

prevented proper tests being made, more than any one else. That is what good a lawyer does in the Agricultural Board. The Surprise oats are spoken well of by some, but they are not so scarce now but what any one can try them. In our small tests the Emporium oats excelled them.

Alsike Clover is generally well liked. It is not destined to take the place of our common red clover, but to afford a variation in feed for our stock, which every good farmer knows to be advantageous.

POTATOES.—Well, who would have ever thought of potatoes in a land of plenty selling at \$50 each? Such was the case. We shall have some to try this year, and will supply in small quantities; but last year we shook our head at the price. You will see between the cut on another page our remarks about the Harrison potatoes. The Early Gooderich is generally well liked. The Early Rose is good in quality, highly prolific, and early, but on some soils they have been disposed to rot badly, still you ought to try a few of them. Our Australian potatoes, although good in quality, are not sufficiently productive or free from rot to justify us in recommending them to you. This year the Garnett Chillie or Peach Blows are in good repute.

CORN.—There is a species of corn which we shall endeavor to procure before our next issue, and feel confident, from what has already been achieved by it, that it will be a great source of profit to you. It will grow three feet higher than our corn, and produce twenty tons per acre of better feed than hay for our cows. We all want more feed for them. Nothing pays better than the dairy with us in making butter or cheese.

Canada Protection Against American Agricultural Papers.

A Canada paper is credited in the Philadelphia Press with the following:

The agricultural press of the United States has a greater circulation, a greater power over the people than that of any other country. Their agricultural papers are large, highly embellished and well conducted, and are looked on with, perhaps, more respect than any other. Our present Government has opened wide the gate for annexation in this respect, by having our country flooded with them. We blame no man for purchasing them, nor the editors or agents for sending them here; but we do blame our own authorities for not assisting our own periodicals, so that they may be able to compete more successfully with American publications.

Well! Well! This is the last form of protection we had thought of for Canada. Undoubtedly it is just what is the matter with our brethren of the Dominion. Knowledge of the progress and success of American agriculturists makes them restive, discontented and creates a desire to immigrate hither or annex. The Government of Canada ought not to suffer such agencies to operate longer!—ought it?

By the way, the Canadian journals were once "protected" by being permitted to circulate free of postage to subscribers. Has there been a change in this respect?

Moore's Rural New Yorker quotes the above extract from us without having the courtesy to give the usual credit. It might be worth while

for the Postmaster General to take into consideration the injury he has done to national sentiment in this country, by withdrawing the trifling advantage which free postage for agricultural journals of the Dominion, gave to the farmers. Everything in the United States is protected, and the result is that specialities flourish, while Canada is open to them as well as their own larger field. They do not reciprocate. Surely when such great efforts are being made to attract agricultural laborers to this country, the Dominion Government ought to give them agricultural papers suited to the people of this country, free of postage, and the Provincial Government ought to encourage a class of literature that would tend to keep them here, instead of fostering more political journals, which however valuable to parties, are of very little value to the farmer. How does the annexation tendency of American publications suit the taste of the Hon. Commissioner of Agriculture for Ontario?

Under the existing state of agriculture the very poorest farmer in the most desolate, coldest, sterile, and hardest part of the country, is now compelled to pay a tax that we know, in one instance, at least, is expended by a certain agricultural society in purchasing American papers.

SKIM MILK CHEESE.—At the Dairyman's Convention, held in Ingersoll, Mr. Willard, a gentleman of great ability and one of the staff of MOORE'S RURAL, was engaged to deliver the annual address. He thoroughly understands the dairy business and some other businesses as well, and finding a strong reform influence there, and a member of parliament, a dairy patron being there, and likely to be held in lower estimation in and out of parliament for having skimmed his milk before sending it to the factory, Mr. Willard—most likely to gain favor among the Reform party—laid particular stress, and even diverged from his written address, to show that better cheese might sometimes be made by taking the cream from the milk, while, at the same time, every dairyman who was present at Ingersoll, and every dairyman in the States knows that nothing would tend more than this to reduce the value of our cheese in the foreign market. Thus, by a little judicious policy, MOORE'S RURAL has Conservative and Reform papers to laud and introduce it to our country. Canadians, are we soft, green, gullable, or what?

CALENDAR FOR THE MONTH.

The hints given last month apply almost equally as well to this. If a definite plan for the season's work is not yet matured, no time should be lost in coming to a decision,—the farmer can ill afford to work without one.

ANIMALS, of all kinds, need care and generous treatment. Allow none to become "spring poor," if you value your own interest. Should your fodder bid fair to run short, it is better economy to buy more or sell a part of your stock than to keep them on short rations. Have an eye to breeding animals, and do not expose them to injury from others stronger, but provide roomy and well littered quarters.

BUILDINGS can generally be repaired to better advantage now than during the busier seasons, as well as lumber and other materials

carted for new ones to be erected, if the traveling is good.

DITCHES AND DRAINS for carrying off surface-water should be examined occasionally to see that they are in good order, and remove any obstructions to their outlet.

FUEL.—Improve all suitable weather in securing your summer's fuel, if it has not yet been done.

GRAIN FIELDS.—Allow no animals upon them, and if possible prevent ponds of water from freezing on the surface, a way in which grain is often winter-killed.

GARDEN SEEDS.—It is better to provide a supply of those you intend to purchase early and be certain of having them when you need them.

HAY.—Unless the price rules higher than the average, it is poor policy to sell hay, even if you reside near a good market. Remember that when hay is carried off of the farm no part is returned to the soil, and that the purchase of manure will alone supply the deficiency.

Hired HELP should be engaged immediately, if it has not yet been done.

IMPLEMENTS.—Repair when needed, and make intended purchases now rather than be subjected to vexacious delays when the season for their use arrives.

MANURES.—Increase the amount in every possible way. Refuse of all kinds is worth something in the manure heap, though worse than useless scattered about the premises. Keep the quarters of all animals supplied with absorbents, and if there is a peat swamp or muck bed accessible, do not neglect to get out a large supply for another season.

MARKETING produce should be accomplished before spring work begins, unless there are strong inducements for delay.

POTATOES.—The sooner those now on hand are disposed of the better, as they will soon begin to sprout, diminishing their value and increasing the labor of sorting. Some farmers cut all their seed this month so that the cut may callus over before planting, but the practice is of doubtful utility.

UNDERDRAINS may be made just as soon as the ground is open, the labor of digging being less just after the frost is out than at any other period. Let there be no delay in making them where ever the character of the soil renders them advisable; the increased product of the land will soon pay for the outlay.

THE NECESSITY OF ROTATION.—There is scarcely a single crop that can be raised year after year upon the same land without so far exhausting it of the elements required for its growth, as to finally fail to produce a crop. It is, of course, admitted that where all the elements taken from the soil are returned to it, as is sometimes the case in market gardening, the same crop can be raised just as well the second year as the first. In general farm crops, however, it is absolutely impossible to return to the soil all the elements taken from it, some of them existing in very limited quantities, or being slowly derived from the atmosphere, or rather rendered soluble by atmospheric agencies. I heard, last fall, a remark made by a farmer who does not manure very highly, in relation to a certain field, which illustrates the effect of a neglect to rotation. Said he, "Such a one laughed at us while we were clearing up that piece of land, but we have kept it a-going ever since in corn and rye till this fall the corn is not worth husking."

There is then a necessity for some system of rotation, by which the soil at the same time that it is furnishing the food required by one kind of plants, may be storing up those required by others. In no other way can the fertility of our farms be permanently maintained. The fact is admitted by all farmers, and none are without some system of rotation. It is, however, probable that most of us might