

mainstay," says: that we have the finest sample of 66 lbs. per quarter more than

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which may be a the FARMERS' is not difficult to gain in- ANGLIAN.

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a prize offered are, written by farmer. My ex- turnip ground. manure spread after that har- manured with no manure but n the artificial sown on the drills turned artificial manure, be got with- g the artificial al this year. RD O'HARA.

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h the Advo- deal of useful poor the past e early sorts, t time I have The two pre- t ground and to 30 bushels promised first- drouth and her crops are hich is above. Vocate of the to the turnip ore. I have ubstance with that way? , Mariposa. nage the infor- phosphate.—Ed.]

Will our esteemed correspondent "Prairie Farmer," Orford, who wrote in December No. concerning steam ploughs, kindly forward his address to this office as his letter has been mislaid.

SIR,—I am much pleased with your paper, and have sent you a new subscriber and induced more of my brother farmers to subscribe for what I consider a very useful paper. The crops are rather light in this section of the country the past season. I would ask space to say a word on a subject which I consider of great importance to the farmers of Ontario; that is with regard to traveling agents and the large percentage they receive, and which comes not out of the manufacturers' pockets, but out of the farmers' in the high prices we have to pay for machinery which we know can be made for less money by twenty or twenty-five per-cent, if our manufacturers had fewer agents to protect at the farmers' expense. Some are doing away with them, and the increased patronage they receive speaks the farmers' thoughts on the subject.

Blenheim, Dec. 18, 1876. T. N. PARNALL.

SIR,—Some two months ago I prepared some notes in regard to the case of superphosphate of lime for you, but failed to send them. I used two barrels on my own crops, barley, potatoes and corn; on the barley I sowed broad-cast, 175 lbs. of super to two bushels barley. I am satisfied the yield was increased 3%, and matured 12 days earlier by actual date. The potatoes and corn I planted in the usual way, covering lightly with earth, then I put one handful of super to three hills, again covering with earth to prevent the super from evaporating. I had a splendid crop of potatoes, much better than those planted in the same field without super. The corn grew very vigorously from the start and matured in ninety-three days from planting. It would have paid me well if I had used \$50 worth of it.

Wooler, Ont. JOHN A. MCCOLL.

DEAR SIR,—I would enquire of you or any of the readers of the ADVOCATE, why it was that our apples were more wormy this season than ever I have seen them before? And it seems to be general all over the County of Bruce; and I have observed that some kinds of apples are damaged more than others. The Seek-no-further was the most cored with me, except the Fall Strawberry and Holland Pippin. In fact, the Northern Spy and Green Newton Pippin did not escape the —. If the disease continue much longer our fruit won't be worth much for marketing or for home use. We read of a great many cures in the papers, and of some remedies in the ADVOCATE; but it seems with all the washing and scouring we give the trees, yet with all our diligence, the enemies go on with their work of destruction. I gave my trees last spring a thorough washing of soft soap, suds and chamber lye, and I fancied I had to some extent cured the disease; but when I went to gather the fruit I found out to the contrary, for we scarcely can get apples enough to bake without worms. I have examined closely to see whether it be in the blossom or when the fruit is setting, or when further advanced, that the fly works. It failed me at any time to see the fly working. Some say they are in the ground all winter, and that they come to life in the spring.

I hope you will give us some practical information as regards the depredators, so that we may be able the next season to prevent their ravages if possible.

I would like to ascertain which is the best way to save apples during the winter—in barrels or on boards in bins; and also which is the best mode of pitting in the ground. Last year I pitted Green Newton Pippins, Northern Spies, Alexanders, and Seek-no-further; of the latter I lost seven bushels by decay.

My plan was as follows:—I dug a trench eighteen inches wide and one foot deep; I piled the apples about two feet high all along the pit; I fixed rafters made of scantling across the pit, then I sheeted with boards so that the boards did not press against the apples; then covered with earth. This year I have pitted my apples according to a recipe I have seen in the *Christian Guardian*; that is, to dig holes in the ground and put the apples therein, but not any higher than the surface; then cover them with a few inches of clay, so that they will freeze all winter. In the spring the apples will come out fresh and good. So the recipe says.

MATTHEW COUCH.

Walkerton, Dec. 11, 1876.

[The injury done to our fruit is every year increasing, and it will require increasing vigilance to defeat them. To do this it will be necessary to

have recourse to our allies, the feathered tribes and others. Encourage the multiplying of birds, protect them from all enemies, place bird-houses in gardens and orchards. Plant and preserve trees as well for the homes of birds as for shelter. Keep fowls in the orchards; let your fowl-houses be situated that, if not in garden or orchard, there should be direct access from it to them. They should be fed in them; corn-meal or other food scattered under the trees, that the fowl may pick up the insects with the food, and scratching the surface, make havoc among the young broods.

Keep pigs in your orchard as much as you can with regard to the under crops, if it be cropped; they will eat all the fallen apples, and put out of the way of doing harm thousands of broods of predatory insects.

The washing of fruit trees as you have done is a remedy for the bark louse, not for the codding moth which is the enemy you have to control with; hence the mistake and the failure. The codding moth must be searched for in the stem of the tree and cut out. It is one of the most difficult to contend with of all the insect enemies that infest our orchards.

As to the pitting of apples, you will see some good suggestions in another column of this ADVOCATE.—ED.]

The Provincial Exhibition.

SIR,—In your last number of the FARMERS' ADVOCATE you gave some very good suggestions about the Provincial Exhibition for 1877. Now I wish to offer a few suggestions in regard to the Provincial Exhibition which, if adopted, would, to my mind, prove more beneficial to the Province in general than the present system. There is certainly a great expense incurred annually under the present perambulating system, and we are well aware of the large amount of money those cities have to spend every fourth year in erecting additional buildings for the accommodation of the exhibitors. No doubt many of the ratepayers of London dread to have the Provincial Fair held there, knowing the additional tax that will be laid upon them.

