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### RURAL NOTES.

There is this to be said for artificial or mineral manures, that there is no fear of sowing with them a drop of weeds, which is too often the case when barn-yard manure is used.

Fall wheat showed marked improvement during the last three weeks of its growth, and the yield will not fall much under the average of four or five years ago. But the quality has in many localities been considerably injured by rust, especially on low lands.

William Woolsey, of Maryland, reputed to be the best farmer in that State, says that a cross of Devon and Jersey is much better for butter and milk than pure Jerseys. If this is true, the fact is worth knowing at a time when fabulous prices are paid for pure Jerseys.

In one county in the State of Maryland the pack of canned fruit last year is estimated at \$7,000,000, but probably this is an exaggeration. There is no doubt that the business is profitable, and there are some counties of Ontario in which it might be carried on with success. With us this industry is yet in its infancy, but it will grow.

An effectual way of destroying the aphid, the red spider, and other plant vermin, is to dip the plant which they infest in water of 120° temperature; or, if the plant cannot be dipped in the water, then apply the water with a syringe. There are few plants that will not withstand water at this temperature for a sufficient time to destroy the insect life.

Mr. Orange Judd, so widely known in connection with the *American Agriculturist*, which he founded and of which he has always been the active head, has gone into bankruptcy. Excessive generosity, and bad real estate ventures, are said to be the cause. He is left penniless in his old age, if report be true; but the *Agriculturist*, it is said, is not involved.

It is not generally known that in many parts of Ontario the native pasture grass is the same as the blue grass of Kentucky. There is no doubt, we think, that it might be grown successfully everywhere in the Province if the seed was sown. In the dairy regions especially an effort should be made to introduce it. In northern Iowa thousands of bushels of seed have been procured from Kentucky and sown for permanent pasture.

The drop in the price of hops has been disappointing to the speculators, some of whom have lost heavily. One cause of the sudden change of the market is the shipping of large quantities from Australia to England, and, although of

poorer quality than the American article, it promises to become a pretty strong rival hereafter. Australian farmers are now going into hop-growing on an extensive scale.

Different lands require different fertilizers, and no man can tell exactly the elements his field requires except by experiment. There is, for instance, a good deal of discussion over the value of salt. The Huron farmer will say it has no visible effect, while the York farmer will say its use is very beneficial. The explanation is, that while the saline element is abundant in the soil of one country, it is deficient in that of the other.

The haying season has been very unpropitious, and much of the crop has been poorly cured. But the first days were the worst; there were a number of fine days for working as well as for curing, and the crop being an extraordinarily heavy one the fodder supply is ample for the country's requirements. If the foreign demand for hay was as good as the demand for grain, or if cattle feeding was more general, the hay crop of this year would undoubtedly give our farmers a large and handsome return.

The common practice among farmers is, to turn in their cattle and let them eat down the stubble of meadow fields still closer after the hay crop is removed. This may not be injurious in a wet season, but it is much better to let the grass alone until it makes a vigorous second growth. Better still, give the meadows a liberal top dressing of well-rotted stable manure, bone dust, ashes, or some other beneficial fertilizer, and so make sure of a good crop next year. Hay and pasture are the foundation of our agricultural wealth, and they should be given a fair treatment.

Farmers whose corn-land was well under-drained this year had no difficulty in getting their seed planted in good season; and in spite of the heavy and frequent rainfalls it has made good growth. But in a great many cases the work was delayed until an unusually late period, and in others the seed rotted in the ground. In some parts of the country, but more especially in the corn-growing counties of the south-western peninsula, many fields were not planted until the second week of July, farmers being hopeful of getting the proverbial ninety days required for maturing the crop before the advent of autumn frosts.

English papers by last mail show that extraordinary prices were realized last week at the sale of a draft of the shorthorns of Mr. Helford, of Cerno Abbas, whose herd was established ten years ago in Leicestershire. The average for thirty-two cows was 176ga, and for five bulls,

822ga. Duchess of Leinster, a splendid and beautifully shaped animal, fetched 1,150ga, which was given by Lord F. Lardinge, after a sharp competition with Sir Curtis Lampson. The daughter of this cow was sold to Lord Bective for 1,502ga. The bull, Duke of Leinster, went to Berkeley Castle at 900ga. Several lots were bought for breeders in the United States and Canada. Among Mr. Helford's herd are two cows which were bought at the Bowness sale in 1877 for 8,400ga.

CLEANLINESS in the milking of cows is a matter of very great interest in relation to health. To sell watered milk is a crime, but to sell dirty milk is no offence. And yet of the two the latter is the one that affects life and health. Most milk-drinkers must have seen a deposit of dark-coloured particles at the bottom of a glass that has stood for a short time, before drinking it. These particles when examined under a microscope are often found to be—not dirt of a harmless kind, as we in our innocence suppose—but veritable cow-dung. The animal rises in the morning from her bed in the stall, and without any washing or brushing of the udder the milker puts down his open-mouthed pail and begins his work. And this is how, in nine cases out of ten, the dirt in the milk has its origin. Is it not reasonable to ask that the sale of dirty milk should be made a crime, as well as the sale of watered milk? The thing to be aimed at should be to obtain and store and serve out the milk clean and pure. Milk impregnated with the germs of disease needs looking after in the most vigilant of ways.

A WHOLESALE commission firm of Chicago has reports as to the fruit outlook from 8,000 points. From these the following summary has been prepared:—Apples—New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Ontario, Canada, 48 per cent.; Michigan, Missouri, and Kentucky, 55 per cent.; Tennessee, Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas, and Eastern Kansas, 75 per cent.; Southern Illinois, California, Oregon, Quebec, Canada, 110 per cent., making the general average 69 per cent. as against 53 per cent. last year. Peaches—Kentucky, Michigan, 50 per cent.; New York and Pennsylvania, 75 per cent.; Illinois, 90 per cent.; Virginia, 100 per cent.; Georgia, 50 per cent.; Mississippi, 110 per cent.; Delaware, 80 per cent.; Maryland, 60 per cent. General average, 78 per cent. as against 75 per cent. last year. Small Fruits—The crop of small fruits is generally good. Raspberries especially will be a much larger crop than usual, probably three times larger than last year, which was less than the average; blackberries are above the average, and plums an average crop. Cherries fall a little short of an average crop.