

(now don't look incredulous, because we do raise wheat in the townships,) is excellent, and will yield about 25 bushels per acre. Oats are short in the straw, but heavy in the head; peas are good; beans are excellent; barley and buckwheat are average; rye is a pretty light yield; corn promises well; potatoes look better than they have for a number of years, owing as I think, to the absence of rust, of which I have only seen a few instances this year. Turnips are pretty high a complete failure, on account of the dry seed time. Altogether the townships congratulate themselves on an excellent crop of every thing, even including *skedaddlers*, of which there has been a most plentiful supply for the last six months, especially since Uncle Abraham's last call for "500,000 more."

"A Newbeginner" writes from Aldborough, Sept. 2nd, 1864, as follows: "We have had so very little change of weather since I last wrote, that I thought it not worth while writing until the close of August. July was a very dry month; on the 6th we had a small shower, scarcely enough to settle the dust. It was very dry and scorching weather on to the first of August. On the first we had a fine thunder shower; in a few days the ground was as dry as ever. We could hear the cat-e-bawling in all directions for the want of water; we also hear of us going dry that were never dry before. About the 10th it was very smoky and there were some signs of rain, but it did not come; the 20th brought us a fine copious rain from the east; the 25th brought another fine shower in the morning; the 26th we had some thunder accompanied with a very heavy shower of rain, the 28th a small shower again, very catching weather and cold nights. Our spring crops are very light: the potatoes have heavy tops and light roots."

An exchange paper says:—"The backbone of the drouth has been irreparably broken. Rain is quite abundant all over the country just now.—Farmers are in ecstasies; the fall pasturage promises to be very fine; corn and late potatoes have picked up wonderfully."

POOR HARVEST.—A correspondent writing to the *Guelph Advertiser* from Erin village says:—"I am sorry to say that there are scores of farmers in the township who have not a sheaf in the barn, the weather having proved so very unfavourable for harvesting. The crops, however, are very good all around here."

THE WHEAT CROP.—The *Cincinnati Gazette* gives the "summing up of the wheat harvest," as follows: Minnesota, an increase of 2,800,000 bushels; Wisconsin, one-third of an average crop; Iowa, a deficiency of about 1,400,000 bushels; Illinois two-thirds of an average crop, or a deficiency of 6,000,000 bushels, and in Indiana a surplus of over 1,000,000 bushels.

THE CROPS IN THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS.—The *Journal de Quebec* speaks in favourable terms of the grain harvest throughout the townships. At Somerset particularly, out contemptory remarks, grain is excellent with the exception of wheat, which, notwithstanding a fine appearance, will not be a good crop. There, as in fact everywhere else, the hay crop has been very poor, and much apprehension is being felt by farmers generally on the subject of the necessary supply during next winter.

GALT SHED FAIR. This market for the sale and exchange of fall wheat, was held in Galt on Tuesday, last, when there was a more than usual attendance of farmers from the vicinity. The market place and adjoining streets were quite crowded, and a great deal of business was briskly transacted. For seed wheat the average price obtained was \$1 per bushel, and for wheat for mill purposes \$1.25. A good deal of grain, as usual, was exchanged, and the market closed satisfactorily for all parties, considering the nature of this autumn's crop.

HOP FIELDS.—There is, says the *Waterloo Chronicle*, is fine a hop field in Preston, about twenty acres in extent, as can be found anywhere. Two Americans rented the ground in the spring and planted it, and have now the satisfaction of reaping the benefit of their enterprise in a splendid crop of hops. These gentlemen are also erecting a large building for the curing of the hops, on the same field, which appears to be very complete. It is their intention to plant out twenty more acres when the proper time arrives, which, we hope, will turn out as successfully as their first effort.

At the recent sitting of the French Academie, an anecdote was told of a man who recently poisoned himself by wrapping leaves of tobacco round his body so as to escape paying the duty.

Tenant-Farming in Canada.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR, — In one of the first numbers of THE CANADA FARMER I was pleased to see it stated that the chief object of that paper would be to benefit that class of farmers who, with a constant and increasing up-hill work, were being discouraged, and had well nigh resolved to abandon the pursuit entirely. So far it has kept its promise. While the old and well-established farmer has been told how to apply his accumulating wealth to the best advantage in the improvement of his farm and the selection of his stock, the new-beginner has had no lack of well-devised and well-defined schemes to aid him in every difficulty. Now, in this township (Vaughan), for the last two years—'63 and '64—no farmer has borne the burden and heat of the day with a less reward for his toil than he who works under a landlord. Ever since, and, I may say, as an indirect consequence upon the Crimean war, the rent of land has been held at a very high figure. "Four dollars an acre" no matter whether the land was good or bad, improved or unimproved, fruitful or unfruitful—four dollars an acre must be paid, and so long as the good crops and the high prices lasted, no one could meet his demands more promptly or live more comfortably than the tenant-farmer; but when that insect army of destroyers attacked the fall wheat—the main dependence of every farmer—no one felt the bitter result more keenly than he. Last year the entire produce of some of the best 100-acre farms did not realize more than \$350, or thereabouts. Freeholders, after paying their usual bills and balancing their accounts, found that they could allow no rent for their farms that year. How, then, was it with tenant-farmers? Sure enough, with many of them it was a dead lock. The harvest of this year, here, is now at its close, and what is its result as compared with last year? While the average yield of fall wheat cannot possibly be greater than it was last year, that of the entire spring crop must be less; moreover, the long period of drouth has so affected the pasture-land that the amounts realized for all kinds of live stock, dairy products &c., must fall far short of their corresponding ones last year.

