

for a week or ten days, more or less, the room at a temperature of nearly 70 degrees, which will cause a sweating or oozing from the blocks, and they will improve in quality. The blocks are then to be rolled in cloths or put into bags, and these placed between plates, are to be submitted to very heavy pressure by means of an hydraulic press. After this pressure, it is brought again into the form of blocks, and these are to be cut up by means of revolving or other knives or cutters, when the pieces thus obtained, are to be put into bags and subjected to the action of hot water or of steam, in a press, until it becomes hard enough to be manufactured into candles, or put up for other purposes to which it may be desired to apply it. And the manner of subjecting it to the action of heated water or steam, is to place the bags containing the Stearine, in a box or chest into which heated water or steam may be introduced, but not to such extent as to infuse the Stearine. A follower is then to be placed against the bags contained in the chest or box, and moderate pressure made upon them, and the material will now be found to have acquired all the required hardness, and to possess a wax like consistency, such as would generally cause it to be mistaken for wax."



To the Editor of The British American Cultivator.

MONTREAL, Dec'r. 31, 1842.

Dear Sir,—The expense attending the working of a farm in Canada East is universally admitted to be very great, but much more so to proprietors who are themselves unable to labour in the cultivation of their lands, any plan therefore that can be suggested, calculated to diminish that expense, is of importance, and should be made generally known, particularly in this country where too great wages are exacted by, and paid to hired farmers and labourers, and which I am satisfied the produce of no farm will ever repay and consequently no proprietor can afford, or ought to give; it is not, however, upon the subject of exorbitant wages I wish now to dilate, but to request you will have the goodness, through the medium of your excellent monthly publication THE CULTIVATOR, to indulge me and the public with your opinion whether in Canada the securing of grain in ricks instead of barns, can be done with safety and advantage, and thereby save the heavy cost of the latter. I have been led to make the present request from having lately perused a communication in the Edinburgh Farmers' Magazine for 1802, subscribed R. R. R., and wherein the securing of grain in ricks, properly constructed, is strongly recommended, as being not only less expensive but even more advantageous than storing in barns, for being thereby exposed to the free air all round, the grain and straw are not so apt to heat and mould, nor of spoiling in any manner, and may also be secured earlier and not in the dry state necessary for a barn, whereby much grain is shed or shaken out and lost; besides being more secure against the depredations of vermine. The method of constructing the ricks so recommended is to build them in the yard upon wooden frames, open below, and raised on stone supports, and it is observed that these ricks, as only serving for a season, do not require

much time and labour not needing to be thatched so very substantially as other and more permanent thatchings require to be, the centre or heart of the rick should always be considerably higher than the outer range of sheaves, and every sheaf should have much slope, outwards and downwards, and when this is duly attended to, and all the sheaves carefully locked together and the crown properly put on, the writer says the rick will turn a very heavy shower before the thatch is applied, but that after thatching the rick should be covered over with a net-work of straw ropes, leaving the meshes about 9 or 12 inches wide, all the ends of the ropes being secured to a belt rope below the eaves within the reach of a man, and the middle of all the ropes tied to one that goes straight over the top of the rick by small handfuls of straw, and in page 332 of the Magazine already referred to, a plate descriptive of such a rick is represented, showing the disposition of the whole; the same method is also recommended in regard to hay as being thus more safely and advantageously secured, and moreover prevented from acquiring a musty flavour and from being heated. Aware that many things in farm economy and arrangements, as practiced in the mother country with much advantage, might not exactly suit the climate of Canada, and would not therefore be equally beneficial here, and indeed in some cases be dangerous to adopt; I shall be much obliged if in your highly and justly esteemed publication, you would favour me and farmers in general with your opinion upon the foregoing subject, and whether from the long experience you have had in agricultural pursuits as a practical farmer of long standing, you would recommend the securing of grain in ricks in the manner before described and as practiced in England or in some parts thereof, and at the same time if you can suggest any improvements in the proposed method and will favour the public with them, they will I am sure be received with gratitude and thanks by not only all true farmers but by all those who have sufficient intelligence to perceive the vast and primary importance of agriculture to every country, as being the only sure and permanent basis of its wealth and prosperity; and in the encouragement and success of which every member of the society is deeply, though I fear sometimes unknowingly, interested; not reflecting that under the wise provision of a kind and bountiful Providence, they are indebted to the intelligent and industrious cultivator of the soil, for the bread they eat and for their daily subsistence, and for which we must finally be dependant upon and indebted to other and wiser countries, while our own will become inevitably impoverished and degraded, should we forget the sage and patriotic advice of the poet Thompson, to "venerate the plough"; and by unpardonable ignorance, or from any selfish and heartless motive we neglect to support and advance the agriculture of our own Province and bring down so great a disaster upon it, as we should then be compelled to become the importers in lieu of being what we can and ought to be, the exporters of much surplus produce from our own soil, and thus materially contribute to enrich our common country, in lieu of paying foreigners for our bread, and who in the event of war would be able to withhold it from us. Hoping for as early an answer as your convenience will admit, and with every wish that your highly useful paper may meet with that extensive and generous support to which it is justly entitled, I am, dear Sir, your very faithful and obedient servant,

A FARMER.

To the foregoing letter of our highly respectable Correspondent, we reply without delay.

The expense of working a farm in Canada East by a proprietor who has to pay for all the labour, is certainly too great at present in proportion to the selling value of the produce raised by labour, and thus we conceive to be the principal check to the improvement of our agriculture. It prevents those who are educated and have capital from embarking in rural pursuits, from the uncertainty which exists of obtaining fair remuneration for their capital, and no class of persons in Canada would be more certain to produce the necessary improvement in husbandry than educated men of capital, who if they did not possess practical skill, would be able and willing to employ skill and pay for it. There are not many of the Canadian community, however, who could be expected to risk capital without a prospect of fair remuneration; and until this prospect becomes more certain than at present, the progress of improvement in our agriculture will be slow indeed. The public works in this country will maintain a high standard of wages—higher than any farmer can afford to pay while the prices of produce are so low. The wages paid by farmers under present circumstances, we do not hesitate to say are too high. Farm servants who are engaged for the whole year, and who are not thrown out of employment in the winter, should be well satisfied with lower wages than is generally paid to them. A farm servant employed only for the summer months, or the field working months, should be entitled to nearly if not fully as much wages, as one engaged for a year who would have his food and lodging secured to him for all that time, while the other would have both to pay for when idle in winter. Farmers do not sufficiently consider these matters, or a more equitable scale of wages would have been understood and established by them. We do not desire that wages should be very low; but we are convinced that very soon farmers must reduce wages to a standard proportioned to the prices of produce, or they cannot employ and pay for labour. It is useless to produce at an expense that the produce will not sell for—and there is no doubt that a disproportion between the expense of production and the value of produce cannot long continue here.

In reply to our Correspondent's inquiry whether hay and grain can be secured here in ricks or stacks with safety and advantage instead of barns, we answer that they can. Ricks and stacks, properly constructed and thatched in the manner he describes, will keep the grain as safely as in barns. Hay may also be preserved in the same way. The great difficulty is in procuring men capable of constructing them properly, and we believe there is not one in five hundred of the emigrants who annually come here, who can construct properly a stack of grain or hay. Men will tell you they understand this work, but when left to them to execute,