

## Correspondence.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—1. Please write on one side of the paper only. 2. Give full name, Post-Office and Province, not necessarily for publication, but as guarantee of good faith and to enable us to answer by mail when, for any reason, that course seems desirable. 3. Do not expect anonymous communications to be noticed. 4. Mark letters "Printers' Manuscript," leave open, and postage will be only 1c. per ½ ounce.

## Echoes from Quebec.

SIR,—A friend of mine, the other day, gave me a reading of a few numbers of the *ADVOCATE*, a magazine, I regret to say, I never saw before, or even heard of. I observed in the October number of last year two articles on "Horse Beans," and venture to send you a few hints on the growing of that crop, as I am informed little attention has been paid to it in either of the Provinces, and having grown them for a good many years in Scotland, I can confidently say that Canadians cannot grow a better grain for feeding purposes for all kinds of stock, provided the climate is suitable. In the Old Country they are generally sown in February; in Canada this is impossible, but by sowing them as soon as the land will permit, I think they have a good chance, the great drawback being the hot season in July causing the plants to lose their bloom, but by early sowing this is greatly avoided. I have grown the Garden Windsor Bean for some years with success. The Horse Bean, when ground dry and given to milch cows in winter along with a supply of parsnips, will make them give rich, fine flavored milk, and improve in condition at the same time.

Several advantages attend the cultivation of the bean. 1st: it is the best preparation for the following crop—wheat; 2nd: the grain always commands a good price; 3rd: the fodder, when well saved, is as good as hay for horses, and the manure from the stable adds greatly to the manure heap.

CULTIVATION.—The same soil for wheat answers for beans, viz.: a strong, rich, deep soil and dry; plough in the fall and drill in the spring 30 inches wide; manure in the drill, and sow the beans thereon with a barrow; then cover with the plow, and when up two or three inches run the drill-grubber through them; keep the soil loose and clean by this means as long as the horse can safely go in the drill without injury. The bean barrow is a simple and efficient affair, something like the frame of a common wheel-barrow with a hopper and spout in the centre and a crank attached to the wheel to turn the gear inside of the hopper. A screw is also attached to regulate the dropping of the seed. The man pushes the barrow in front of him in the drill, keeping his eye fixed on the spout, to see that the seeds drop out regularly. For a farm of 100 acres or so this answers all the purposes of a horse drill at a greatly reduced cost.

Jan. 28, 1878.

St. Philomene, P. Q.

[One of the most successful farmers we know of, near Montreal, always raises a few horse beans. We have seen them growing on his farm, and they were quite as good a crop as we have seen in England. They have not been raised to any extent in Ontario. Perhaps they have not been planted early enough, and the blossoms are apt to drop off before forming the seed. If early planting was adopted, there might be good crops raised in Ontario. In the Maritime Provinces they are successfully cultivated.]

## The American Tariff.

SIR,—Will you be kind enough to publish in your valuable farmers' paper the enclosed article on the American tariff, and oblige an old subscriber.

AN IRISH FARMER, Lambton.

The farmers of Canada need not be reminded that the tariff of our republican neighbors is a matter of great importance to our financial standing. It is true we have learned that we may be in part, at least, independent of their markets. We have in a great measure dispensed with their services as middlemen, and very much of our produce is now shipped direct in Canadian bottoms to European markets. We are aware, however, that their tariff affects our sales, and any change in their tariff must be a matter of importance to us. Their tariff has been avowedly prohibitory of Canadian products and protective of their own manufactures.

The proposed changes now under consideration

by Congress are many and of much importance. Some additional articles are placed on the free list, and on some others there is an increase or decrease of duties; but one principle pervades all the changes—protection of home industry. The duty on imported raw materials is comparatively low, but it increases greatly with the degree of labor on them. The principle of Protection carried to the extreme demands that any labor more than the mere production of the raw materials be performed by their own people. Let us take some articles in the proposed tariff as illustrations of their protective (shall we call them prohibitory?) measures:

Proposed duty on barley, 15 cents per bush.; on malt, 25 cents per bushel.

Wool, according to quality, 2½c., 8c., 10c. per lb.; woollen manufactures, 25c. to 80c.

Wood, various charges according to variety; furniture, 35 per cent.

These are the liberal terms we are to expect in the proposed tariff that has been said to be a step in the direction of Free Trade. We must, as farmers, protect our own interests by raising products such as will best pay for shipment to Britain and British colonies. The more the prohibitory duties are built up against Canadian products, so much the more let our endeavors be to make ourselves independent of Americans and American markets.

SIR,—I have my orchard dug or spaded; what crop would be most suitable; I thought of clover and oats; or to sow it with orchard grass; how much seed to the acre; I am afraid the trees are too close together for vegetables.

