

the subject of wool. This document was procured for the use of the American Government, and the information it contains may be considered reliable.

The increase in the production of wool in this country is imperatively demanded by the manufacturing interest; the increase of machinery for the manufacture of woollen goods having been so rapid in the past few years that twice the amount of wool is now consumed by it that there was in 1860. The increase of wool called for will apply to all grades, as none of them are fully supplied by the domestic growth. The two extremes may be regarded as most sought for at this time; the one the fine Saxony, the other the long combing wools. The introduction of the fine long woolled Merinos has driven out and taken the place of the fine Saxony; the latter in this country being much less now than formerly, for the reason that the heavier fleeces are more profitable to the farmer. We think the Saxony wool cannot be materially increased until we approach the point of producing nearly the amount of wool consumed by the country. The Leicestershire, or combing wool, is grown in the United States but to a limited extent, the worsted machinery now in operation here being supplied with this description of wool from Canada, the entire clip of which is barely sufficient to supply the machinery now in operation. This branch of the woollen manufacture is being largely increased by new mills, and by the enlargement of those already established. American wools may now be quoted at about \$1 per pound for the average; whilst the coarse Canada wool, if running largely to combing, will command from \$1.25 to \$1.30 per pound, and has once sold this season for \$1.45. With a present consumption equal to the entire clip of Canada, and but a small quantity grown in the United States, we think this kind of wool offers more inducements to the wool-grower than any other quality. Upon the repeal of the reciprocity treaty with Canada, this wool must pay a duty of 10 cents per pound, and 10 per centum at least, and to import it from England at this time it will cost 80 cents per pound in gold, or \$1.60 in currency. Fine Saxony wool is in very small supply in the market, and it is only grown in Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and in the south-eastern part of Ohio. The manufacturers working this grade of wool, are obliged to use fine foreign wool as a substitute for it, costing now in the grease about half the price of washed domestic—the domestic shrinking about 40 per cent., and the foreign about 65 per cent., in scouring.

With the view of obtaining an expression of the opinions of this meeting on the subject, I beg to move the following Resolutions, which are based upon the statements contained in this report:—

Resolved—1st. That the supply of Canada combing wool is not equal to the American demand.

2nd. That England is the only country that produces this description of wool in sufficient quantities to affect its price in the American market.

3rd. That under these circumstances, and so long as the present ratio of supply and demand continues, the price of Canada combing wool should be governed by the English market.

4th. That as the price of English combing wool imported into America at the date of this report was 80c. per pound, in gold, and as the price in England was 55c. at the same time, the cost of duty and importation is equivalent to 25c. per pound.

5th. That in order to prevent the importation of English combing wool, the price of Canada combing wool should always be kept at such a figure, as to make it cheaper than English wool to the American manufacturer.

6th. That 15 cents per pound ought to be a sufficient margin to prevent such importation; and the cost of duty and importation of English wool being 25 cents per pound, the price of Canada combing wool should exceed the price in the English market by ten cents per pound.

7th. That the present price in England being 50 cents the price in Canada ought therefore to be 60 cents per pound.

These Resolutions, after having been discussed, were seconded by Alderman Mitchell, and carried unanimously.

On motion of Mr. Peter Grant, seconded by Mr. R. J. Hamilton, it was

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting it would prove of very great advantage to wool growers if they would fix upon one day in each week, say Saturday, to bring in their wool for the purpose of inducing wool buyers from a distance to enter into competition with the Hamilton wool buyers in the purchase of that article.

On motion of Mr. Geo. Roach, seconded by Mr. S. Sharp, it was

Resolved, That the Hamilton papers and THE CANADA FARMER be furnished with a report of this meeting, for the general information of farmers.

A vote of thanks to Wm. Hendrik, Esq., Chairman, terminated the proceedings of the meeting.

British Cleanings.

England is now paying for guano at the rate of about £1,250,000 per annum.

A young gentleman went to shoot rats in a straw rick at Taunton a few days since. On seeing the straw move he fired at the spot, and shot a man who had taken refuge there.

THE JONAS WEBB MEMORIAL.—The Emperor Napoleon III. has sent his contribution of £5 to the Jonas Webb Memorial Fund, that being the amount to which individual subscriptions were limited.

AGRICULTURAL JOURNALS AND POLITICS.—Agricultural papers in Britain do not shun politics, as journals of that class are accustomed to do on this continent. A general election is near, and the *Mark Lane Express* earnestly warns the farmer that his first duty will be "in his own defence, simply to turn out the present government."

A BIRD'S NEST IN A GAS LAMP.—We learn from one of our British exchanges that, "at the east end of Kitch railway station, on the Dufftown platform, are several gas lamps, supported on metal pillars. One of them has, at some time or other, had a small hole broken in the bottom, by which means a pair of chaffinches have got access to the inside of the lamp. There they have built their nest, and the parent bird may be seen at any time sitting in her crystal palace, quite unmindful of the noise made by passing trains or bustling passengers."

NOVEL MODE OF SUCKLING LAMBS.—The *Yorkshire Gazette* has the following:

"One of those remarkable instances of 'necessity being the mother of invention' is daily to be seen at the residence of George Crow, Esq., of Ornhams, near Boroughbridge, where three fine bouncing lambs are reveling in the luxury of sucking a fine young cow. The handy shepherd has constructed a platform, in the shape of a straw pillow, by which the lambs are enabled to get at the required elevation. Another farmer near, is in possession of another singular instance of canine peculiarity, having a Dalmatian spaniel bitch suckling a kitten, to which it shows the most tender regard and attachment. The owner of the dog not wishing to keep any puppies, destroyed them all; and a stray kitten about the premises soon won the dog's confidence, and is daily suckled and cared for by its canine foster-mother."

