

ENGLISH SPARROWS.

The New York Farmer's Club recently had a talk about these birds, which were brought over from England to New York a few years since, and which appear to be spreading rapidly in all directions; having already been seen twenty miles from the city. Mr. Andrew Fuller, said that two pair put on his place had driven all other birds away. He did not think the sparrows were entitled to the credit they generally received of causing the disappearance of the span worms from the trees in the city, but said, "in truth, they had nothing at all to do with the disappearance of the worm, that being affected by the ichneumon fly." Several gentlemen having stated that the sparrows did devour worms, to their certain knowledge, Mr. P. T. Quinn said:—

There is no doubt in my mind but that they will feed upon the insects when they can get nothing else to eat, but they will also become very destructive and injurious to the fruit grower in the country. There is a great deal of sentiment about birds. I know that some of them are the allies of the fruit grower, but I was born where the sparrows were pests in the worse sense of the term; where they not only eat the fruit, which we would be willing to forgive, but they fed also on the blossoms, and so the subject comes up whether that variety of bird will greatly benefit the fruit-grower. I have a neighbor, and he called me into his fruit garden and showed me the blossoms of his trees all picked off; he said that he had not seen any sparrows around, but his place is only a stone's throw from mine, and we had had quantities of them, and there was no doubt but that the sparrow was the depredator. If he would only eat the ripe fruit, I would say let him have it, as much as he can eat, but when he eats the buds, then he is an injury, and I fear that we shall regret that they ever passed out of the city.

DIFFERENCE IN EGGS.—*The Germantown Telegraph* well says, there is a vast difference in the flavor of eggs. Hens fed on clean, sound grain and kept on a clean grass run, give much finer flavored eggs than hens that have access to stables and manure heaps and eat all kinds of filthy food. Hens feeding on fish or onions flavor their eggs accordingly—the same as cows eating onions or cabages, or drinking offensive water, impart a bad taste to the milk and butter. The richer the food the higher the color of the egg. Wheat and corn give the best color, while feeding on buckwheat makes the eggs colorless, rendering them unfit for some confectionary purposes.

STEAM ENGINES FOR COMMON ROADS.—Lord Dunmore says the *Irish Farmers Gazette*, has introduced a Bill into the House of Lords to remove the restrictions imposed by the Act of 1865 on the use of steam engines on the common roads, and to revert to the more liberal Act of 1861. It is stated that goods can now be regularly carried by means of Thomson's road steamers at less than half the cost of horses, and both the manufacturing and railway interest of the country (the latter being involved to the extent to which the road steamers could be introduced as feeders) demand at least the removal of such regulations as can be shown to be useless and mischievous. In nearly all parts of the world these steamers are attracting attention, as affording a

solution of the main difficulty of conducting an inexpensive traffic.

The piscatorial interests of the Eastern states owe much to the labor and intelligence of Mr. Seth Green. Indeed to him more than to any one else is due what has been done in this country toward the artificial propagation of fish, and the re-stocking streams from which they had been almost exterminated. Mr. Green lately undertook the delicate task, at the invitation of the Fish Commissioners of California, of transporting young shad from the Hudson river to the Sacramento, none of this species have been found west of the Rocky mountains. Mr. G. was aware of the difficulty in the case. He knew that the fish must be taken on the day of hatching so as to have its four days of natural food attached, while it would take six or seven to make the trip. He knew that water taken at different points on the route would differ greatly in quality, and in many instances be fatal to the fish. He started on the 19th of June with 20,000 young shad in six tin cans, containing about ten gallons each. On Monday the 26th, he arrived at Sacramento City with 90 per cent. of his stock alive. He then went 170 miles down the river to where the water seemed more favourable, and deposited his charge. The young fellows struck out nobly for exercise and refreshments, and there is little doubt but the new home will be found exceedingly well adapted to them. Who knows but that in a few years these delicious fish will grace Chicago tables instead of the somewhat inferior salmon that California now sends us.

Our Country.

CANADIAN LIFE IN FORMER DAYS.

[From Dr. Canniff's Settlement of Canada.]

The summer of 1789 brought relief to most of the settlers—the harvest of the weight of woe was removed. But, for nearly a decade, they enjoyed but few comforts, and were often without the necessaries of life. The days of the toiling pioneer were numbering up rapidly yet the wants of all were not relieved. Those whose industry had enabled them to sow a quantity of grain reaped a goodly reward. The soil was very fruitful. and subsequently, for two or three years, repeated crops were raised from a single sowing. But flour alone, although necessary to sustain life, could hardly satisfy the cravings of hunger with those who had been accustomed to a different mode of living. It was a long way to Montreal or Albany, from which to transport by hand everything required, even when it could be had, and the settler had something to exchange for such articles, besides the journey of several weeks. Game, occasionally to be had, was not available at all times, although running wild, ammunition was scarce, and some had none. We have stated that Government gave to every five families a musket and forty-eight rounds of ammunition, with some powder and shot, also some twine to make fishing nets. Beef, mutton, &c., were unknown for many a day. Strangely enough, a circumstantial account of the first beef slaughtered along the Bay, probably in Upper Canada, is supplied by one who, now in the 90th