

duce some other person to plant one or more. You enjoy the shade and know that there is life and health in it for man and every animal under his care, and there is a possibility of you being one of the instruments that may avert such a calamity as a famine in our land. If you have not already planted, go into the woods and get a maple, even if the buds are out and the leaves beginning to start. Cut off the top; it will make fresh buds and make a tree. May and June are good months to plant evergreens, but you must not let the roots get dry in moving them.

We have seen some parts of Canada where farmers have planted with more spirit and energy than in London Township, but there are places we have seen in other counties that are suffering more for want of trees than this township is.

A MODEL FARM.

In one of our journeyings last year we met the old veteran nurseryman, George Leslie, sr. Our conversation was—as it generally is when we meet—on agricultural or horticultural subjects.

"Doctor," said Mr. L. (that is the pet name with which he often salutes us) "you must go and see the Model Farm of the West; Mr. Thomas Palmer, of Burford has it. You will be much pleased; go and see it."

We promised when an opportunity occurred that we would take the trip, and on the 15th of April we visited this farm. It is situated about a mile from Burford village, at which place there is a station of the Brantford & Port Dover R. R. Burford Plains have long been noted for their fine crops of wheat. Mr. Palmer is an Englishman from Lincolnshire; he has been in the country a long time, and is highly satisfied with his success in it and with the country. He farmed many years ago north of Toronto, on heavy clay ground. Hearing of Burford, he visited it and purchased 150 acres. The homestead had been cleared and buildings erected when he purchased; the buildings had been scattered about in all directions, and he moved some, built others and put them into farming order, so as to have everything snug and convenient. The wild bushes had also gradually crept into the orchard and around the line fences, so as to make the farm look like a wreck; these were all cleaned up and grubbed out, leaving only the useful and ornamental ones. There is a belt of timber left growing along the outside fences, completely encircling the farm. This gives a very pretty effect, besides affording shade in summer and protection from driving winds and drifting snows in winter; it also tends to draw rain and moisture to the crops. The soil is a loamy clay, of a porous nature; the subsoil is clay on limestone, and at a depth of about 20 to 25 feet is a bed of gravel. Mr. Palmer intends to underdrain the land, not because water lies on it, as at the present time the water soaks readily through and there is no fall to make an outlet for a drain, without going a long distance over other farms. His plan is to dig a large, deep hole to the gravel, brick it up so high that cattle cannot get into it, and then run his drains into this large hole. His object for draining is more to have a current of air passing under the soil and permeating through it to the surface. His theory is this: Hold a lighted candle to the mouth of any drain and the flame will be drawn up; thus air must be constantly passing through the soil, invigorating the roots and doing as much good as the draining off of the water.

The farm fences, crops, stock and implements were all in prime order. A large portion of the farm was sown with winter wheat, and we never have seen fields looking better at this season of the year; some was over one foot in height, and if there be any fault, it is that it was too good.

We went into his orchard. All the large limbs

and trunks of the trees had been carefully scraped and the pruning had been done. In this orchard we noticed a peculiar, and to us

A NOVEL PLAN

in arbor culture which the former proprietor had put into practice, and which is referred to more fully on another page.

Mr. Palmer uses large quantities of salt, and finds it very beneficial. In driving through this part of the country we noticed many more trees growing along the roadsides and along line fences than in many other sections. This we attribute in a great measure more to good luck than to good management, as on the plain lands the oak, which is found on them, is very tenacious of life and is more persistent in growing than the timber found on clay lands. It has been left to fight its way along the fences, and now it has become both useful and ornamental—so much so that those who had been careful to cut everything down now see that their farms do not look so well, and are planting to be equal to their neighbors. The beauty of the rows already growing induces other farmers to imitate the example. There are stay-at-home farmers on some clay soils who are far behind the times in beautifying their farms, and who see their stock exposed to the scorching rays of the sun and the severity of winter without attempting to protect them.

TAX ON ENTIRE HORSES.

A correspondent whose article appears in this journal has awakened our ideas on this subject. If a tax of \$50 per head were put on entire horses it would have the effect of causing propagation from the best, and many inferior horses would be withdrawn from propagating their species. If such a tax should be levied it should be expended in awarding liberal prizes for good horses, good mares and good colts. Such a law might be enacted. It is our impression that owners of good stallions would hail such a law with pleasure, and that every enterprising farmer would be satisfied that we certainly should have more valuable horses for export. Greater attention would be paid to importing and raising the best.

