

retire, amid the triumphant notes of a host of exulting opponents. The humane naturalist might be inclined to sympathize with the hawk when subjected to such treatment, were he not aware that the hawk thus attacked was himself in quest of plunder, and intent on bloody deeds. The guerilla warfare thus carried on between these feathered tribes sometimes occasions amusing scenes. The crow, for some reason or other, appears to be hated by most people, and even some naturalists advocate its extermination; but it is evident, though it commits some depredations on the farmer, that it is one of his best friends, for the amount of destructive creatures and refuse matter that it removes in one year is quite sufficient to compensate the tiller of the ground for all the depredations of a life-time; and if the hum of the insect, the squeal of the rodent, and croaking of the frog—creatures upon which it feeds—were to cease forever, few would have reason for regret. Some specimens of white crows have lately been seen in Ontario.

### APPLE EVAPORATOR.

Editor RURAL CANADIAN:

I am contemplating drying (or evaporating) apples on a scale that would at least keep one man constantly employed, and I would like to get information on the following points:

1. Can you give any information how to make an evaporator?
2. Are evaporators manufactured anywhere in Canada?
3. What would be the probable cost of procuring an evaporator of about the capacity I have mentioned from the United States, to include cost of apparatus, freight and duty?
4. Is there any work published on the subject especially giving instructions about the construction of an evaporator?

Missouri. J. M. McAINSH.

[Can any of our readers give the information asked for?—ED. R. C.]

MR. E. W. CHAMBERS, of Springvale farm, East Oxford, recently sold to Mr. T. Fletcher a fine thoroughbred Durham bull, for service in Texas, U. S., and replaced the animal by purchasing from Mr. Douglas, of Onondaga, Baron Goodness, grandsire Duke of Clarence.

AN exchange says:—"A rural subscriber wants to know if it makes any difference in the lastingness of fence-posts, whether you set them 'top end up,' or the same way the trees grow, or 'top end down?' Not a bit. A fence-post will last just as long set 'top end up' or 'top end down.' In setting a hen, however, there is a vital importance in the distinction, which the careful poulterer will do wisely to observe."

ANOTHER swindle has been devised. An alleged speculator in country produce calls on a farmer, purchases \$10 or \$15 worth of eggs, butter or poultry, says he wants a receipt to show the firm he paid the money, breaks the point of his pencil before the signature is reached, then takes from his pocket a fountain pen and the farmer uses it in signing his name. The swindler then goes to town, sells the produce, erases the body of the receipt, and writes instead a promissory note for \$50 or \$100, and has it discounted at the bank.

### CURRENT NEWS ITEMS.

"FIRST robin" items have commenced to appear in print.

MAPLE sugar, it is said, will be scarce this year, owing to the open weather.

ANDREW AITKING has sold his farm, north of Paris about three miles, for ninety dollars per acre.

A BLACK walnut grove which a Wisconsin farmer planted about twenty years ago on some waste land recently sold for \$27,000.

MR. ALBERT MARLATT, of Norwich, has purchased the Mambrino stallion, "Ed. Burns," from Mr. Merrill, of Tilsonburg. The price paid was \$600.

AMONG the late sales of horseflesh, we notice one of a span of horses for \$400, and a filly two years old for \$200, both bred by Stanley farmers.

It is estimated that 300,000 bushels of grain, including wheat, oats and barley, have been sold in Portage la Prairie since last fall, and only a little more than half of the grain grown in the district has yet been marketed.

MR. THOMAS TODD, commission merchant of Galt, recently purchased from Messrs. J. G. Wing & Co., New Dundee, nearly ten tons of dried apples. The value of the purchase was upwards of \$1,200. The apples were shipped for the Maritime Provinces.

GEORGE STORTZ, of the 2nd concession Arthur township, has purchased a hundred acres from his neighbour, Charles Edmunson, for \$3,400. The farm is nearly all cleared, well fenced, and improved with good buildings, and in a good state of cultivation.

In October last, as Mr. James Pyke, of Egremont, was passing through his fields, he noticed a strawberry vine in blossom, and out of curiosity dug it up and placed it in a pot in the house, the result being that there are now on the vines two fine ripe strawberries.

A MAN is busily engaged buying up cats in the neighbourhood of Hyde Park. From ten to forty cents each is paid for the animals, according to condition. He states that they are killed and skinned, and the pelts sold to the city furriers. What is done with their bodies is not stated.

THE Huron Signal tells a story of a dog which formerly lived at Seaforth, but now is domiciled at the Star salt works in Goderich. Every now and then the sagacious canine takes a trip to its former home, going both ways by the train, on which it is cunning enough to dead head its way.

FROM a return laid on the table of the House of Commons, it appears that \$22,947 was collected as excise duty on Canadian grown tobacco in 1881. The cost of collection was over one-half of that sum, or \$12,832. Ottawa and Windsor are the only Ontario districts in which tobacco was grown.

MR. JAMES BARCLAY, of Guelph, has purchased the Bechtel homestead, Blair, about four miles from Galt, at a fair figure. The farm is on the Grand River, and contains 130 acres all cleared, with the exception of ten acres of thin bush. Mr. Barclay intends to build a new residence, and reside on the farm.

THE Seaforth cheese factory received last year 752,597 pounds of milk, from which 73,915 pounds of cheese were made. The aver-

age of milk to cheese was 10.24 pounds, while the average price to patrons for each 10 pounds of milk was 8½ cents. The directors make the cheese and draw the milk for 2½ cents.

MR. TIMMINS has purchased Mr. Trow's farm of 50 acres in Howick for \$1,610. Gilbert Forgie has sold 93 acres, lot 11, con. 5, Turnberry, to James Elliott, for \$4,500. Robert McMichael has bought a farm of 100 acres in Hullett from Mrs. Charles Carter, for \$5,600. Mrs. Fitzsimmons has sold 30 acres on the 2nd concession of Hullett to D. Shanahan for \$3,000. The farm of S. Holmes, Huron road, near Clinton—70 acres—was sold recently to Keppel Disney, for the sum of \$4,000.

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