

don't drain it before planting, unless the ground is naturally dry and rolling. The land if long in cultivation will require a good, liberal coat of well-rotted stable manure and frequent plowings. The latter end of this month is one of the best seasons to transplant evergreens. The young growth of this season has got pretty well ripened, so as to permit of but very little evaporation. New roots will soon push out, as the ground is now warm, and the tree will become well established before the cold weather. As the weather will be very warm, it is not safe to bring the trees from any great distance unless very carefully protected by damp moss or some other packing. It is well, therefore, to make ready in anticipation of rain, when no time may be lost in pushing the work through.

Hedges that are in a strong growing condition require trimming twice a year. In the spring and summer when a strong growth is required it has been trimmed and now it should receive its final trimming either during this month or September. When a hedge gets thin at the bottom and begins to wear a scraggy appearance, it should be cut hard back, top and sides, when the growth is over or late in the fall; this will induce a vigorous growth the succeeding season. To be successful with evergreen hedges it must not be forgotten that they should have a growth of four feet in diameter at the base, and, in fact, this will apply to all hedges, unless excepting small ones for borders of walks.

Many plants may now be grown for the decoration of the windows when all is bleak and cold outside. Geraniums may be struck freely from cuttings placed in boxes of sand. A frame in a shady position, set on some light sandy soil, affords one of the best places possible for striking all kinds of half ripened wood.

Herbaceous plants may now be divided and replanted successfully, and is a good time to renew all old beds or borders, by trenching and manuring, thus giving the plants a new lease of life and health. Plants divided and transplanted now will become well rooted and flower strongly the next season. Seeds of perennials, biennials and hardy annuals, may be sown during this month and will furnish, by proper mulching during the winter to prevent upheaval in spring, nice beds of plants wherewith to transplant from when convenience offers.

The Crops.

Since our last issue the weather has been unusually hot, and the season has been distinguished by copious rains as well as by heat. Moisture and heat have raised an immense crop of hay, the greater part of which is in good order; we presume it is the largest hay crop ever secured in Canada. The extreme heat has matured the winter wheat and barley too quickly; the yield will not be near as large as it otherwise would have been; in fact, the rapid maturity has shortened the fall wheat crop in many places to one-half what it would have been if we had but our usual amount of heat. A large proportion of the wheat is rusted, and the grain is generally small and shrunken. We were in hopes, from what we heard of some new varieties of wheat raised in the vicinity of Paris, to be able to introduce to the attention of our readers some variety that might be of more value to them; we went to several farms and saw many varieties. The Soules wheat and the Golden Medal or Arnold's wheat were the two varieties that will yield the least return, as the grains were very small and shrunken. The Gold Medal wheat had been put in choice land, there was abundance of straw for a good crop. The Deihl and Treadwell wheat appeared to have suffered nearly as bad as

the two former varieties, the straw of each variety showed the effects of rust, but the rust on the straw was not as bad as we have seen it; the Midge Proof or Michigan Amber appeared a little better than either of the aforementioned varieties; the Scott wheat was but a poor sample, but it appeared less affected by the rust than either of the former varieties. We only saw one acre of Clawson wheat, it was on a 40 acre field owned by Mr. Sovereign, thirty-nine acres of which was Soules' wheat; the Soules wheat would yield about 10 bushels per acre of small, shrunken, inferior wheat; the Clawson wheat was a good crop and would yield about 25 bushels per acre, the straw was not entirely free from rust. This small piece of wheat was the only piece that would pay expenses. We saw thousands of acres in this locality, some standing in the shock, some uncut. The heads showed most unmistakeable signs of the results to follow the threshing machine, as they all stood straight up; the only piece that bent the head with the weight of grain was the Clawson. On our own farm we only sowed the Scott and the Clawson wheats, we believed, and still believe, they are the two safest wheats to sow; we examined them the day before they were cut, they were both rusted to some extent, the Scott wheat was not rusted as much as the Clawson and was better filled; the land our wheat is grown on is a stiff clay, the Paris soil is of a light, loamy or sandy soil. Mr. John Gownlock, a good farmer, in West Middlesex, says the Midge Proof is the best wheat there. Mr. R. Walker, a good farmer, in East Middlesex, considers the Deihl is the best variety. In Elgin the Deihl is yet preferred. In Kent the Scott wheat is king. In North Middlesex many prefer the Treadwell.

BARLEY.—The dry, hot weather has caused the barley to ripen too quickly, consequently the yield will not be as large as anticipated.

