quebec.

The resources of this province that are available to agricultural labors are not sufficiently known. The following remarks on this subject, by Mr. C. Lesage, D. M. A. for Quebec, are well to the point: Mr. C. Lesage, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Public Works for the Province of Quebec, was then examined. He stated that in his opinion the Province of Quebec had room for a large number of immigrants, but he would not recommend any class except agricultural immigrants, who had means to settle on their wild lands. He had known immigrants who had come out here and done remarkably well. In the County of Suffolk there was a Belgian settlement—people who had come without money and been assisted to build their log huts, and who had been very successful. In two years they were as prosperous as our farmers. There were 5,000,000 acres of surveyed land, 60 per cent. of which was suitable for settlement. The pine timber on all of the water courses was more or less exhausted, but there was still a good deal of spruce timber on the surveyed lots not disposed of yet. In regard to the country in the vicinity of Lakes St. John and St. Maurice, he could not give much information in regard to the latter district, but was well acquainted with the former. He believed the Saginay district would become the best portion of the Province for settlement, but the want of communication was against it at present. The climate at Lake St. John was much milder than that of Quebec; the nearest market was Chicoutine; the average yield per bushel of seed was fifteen bushels; the rock was mostly limestone and the clay a bluish gray; the clay was not stiff, and the farmers were able to plough with one horse.

Ontario.

WESTERN ONTARIO FRUIT-GROWING PROSPECTS. Large preparations for fruit culture are being made in Kent county, along the Talbot or Lake Shore road, as during the tornado last fall a number of orchards were blown down completely. This district is the finest fruit bearing section in Canada. One of the farms has a hundred acres of orchards; and, notwithstanding the low price of fruit this fall, handsome returns have been made. The majority of the large growers shipped their own apples to Montreal, and realized \$2.50 per barrel, when the price in local markets was only \$1. The Northern Spy is the favorite in this section and brings 50 cents a barrel more than other kinds in the Montreal market. Farmers in the vicinity of Leamington have tried some tropical productions. Peanuts last year were raised in small quantities, and did well. Grapes did not pay in comparison with other fruits, and the different vineries have gone to waste, and are now being planted with apples, quinces, &c.

GO FOR THE CANKER WORM—NOW! Whatever is used to prevent the ascent of the trunks of the trees by the female (wingless) insect, should be put on early, as they come out after a few warm days. Heavy brown paper, applied closely, so that the

insects can not get under, and smeared with cheap printer's ink or tar, is as simple and cheap as anything. But the ink, tar, or whatever adhesive barrier be used, must be looked after every few days. Dust, dead insects, or something else may form a bridge by which the live insects can cross the barrier, when the work will have been in vain.

Jno. B. Miller, in *American Farmer* says:—I do not think orchard-grass seed ever ought to be sown without clover, as the first year the growth of orchard-grass is small and even the growth of clover will be fine; the second year the crop of orchard-grass will be good and the clover will not interfere in saving the seed, as the orchard-grass will get ahead of the clover sufficient to top it for seed, and the pasture is so much better with clover mixed, as is also the hay if you should want to mow it.

My plan for sowing my orchard-grass seed is, mix six pounds of clover seed, place them in a mixing or feed-trough, mixing the two seeds thoroughly, and then pour in about one and a-half or two gallons of water, making them thoroughly wet, and then I put plaster in until each seed separates, stirring as I put the plaster in. Any one who has orchard-grass to sow that will try this plan, will be convinced at once that this is the only true way to sow it. It will only need to be sown one way. The plaster, clover seed and water will give so much weight to the orchard-grass seed that there will be no trouble in spreading it, almost equal to wheat.

EFFECTS OF SOIL ON AN ORCHARD.—The *Gardener's Chronicle* once related a case of an orchard of apples and pears, plums and cherries, which was planted in heavy clay, trenched down to an iron pan on which it rested. For a few years the trees grew very well, that is to say, as long as their roots were near the surface and got the warmth of the summer's sun; but as they advanced downward the growth became small, and by degrees less, till at last the trees ceased to grow, and nothing flourished except gray lichens, with which the branches soon became covered.

CLOSE PRUNING OF RASPBERRIES, CURRANTS, &c.

We are more and more becoming converted to the practice of close pruning of the above. Take for instance, black raspberries, or blackberries; grow them close in the row, and like a hedge, by keeping well cut back as they grow. This makes branches stiff so that they do not get down in the dirt, and are easily passed among to get the fruit, and too, by mulching the entire surface, the same amount of mulch mulches a much larger number of vines. The roots of all kinds of plants run much further than few people have any idea of, and simply mulching close around the plant does not answer the purpose. The roots of a plantation of raspberries and blackberries, or currants, or even strawberries, run through the entire surface, and hence to be properly benefitted, the entire surface must be mulched, or kept worked by hoe or cultivator, and the part that most needs this, is the extremities of the root. Currants and gooseberries must have a cool, moist place to do well, and, if planted on dry soil, this is best secured by a heavy mulching of the entire surface. So, if fruit, and that of the best quality is what is sought for, plant close, prune close, and mulch heavily is our advice.—*Fruit Recorder.*

Manitoba.