The collecting of the tax and the expenditure of it might be placed in the hands of Agricultural Societies in each locality, and, in fact, the right to impose the tax might be left with them. The law might fix a maximum and minimum rate, as some wealthy localities might wish to have it raised to \$100, while other poorer sections might consider \$25 sufficient. It would create greater interest in the Agricultural Societies, which would also be beneficial. We should be pleased to have the opinions of any of our readers on this question.

Caution to Butter Makers.

The prospects for a poor price for ordinary butter for the coming season are very imminent. We would advise our readers not to waste much of their energy in making butter, as has been usually done on most farms. The prices will be low and not as remunerative as those for cheese, and you will probably do better by turning your attention to cheese-making or other purposes.

If butter-making is to be profitable it must be made to suit the market. The old, soft, heated butter brought in baskets and crocks to the country stores will not compare with the butter carefully made at the creameries. Establish a creamery or abandon the business, would be our advice, unless you have every convenience and have established your name for making the best for consumption at your nearest town or village. We give the following extract from the *Monetary Times*, which every one of you should read and guide your operations accordingly:—

ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE BUTTER TRADE.

The butter business of 1877-8 will be, or ought to be, long remembered by "the trade" as distinctly as the French people remember 1872 and the Franco-German War. Indeed, if our merchants will remember 1877 and '78 as long and as advantageously to themselves as the French remember 1872, the disaster which has attended the handling of butter in the past season may prove a blessing after all. The history of the butter business in 1877-8 is full of profit, and we record it that it may be "profitable for reproof, for correction, for instruction in"—butter-making. There has been a dangerous and unworthy rival in the field against us; our American friends would call it "a nigger in the fence," and our English brothers would term it "a dark horse." This rival is butterine or oleomargarine. Of the butter (or what has been retailed as butter) consumed in Britain during the past year, we understand that 70 per cent. has been butterine, shipped from the continent of Europe and from the United States, and, we are informed, some shippers have brought the stuff into Canada from Chicago in bond, branded the word "Canada" on the packages and re-shipped it to Britain as Canadian butter. This butterine can be landed in England in good order and condition from Belgium or France in thirty hours, and sold at 50s. to 60s. per 112 lbs. Mr. and Mrs. John Bull appear to like it, so long as they don't know that it is largely composed of the coarse fatty refuse of calves, bulls and cows; and the shrewd English grocers who retail it at 1s. per lb., and thereby double their money, take good care to keep *minim* and sell it as nice fresh butter. And when Canadian butter is offered there at its value, say 90s. to 112s. per 112 lbs., they shake their heads and say they "have no trade for these Canadian butters." Why? Because Canadian butter gives them only a profit of about 1d. per pound, and butterine pays them 6d. per pound profit; consequently they don't want to see genuine butter, or to let the consumer get a hankering after it.

Then, again, the past season was a very bad one for the world over for making butter; why, we cannot tell; but, without doubt, there never was so much poor butter and so little good; and this fact only developed itself after the butter was made and kept a while. Unfortunately nearly all our heavy operators held their butter through the summer, apparently not knowing the part butterine was playing, but expecting a demand to spring up in the fall. When autumn came their butter did not look so well, did not taste as well, and would not sell as well as good butterine. In December the dark days came; the butter had to be shipped and sold at from 40s. to 80s., and the stampede has continued till now. Great has been the loss and ruin, and only where any really good lots have been offered has anything like cost been realized. There are two lessons to be learned by butter makers and butter dealers from all this, and these we repeat for the hundredth time:

The first is the necessity of selling our butter when it is fresh and sweet, to get it into the consumer's hands while it is in its prime. Britain is our chief consumer; the continent of Europe our chief competitor. France, Denmark, Sweden, Belgium are within 48 hours, at most, of England, and these and similar producing districts can pour in their butter in the best possible condition; Canada, to compete, must send her produce in the best and tastiest condition, if she would hold a place in the English market.

Second, if we are to regain the position in the estimation of English butter dealers which we have lost in the last two years, we must make a better article, and sell it cheaper. By these means alone will the use of butterine be curtailed. The improvement in quality which we are urging is to be obtained, in our opinion, through the agency of creameries or butter factories, and through this agency alone will Canadian butter attain national excellence. For the information of our Canadian dairymen, we mention the fact that in the State of Illinois there are 150 creameries going into operation this year which were not previously in existence. In Minnesota there will be 260 creameries in operation in 1878. In Iowa there are 120, and in Ohio over 200. The policy of the directors of these creameries is to sell as soon as they have a car-load ready, at the market price, whatever it may be. The States we have enumerated have certainly inaugurated a "new departure" by going into the dairy business, and are destined to be formidable rivals to Canada, and it depends very much upon the enterprise with which Canadians