If, then, as we have seen, it was with great difficulty that many of the farmers referred to struggled through last year, what will be their condition next year? How will they pay \$4 an acre for land the crops of which, if sold, would not bring that amount? In fine, how will they hold their land at all? Only by the extreme leniency and forbearance of every landlord who knows that his tenant or tenants, after doing their duty, will be unable to meet his demand. Distraining an honest hard-working tenant for rent is the last thing that any rational landowner would attempt, and I am glad to see that the very few who did so last year have the pleasure and profit (and not much of the last-mentioned gratification) of working the land themselves this year, and determining from the proceeds of the crop whether or no they could meet the full demand of the unsparing landlord in whose capacity they had acted the year before.

Those who rent land now will, of course, be guided by the times, and will, it is to be hoped, never need a reduction of rent. But those who have a lease of five years, three of which are expired, may surely lay claim to some of that generosity which has so long maintained good feeling between landlord and tenant in Canada. With the influence, and that vastly increasing, which THE CANADA FARMER possesses, I think that a few lines in the next number, devoted to this subject, would be read with interest and profit by very many subscribers.

REUBEN LEE.

Thamesville Aug 20, 1864.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—Our correspondent has stated the case of the tenant-farmer so clearly that there is little need for us to add anything to his well-written letter. The special reasons urged for leniency just now, on the part of the landlords, will, we trust, have their due effect, and we will only take occasion to say that, in our view, tenant-farming in this country greatly needs to be put on a better footing. Leased farms are usually in poor condition, and are rented on very short terms, the landlord being afraid his land will get hopelessly impoverished, and the tenant being afraid he cannot make things pay except by wheat crops, for which he is unable or unwilling properly to manure. The true remedy for the existing state of things is for landlords to take means to get their lands into good condition, and then to bind lessees by legal instruments to be improving tenants. For land in a high state of culture four dollars an acre can very

well be paid, while it is too much for exhausted farms. If it be said improving conditions are often imposed, but cannot be enforced, we reply that they are often only stipulated for in verbal agreements, and that if stated in proper leases there is no difficulty in having them observed. Better land, longer leases, proper manuring, rotation of crops, and good, conscientious farming, would alter the relations of landlord and tenant, render both more contented, and make tenant-farming more profitable than it can be in the loose, unsatisfactory state of things which so largely prevail at present.

To Keep Mice out of Houses.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—As mice are a very general domestic pest, I have thought fit to write you a few lines, setting forth a precaution for abridging the liberties of these creatures which suggested itself to my mind last winter, and which I have since acted upon. Carpenters do not usually lay floors in stone or brick houses so close to the wall as to prevent mice from passing up and down from one story to another. Then the wall being ribbed or strapped, the space between the lath and the wall allows these vermin easy access to the space between floors and ceilings where they can enjoy almost unbounded privileges without molestation. Now, my precaution is this: After the floor is laid down, straps up, and the base-boards laid down, fill the space between the wall and the base-boards with mortar. As I am not aware of this having been done by any one, and as I know of many who have left it undone, I have thought that your subscribers who contemplate, or are engaged, in building, should have the benefit of this suggestion, if they choose to act upon it.

ROBT. BROWN.

Douglas, Garafraxa.

LIFE ON THE FARM.—There is no egg so fresh as that from the farm. There is no milk so rich as the farmer's. No water so pure as from the spring or well where no city streets foul it. No health so good as the farmer's—no life so free from offence. How he sleeps! how he enjoys his meals! what an air he breathes! What an independent life he lives, giving bread to the world?

PRIZES FOR IMPLEMENTS.—The *London Agricultural Gazette* thinks that there is nothing gained by offering prizes for implements at Agricultural Fairs—that it is no benefit to the seller or purchaser, and states that fully as many implements and machines are shown when no prizes are offered—the advantages being that the fairs are good places for the manufacturers to exhibit their wares, and for farmers to examine into the respective merits of the same. The reason given for this is that the awards are not truthful; and with the kind of tests which are applied can not be so. There is too much opportunity for jockeying.

THE AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.—The *Agricultural Exhibitions* this fall promise to be spirited and will be successful if encouraged as they deserve. We write this to urge farmers to sustain them, not merely because the officers in charge deserve this appreciation of their labours—often preplexing, severe, and wholly unrequited—but for the sake of the farmers' own interest. Improvement in breeds of stock, variety of produce, implements, and other agricultural matters are brought directly under the observation of those most interested, by means of these annual gatherings. A visit of an hour, properly improved, may result in more pecuniary profit to a farmer, than months of hard labour. For example, a gentleman at such an exhibition, a few years since, noticed a sample of what appeared to be a superior variety of rye. He procured a small quantity of seed, and from its produce, realized hundreds of dollars of clear profit, by selling it for seed to eager purchasers in his own neighbourhood. The inventive and mechanical world are wide awake, and the farmer must be so too if he would avail himself of the aid they are bringing within his reach. A single improved implement may save the cost of one or two hired men in a season. Illustrations might be multiplied, from every department of agricultural industry. Let work and business be arranged for attending; the "Fair," with the understanding that it is one of the indispensable appointments of the year—as much as a call from the Provost-marshal. Uncle Sam needs skillful men in the field of culture as well as the field of battle; turn out then on review days.—*American Agriculturist*