Real estate transfers lately made through A. W. Burrows' general land office, were 3 section 22 and 3 section 23 in township 11, range 5 east, 640 acres, to E. Roberts, at \$3 per acre; whole section 21 in same township to John McGoffin, London township, Ontario, at \$2,000. Scrip investments are not so much in demand lately, the price having gone so high that improved farms near the city are preferred.

THE CLIMATE AND PROSPECTS OF MANITOBA.—A letter written by Mr. David McCornell, who lives at Woodside, Golden Stream, Manitoba, to his brother, at Eden Mills, contains information that will prove of interest to the farming community of this Province, and will enable them to institute a comparison between one Province and the other. In answer to a number of questions submitted to him the writer says:—

1. The climate is much the same as in Ontario, except that the winter is steady. We seldom have any change in winter, and although the frost is a little more severe than in Ontario, a person does not feel the cold any greater. The spring, summer and fall are much the same in this respect.

2. As an agricultural country it is better than Ontario. Cereals of all kinds fully mature and return a better average.

3. Land can be obtained in different ways; but the manner the most of *bona fide* settlers do is by making affidavit that they are taking the land to make it their home, and thereby they are entitled to 160 acres of land any place they choose, except on reserves. You can also preempt 160 acres more, which merely gives you three years to pay for it, and then you pay one dollar per acre. You can also get land by buying half-breed scrip, volunteers' warrants, or for cash, which you will bear in mind is the one thing needful here as well as other places.

4. You wanted to know if we got any fresh fish. Lake Manitoba, as well as all the lakes, are full of the very best of whitefish and pickerel, and in the spring when the streams are flooded, the pickerel and suckers go up the streams in millions. We can fill a wagon-box in two hours on such occasions. Flour-mills and saw-mills are getting plentiful and easy of access. Implements of all kinds can be procured at reasonable prices.

BACK AGAIN.—Mr. Thos. West, who has been visiting the States and Ontario the past few months, his many friends will be glad to learn, has returned home. He distributed a large number of the *Free Press* crop reports in Missouri, and feels confident that he has placed them where they will do the most good. A number of Missourians, disgusted with that State, intend emigrating, and some will come to Manitoba.

Farm Notes

CORRECTION.—Mr. T. McCrae and Mr. W. McCrae were the principal purchasers of Mr. Hood's herd of Galloways. Many of the animals brought between \$70 and \$80. We think they were sold at such low prices because the sale was not generally known.

EARLY SOWING.—Several farmers residing in the Township of Ameliasburg, Prince Edward County, sowed spring wheat on their farm on Tuesday and Friday of last week. This week the work of sowing has become general. What is this country coming to when spring wheat can be sown in the month of February.

The Belgian Government has organized measures for still further extending the plan of agricultural conferences in the rural districts, as well as calling upon the teachers of primary schools to impart instruction in natural history in its bearings on agriculture. Belgium has this advantage over many countries, that those interested in teaching agriculture are *qualified* by study and training for the important work. Comte Belrupt, in his pamphlet, sets forth that Belgium expends on agricultural education 232 francs per 1,000; Austria, 249 francs; France, 310 francs; and Prussia, 432 francs. It would not be too much to add, that Belgium receives the most value for her money.

The arrangements for the agricultural section at the 1878 Universal Exhibition, are very complete, and at the same time simple. The display will be magnificent; there will be two shows for butter and cheese—at the close of May and September, respectively.

Dr. Schneider still maintains the superiority of leguminous over meadow hays; on dried clover, he adds, a horse can work well, without receiving oats, while he would sink under fatigue, if supplied exclusively with meadow hay.

A bill has been reported in the Maine legislature looking to the encouragement of manufacturing sugar from beets in that State. A capital idea.

Tobacco growers and dealers say that it is a fact, that tobacco furnishes employment to more people than any other crop produced on the farm.

A local paper in Minnesota in making up the aggregated amount of wheat in hand, speaks of the average yield of that State as eight bushels per acre. We should call that a very small and insignificant result in New England.

Sheep owners should bear in mind that the United States imports annually \$50,000,000 worth of woollen goods and \$11,000,000 worth of wool. We ought to produce wool to a profit with a heavy protective tariff on foreign wools.

English farmers give their breeding ewes a pint per head per day of a mixture of oats and whole Indian corn, with a full allowance of well-cured straw.