The plan I would suggest is this:—Let the Provincial Exhibition be entirely done away with, and the Government give a grant of twelve thousand dollars to be divided thus: two thousand each to London, Guelph, Hamilton, Toronto, Kingston and Ottawa; the grant to be given annually for three years, the fourth year the grant to be withdrawn from those places and given to hold one great central exhibition at Toronto. There should be a guarantee given from all those places that receive this grant to hold no Exhibition the fourth year, but all unite to make this great central fair a grand success. This fair should be held for two weeks, and all articles for exhibition (excepting live stock) should be on the ground not later than Tuesday the first week, and live stock to be on the ground on Saturday, ready for the judges to commence their work early on Monday the second week; the judges would then have ample time to go through their work judiciously and not be hurried as they are at present. Under this plan the prize list could be raised to twenty-five, or thirty thousand dollars. There could be several classes added to the prize list, which would give a large number of animals a chance to exhibit for which there is no class at the present time. Such an exhibition would be looked forward to with great interest by the mechanic, artist and stock-breeder, and would attract visitors from all parts of Canada. These are my views, and I think they should commend themselves to everyone that feels an interest in the agricultural associations of Ontario. I hope some one abler than I am will take hold of the subject.

Nissouri, Dec., 1876. AN EXHIBITOR.

[It is well to hear suggestions from practical men. Subscriber has some experience in the management of Exhibitions as well as exhibiting. Many would object to the plan suggested without being able to give publicity to a letter. All changes should be discussed. Such men as exhibitor do good in causing others to desire improvement.—ED.]

Cotted Wool.

SIR,—I notice in your last number an enquiry as to the cause of cotted wool. I have found by experience that change of food or atmosphere is not the primary cause of cotted wool. I think the cause is hereditary. I remember purchasing a ram lamb about twenty years ago, and I found when I came to shear him that his wool was badly cotted. I thought it arose from not being properly cared for, but the second year it was cotted as bad, if not worse, and his lambs were also

cotted, and continued so more or less year after year. A few years ago I had a mongrel-bred ewe whose wool was inclined to cot. I had three or four crosses from her, and their wool had the same tendency. I have had no trouble with cotted wool since I kept nothing but pure-bred sheep. My advice to Mr. Best is to keep an eye to his sheep at the time of shearing, and any whose wool has a tendency to cot should be turned over to the butcher. Select none but free open wool ewes for breeding, and put them to a pure-bred ram of whatever class may be thought fit to breed from, and there need be no fear of being troubled with cotted wool any more.

J. FRANKS, Harrietsville.

[Thanks to Mr. F. for his communication. In the letters we receive daily, and in conversation with subscribers, we have proof that one good aimed at by our publication is being fulfilled. The observations on agriculture are not merely glanced over, and then thrown aside. They are read, compared with known facts and actual experiments. The readers should compare notes with one another and with us on topics of the greatest interest to the science and practice of agriculture. This is the most advanced education—the learning for ourselves from the light around us.

Horses for England.

I see in the October number of the FARMERS' ADVOCATE a paragraph written by two eminent veterinary surgeons of London, wishing to know the best class of horses to sell in England.

Being a dealer myself, and having been in Canada this summer buying horses for England, I am prepared to give you the best information I can.

What we require most are good carriage horses, from 15 hands 3 inches to 16 hands 1 inch high; color bay or brown, with high knee action, long necks, and to show plenty of breeding, and from 1,100 to 1,300 lbs. weight. Such animals are always good to sell in our market.

I should say to breed such from your mares you should use a coach or a three-parts bred stallion, with big flat legs and high knee action; but be careful to keep from anything appertaining to the cart horse, or the horses called in Canada general purpose, which, by using such of late, you have nearly already ruined the breed of horses in Canada; and, in conclusion, remember it is not the speed that is required for England, but the style.

JOHN G. LONG.

Spofforth, Wetherby, Yorkshire, England.

Another Supposed Swindle.

SIR,—Enclosed you will find a drawing of the six-clevis harrow, of which my next neighbor bought one farm right to make and use it; and so did other farmers in this township. The harrow contains six pieces of timber, and is put together with taps and bolts. Do you know if there is a harrow made in London of the same kind, or a man named James H. Thorp, who sold the right? Goulburn, Dec. 25, 1876. A SUBSCRIBER.

[We have examined the paper you have forwarded to us, and we do not know of such a person in this city. We can see nothing in the plans of this harrow to consider it equal to the harrow now in general use; no agricultural paper has given any account of it that we have seen. It appears to us as a useless affair; if it was worth anything it would not be necessary to sell it by travellers, but let it openly be known: if farmers will be swindled we cannot help it.—ED.]

SIR,—I see by letters in the ADVOCATE that the caterpillars have destroyed the turnips in other parts of the country as well as here. If each of our farmers would raise a good brood of turkeys and drive them into the turnip or mangold patch every morning, they would find that it would pay them. The turkeys are splendid hands at picking off the caterpillars. I believe I saved my crop of mangolds by driving the turkeys among them.

Thornbury. MARTIN BELLERY.

A Step in the Right Direction.

SIR,—Enclosed please find payment for thirteen copies of the FARMERS' ADVOCATE, for one year.

The foregoing members of the South Grey Agricultural Society having obtained prizes entitling them to an agricultural paper—a special prize offered by James H. Hunter, M. P. P.—is the way in which you obtain this club.

S. E. LEGATE, Sec. South Grey Agl. Association.