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The Rural Canadian.

TORONTO, DECEMBER 1st, 1882.

We welcome Mr. Kells to our columns again. His contributions on the Wild Birds of the Dominion have been read with interest and profit. A goodly instalment appears in this issue.

LOSSES BY TRANSPORTATION.

The statistics of casualties by the transportation of live stock at sea, as returned to the Privy Council by inspectors placed at the landing ports for American and Canadian cattle, show that last year alone 8,721 were hoisted overboard, forty-nine were landed dead, and 472 reached their destination so much injured and exhausted that they had to be killed at the place of landing. In the period of twelve months 9,242 animals were either thrown overboard or died from exposure or injuries received on the passage across the ocean. These are suggestive figures. It is only a question of time when the shipment of live animals, for slaughter on the other side of the Atlantic, will be mainly superseded by the shipment of dressed meat. If the methods now employed for doing this are not altogether satisfactory they will be improved and perfected until the requirements of this traffic are fully met. When this is done, the losses in this important and increasing traffic will be comparatively light, and, at the same time, a great impetus will be given to other industries in this country that attach to the slaughter of bees.

THE TILSONBURG SILO.

The following from a special correspondent of the *Globe* will be interesting to many of our readers, especially when read in connection with an editorial on the same subject in the RURAL CANADIAN of a month ago:

To a dairying or stock-raising country the question, whether or not the silo is a successful method of preserving fodder corn or clover, is of great importance. Mr. Tillson, whose silo was built summer before last, says it is a perfect success—and in his case it is no longer an experiment. Fodder corn, which is grown very extensively throughout Oxford, is stacked in the field, and becomes bleached and dry before being fed in the winter, and it is said loses very much of its original value. It is claimed that the silo system, by excluding in large measure the air, preserves the corn in a green and wholesome state, and so much more nutritious than cattle fed on ensilage (ensilo-age) receive more nutriment from one hundredweight of the stuff than from two or three hundredweight of the stacked corn.

Mr. Tillson's silo is built in the basement of his barn. The walls are of stone to a height

of fourteen feet, and beyond that they are double-boarded for four feet and filled in with sawdust. The area enclosed is 24 x 30 feet, divided into three compartments, two of them opening through doorways into the third, which opens by a thick door into a sloping, cement floored passage, up which the ensilage may be wheeled to the cattle. The silo contains about 240 tons. The corn to be siloed is cut green about the first of September, cut up by a forage cutting machine and dumped into the top of the silo, where half a dozen men and a couple of horses trample it down firmly as it is thrown in. When the silo is filled above the level of the stone wall, a number of board frames closely fitting to each other, and to the smooth wall of the silo, are laid on top and covered three feet deep with earth. The weight of the earth further compresses the ensilage, so that it sinks four feet before December, when the silo is opened, and becomes so compact that it will cut off clean and solid.

When the ensilage is to be used the frame nearest the doorway is lifted, and the ensilage is taken out at the top until a sufficient quantity is removed to allow of clean cutting inside the doorway. Sixty pounds per day is fed to each cow. The beasts are said to like it, at any rate they appear to thrive upon it. The ensilage is a little sour, and a visitor to the silo says that last winter he noticed the cows pawing the stuff and smelling it for some time before they would eat it. Mr. Tillson, however, says that only a little of the most exposed ensilage becomes sufficiently fermented to prove at all objectionable to the cows, and that the animals really relish the food and devour it eagerly. The floor of the silo is covered with cement, as all silos should be, but the general character of the structure is much more expensive than Mr. Tillson considers necessary. This one cost \$800; he says half this sum should construct a good silo of equal dimensions.

THE STEP-MOTHER.

On this subject we find the following just observation floating round in the columns of our exchanges: "It is time that the cruel prejudice against step-mothers should die out. Novels do much toward fostering this feeling; but surely writers should now be wiser in this respect. Cold-heartedness and oppression toward the children of one who has preceded her in heart and home are no doubt at times to be met with; but cannot many households tell another tale—a tale of love and gentleness, and mutual affection and peace? And cannot, too, some homes tell a third story, where the sufferer is the one who is looked upon as an interloper? Are there not cases where a man, whose hearth has been early desolated, and who is left with little ones whom he can not look after, with a heart still yearning for affection, brings home some warm-hearted girl, ready to pour out no stinted measure of love on the motherless ones; and what do he and she find on settling down to their daily life? That foolish relatives or ignorant servants have already poisoned the baby minds against their second mother, and that her efforts to win their affection and trust are blighted by the unholy influence that has been wielded. And when other little children come, too often, instead of being welcomed with brotherly or sisterly love, they are greeted with feelings of bitterness and jealousy. And yet many homes are held together by the step-

mother alone. We might tell of sickbeds watched with all a mother's devotion; of dying hours soothed with all a mother's faithful self-forgetfulness; of the young spirit sinking to the grave, clinging with fond affection to the representative of that real parent whom it was soon to greet in the spirit land; and we turn with just anger from pictures laid before us as false as they are ill-judged. Let us hope that this vulgar prejudice may soon be unfelt among us."

EARLY MEN.

The *Agricultural Gazette* (London) says that he who intends to succeed in agriculture must be an early man, early in rising, early in getting in his crops, early in reaping them, early in meeting his men, early at fairs, early in markets, early at home, and early to bed. The youth that cannot rise until he is "called," who will not get up when he is called, who comes down to breakfast in embroidered slippers, and can not move out-of-doors until he has had his pipe, may be a "good fellow," a gentleman, and many other good things, but he is not going to succeed as a farmer, or in any other rural occupation. He has mistaken his calling, and is himself a mistake.

There is much in that good old Saxon word "early," continues the *Gazette*. It is the early sun that ripens the corn; the early bird that catches the worm; the early cabbage that catches the price; the early lamb that makes the money; the early chicken that pays the henwife; the early gooseberry that commands the market; the early swarm that makes the honey; the early sown barley that pleases the maltster; the early sack of wheat that attracts the miller; the early peas that pay the rent; the early potatoes that fetch the money; the early shepherd that fattens the sheep; the early carter that pleases his master; the early farmer who grows rich; the early housewife that keeps her maids; and the early maid that keeps her place. Earliness is the true road to success, and the fact that so few succeed in the race of life is because so few can shake off dull sloth and rise early. There are some avocations in life in which early rising is not necessary, but they are chiefly of the kind to which another wise saying applies, that you can not "burn the candle at both ends."

BOOK NOTICE.

THE COMPLETE POULTRY BOOK. A Manual for the American Poultry Yard. By C. E. Thorne. (Springfield, Ohio: Mest, Crowell & Kirkpatrick.)—Every department of agriculture shows a marked advance. The days of hap-hazard have gone for ever. There must now be accurate knowledge and practical scientific methods adopted, if farming is to be successfully pursued. The work, whose title heads this notice, supplies all that is needful on the subject of which it treats. It is what it professes to be, "The Complete Poultry Book." It is profusely illustrated by clear, accurate, and tasteful engravings. The chapters on diseases of poultry, especially fowl-cholera, will be found specially useful, as will also those portions of the work that relate to the cure and management of fowls.

RENTS in Scotland still continue to fall. A large farm in Berwickshire was recently relet at \$3,000, after having for many years commanded \$4,650. This is a reduction of about thirty-five per cent. The conditions of the new lease are said, in addition, to be very liberal.