PLAGUE OF LOCUSTS IN PALESTINE.—We learn from a British contemporary that the Holy Land has been threatened by scarcity, resulting from the visitation of the locust and the want of rain. The ground is reported to be so parched and baked, that unless there is a speedy deposit of rain, the results of the approaching harvest will be most serious. With respect to the locusts our contemporary remarks:—"From Gaza to Mount Lebanon and Anti-Lebanon, Hermon, the locusts literally filled the skies. This scourge, which has weighed upon the land during the whole of the last month, has caused general alarm, and the prices of cereals have risen 20 per cent. But it has fortunately been averted by a strong southerly wind, which has driven past a vast quantity of these destructive insects, on their course from the desert along the seaboard from south to north. Those that have escaped destruction at the hands of the natives have either laid their eggs or proceeded northward."

FLAX PROSPECTS IN IRELAND.—We learn from the *Irish Farmers' Gazette* that "the area under flax this year will fall considerably short of what it was last year. The crop of 1864 burned the fingers of many a small farmer, who, led away by the advocacy of enthusiastic and often inexperienced people, embarked in its cultivation to an extent beyond his knowledge of the crop, or the appliances at his disposal. Others, again, were dazzled by the brilliancy of exaggerated statements made by learned professors and others as to the profit to be derived from the crop. We regret to find that farmers, and shopkeepers who deal in flaxseed, will suffer serious losses this year from the failure of Riga seed. We have seen whole fields which have completely failed, and large breadths have been ploughed up and re-sown with Dutch or English seed, which is remarkably good this year, whereas the Riga is very bad. Had the flax instructors been sent out in proper time this great loss would have been saved. Those that have money or credit can get fresh, good seed, for it is not too late to sow; those that have neither will suffer loss, if they are not ruined."

MOLASSES AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR TURNIPS.—A correspondent of *Bell's Messenger*, writing from West Suffolk, states that he successfully supplied the total failure of his root-crop by the following expedient:—

"My plan has been (and is still carried on), to give to each bullock per day (divided into three meals), one pint of treacle dissolved in two gallons of water, and sprinkled, by means of a garden water-pot, over four bushels of cut chaff (two-thirds straw and one-third hay), amongst which a quarter of a peck of meal (barley and wheat) is mixed; the animals also having free access to water. The cost of the treacle and meal together is about 3s. per bullock per week. My bullocks (two-year-old Shorthorns), have grown and thrived upon the above diet, to my utmost satisfaction; and even during the present dry and warm weather they evince no lingering after roots or grass. I am well aware that the use of treacle for neat stock is no new discovery of my own, as I learnt the system while on a visit to a friend in Norfolk, where some graziers have used it in combination with roots, during many years past. Perhaps flax seed (linseed) boiled into a jelly and used in a similar way, may be a more profitable 'substitute for roots' than treacle; but the preparation of it is attended with more expense and trouble."

PRESERVING THE HOP BINE.—A correspondent writes to one of our English exchanges on this subject as follows:—"In the autumn of last year I drew attention to the importance of preserving the hop-bine until the leaves had fallen, and the sap had ceased to circulate. I advocated the American system of growing the plant upon strings stretched from pole to pole, in order that the crop may be gathered without the necessity of cutting down. I have just returned from a visit to Kent, where I have inspected a field, upon a portion of which this plan was tried last year. The field was everywhere subject to the same cultivation, and, if anything, the crop was superior on the strings. The half acre upon which the experiment was made can now be distinguished without the slightest difficulty. Scarcely a plant has failed, and on an average the new bine is fully one foot higher than in any other part, and is strong and healthy in proportion. It is already well established on the poles, and is from three to four feet high, being at least a fortnight in advance of any garden I saw in my short tour. The experiment will be extended this year; and, as it is not yet too late, I would seriously urge an extensive trial by large hop growers, in the strong conviction that it is most important to reform the present system of picking, which is contrary to every principle of vegetable physiology."

PALE NUT KERNEL MEAL.—The claims of this meal to rank among our artificial foods for fattening cattle and pigs, are much discussed in English agricultural circles at present; and some very interesting information—the results of actual experience—is supplied by a correspondent of *Bell's Messenger* as to its excellent feeding properties. He says:

"I consider it a most valuable addition to our artificial foods, and have used it successfully with cattle, sheep, and pigs. Last summer being so unusually dry, and the grass completely burnt up, I took the opportunity of trying this meal with milking cows and store cattle; the former received 3½ lbs. of meal per head daily, mixed with a little cut clover as a vehicle for the meal, using it morning and evening at milking time. The cows, owing to the scarceness of grass, were not making more than 3 lbs. of butter per head weekly; but with the addition of the food I have stated, they shortly rose to 7 lbs., and remained at this (continuing to receive the food) all summer. The store cattle, chiefly yearlings, received 2 lbs. per head per day, mixed with straw chaff, and ate it very greedily. With the sheep, there was at first considerable difficulty in getting them to eat it, owing to it being of a dusty nature; but by mixing it with a little cut vetches or clover in summer, or pulped roots in winter, and with the addition of a small quantity of locust beans ground into meal, they soon became very fond of it, and fed well. But the best proof of its great feeding properties I experienced was with some porkers. They were being fed with damaged wheat and pea meal, but upon this falling short, we used the pale nut meal alone; the next supply of wheat being rather long in coming, the pigs had nothing but the pale nut meal mixed with water; but so rapid was the improvement, that I at once ordered them to be kept upon this alone. In six weeks they were quite fat; I then purposely had some more put to feed, and never from the time we commenced feeding them till they went to the butcher did they taste any other food. This, I think, is the strongest proof of the feeding properties that pale nut meal contains. From the analysis of Dr. Voelcker we might expect it to be so, and I think this fully borne out by practical experience."