M. B. C.

[To M. B. C.,—In considering what crop is most suitable in any case the nature and condition of the soil is an important item. If the soil be rich and deep and not too retentive of water the soil will bear crops between the apple trees without at all affecting their growth or fruitfulness if the trees are not too close, as you fear they are. In such a soil as we have referred to, the roots of the trees will strike deep into the soil in search of their food, whereas in a shallow hungry soil they keep near to the surface. Whilst the apple trees are young, crops may well be grown, but care must be taken not to impoverish the soil. To avoid doing so a sufficient manuring for the crops must be applied in every instance. The soil should be kept porous and mellow till the trees have come to maturity, admitting free access to air the plant that the atmosphere bestows liberally, especially on soil in a fitting state to use it to the greatest advantage. You might raise clover and oats in your orchard, but only as one crop in a rotation, and if the oats mature the grain, the soil to be manured. The distance apart of apple trees must depend in a great measure on the variety you plant; some of the larger varieties requiring a space of forty feet and some if they begin to bear at an early age and are short and livid may not have more than half that space.]

SIR,—It is with pleasure I sit down to write to you for information. I thought you were the best man I could write too. I want to know if you have a kind of barley that is called the Hulled Barley—it is the color of red fall wheat—if you can get it, or tell me where to get it, I would be very glad. I grew it for many years, but I quit it thinking to get new seed, but I could never get any more.

J. W. McF.

[To J. W. McF.—We are unable to give you the information you ask for, as we do not know of anyone having the Hulled Barley. Some of our leading seedsmen, seeing your inquiry in the *ADVOCATE*, will please if they have it, let us know.]

## Algoma.

SIR,—As I have made up my mind to settle in Algoma in the spring, will you please give me what information you can about the place in your next number, and if you cannot, where can I get the necessary information? By answering the above you will much oblige.

ENQUIRER, Ingersoll.

[We have endeavored to give the most reliable information regarding Algoma and all parts of the Dominion. The following report will be found useful to "Enquirer" and others.]

SIR,—At the Annual Meeting of the Algoma Agricultural Society the following resolution was passed:—

"That condensed copies of the proceedings and of the abstract financial statement be furnished by

the Secretary to the FARMERS' ADVOCATE, and the *Algoma Pioneer*," for publication.

Pursuant to the above, I beg to state that the officers for the year 1878 elected are Messrs. M. Simpson, President; Robert Laird, 1st Vice-President; George Alderson, 2nd Vice-President. Directors—Messrs. McCulloch, Bennetts, Chapman, jr., Atkinson, Murton, Londry, Plummer, Hill and Wormald. Treasurer, W. H. Carney; Secretary, Chas. J. Bampton; Delegate, W. H. Laird, Barrie, Ontario.

The gross amount of receipts from all sources for the year 1877 were.....\$1,293 11  
Amount paid in prizes.....\$264 50  
" to Township Socie-  
ties.....280 00  
" for live stock.....222 00  
" publications.....136 25  
" " threshing ma-  
chine.....233 70  
" " miscellaneous.....154 73  
Balance in hands of Treasurer.....1 93

\$1,293 11 \$1,293 11

Your President, Directors and Officers further beg to report:—

1. That the display of grain, seeds and roots at your last Exhibition showed a marked improvement in quality and quantity, the result of improved cultivation.

2. That they regret being obliged to state, though some very good grade cattle were shown by a few exhibitors, yet the improvements in this particular are not such as your Directors would wish and expect, considering the advantages within the reach of members in this vicinity.

3. Your Directors feel great pleasure in calling attention to the fact of the large area put to wheat crops the past season, and that the yield has been all the most sanguine could expect; further, from the information gathered by your Directors, they have every reason to believe that this large area will be doubled at the next harvest.

4. They congratulate you and the farming community of Algoma on the amount of fall plowing that has been done this season, which must tell favorably on next season's yield.

Though this may be partially attributable to the unprecedentedly open autumn, allowing of work being continued up to the week succeeding Christmas Day, yet we look for the cause in the greater enlightenment and experience of our agriculturists, and to the sources of information lately placed within their reach; also to the establishment of a market at their doors at the different flouring mills recently erected.

5. They submit that the success of Thomas McCulloch, Esq., Vice-President of this Society, in producing good apples from his farm in Korah Township, two seasons in succession, viz., 1876 and '77, leads them to hope that though many had despaired of successfully cultivating this valuable fruit in the more northerly portions of the District, yet careful efforts in this direction with hardy kinds will ultimately meet with success.

6. They suggest that this Society publish a sufficient number of pamphlets, with maps, for distribution during the coming season, in which the advantages of Algoma as an agricultural district shall be fairly set forth, and useful information for intending settlers given.

7. In conclusion, they trust a new impetus will be given to the efforts of this Society by the fact of its past endeavors having been crowned by a success such as the most sanguine of the projectors or well-wishers thereof could not have anticipated. They submit that the problem is demonstrated that Algoma in a few more years will be a grain-exporting District, and that as a grazing country it is hard to be surpassed.

W. M. SIMPSON, President.

CHAS. J. BAMPION, Secretary.

P. S.—No Hessian Flies—no Colorado Beetles—no Grasshoppers—no ague. Plenty of timber for fences, fish in every stream, and wild hay for the cutting.

C. J. B.

Mr. G. Weekes, of Komoka, offers \$20 to any person that will furnish him with a practicable chemical receipt that will effectually kill Elder bushes.