PEAS AND OATS.—Both promise a large return.

SPRING WHEAT.—A blight or insect did a great injury to the spring wheat after it was well up and threatened to destroy the crop, but it has taken a fresh start and promises a fair return. We are sorry to find the midge working on it, and we fear a loss from this pest.

POTATOES.—The bugs have been more numerous than last year, it has been a great trouble to keep them from destroying the crop; large quantities of Paris green has been used. Machines are used in some places in preference to Paris green.

TURNIPS AND CORN.—Are both promising good returns.

FRUIT.—There is a great abundance of fruit of all kinds, except plums, which in most localities are very scarce. The apple crop is very large; in our travels we saw many apple trees badly affected with the blight, especially in the vicinity of Niagara.

Is the Quality of our Potatoes Degrading?

The *Ohio Farmer* states that Col. D. C. Richmond says one cause for the poor quality of potatoes last year was that planters permitted the bugs to prey on the vines to a considerable extent during the latter part of the season, before the tubers were mature, and holds than another reason for the poor quality lies in the new varieties recently introduced, which, while they produce well, are not of first rate quality like the Pinkeye, and Neshannock. He believes that the quality of our potatoes is deteriorating, and that the day may not be far distant when they will cease to be generally used as food.

The same remark of the quality of potatoes degrading we have heard from many, and their is some reason for thinking that the causes given in the extract above are the true ones. Potatoes have not latterly been of so good a quality as

those we had some time since. We have been of the opinion that their quality was deteriorated in consequence of the attacks of the bug, but whether directly by the bug or by the means used for their destruction we are uncertain. Even when hand-picking was the means resorted to the necessary tramping of the ground is injurious. Of this any one may convince himself by tramping, day after day, a few hills of potatoes; he will find the potatoes, injured, not only by the yield being decreased, but also from the ground being so compacted as to be impervious to light and air, both necessary elements for the production of good potatoes. Whether the poor quality is owing to the inferiority of the new sorts introduced, as the writer says, has not yet been sufficiently tested. A few more seasons will tell their real value. A long experience in potato culture has convinced us that those varieties that give the largest yield are not of the first quality. The very heavy croppers we planted acres of for feeding cattle. Each of these new varieties differ very much in its quality. This is the case with the Early Rose, for instance; with some the quality is very good, with others the reverse according to soil, manure, cultivation, time of taking from the ground and care. The same, we believe, holds true of other new varieties. Breese's Peerless is condemned by many, yet, after three years' planting, we have them good for the table, though not so mealy as some of the older varieties. As grown by us they are very productive, well flavored and uncommonly white fleshed.

The opinion entertained in England of the American new varieties is that they excel English potatoes in produce, but fall far below them in quality.

The Indians—Canada and the United States.

A subscription is about to be taken in Canada at which many of our leading statesmen are at the head, for the purpose of erecting a suitable monument to one or more of the ancient Indian inhabitants of our Dominion. The Hon. D. Christie is Chairman of the committee, and Mr. C. A. Jones, of Brantford, is the Secretary, to whom communications and subscriptions may be sent.

In the States the hue and cry is "Extermination of the aborigines." After having taken their hunting grounds, ill treated their men and women, the poor Indian is to be shot, hunted and killed without mercy or pity; without having their rights adjusted, or the wrongs they have suffered at the hands of the whites redressed. It is wrong. The poor natives should have every leniency shown to them. Every editor should try and stay the butchery.

Amid the different methods of conveying contagion, says a writer in the *London Sanitary Record*, the feet of flies and their probosces must not be underestimated, especially during those portions of the year when flies are usually most numerous. The sublime indifference to consequences, says this journal, exhibited by flies in passing from the surface of the most odious substances to that of material for human consumption is complete. But even if the flies themselves are uninjured by contact with putrefying matter, the next article of food they rest upon may be influenced by the previous contact, and may be thus either induced to undergo putrefactive changes more readily, or may become a carrier of material of an eminently septic character. And not only this, but flies pass quickly from surfaces on one organism to another, and it must, therefore, be considered as highly probable that the communication of septic poisons by their agency is not by any means rare.

Sidney Smith once said that clergymen might be divided into three classes—Nimrods, Ramrods and Fishingrods. It was not a bad epigram, but it has been beaten by an American, who says that railways are built upon three gauges—Broad Gauge, Narrow Gauge and Mortgage.