

HOME AND FARM.

This department of THE CRITIC is devoted exclusively to the interests of the Farmers in the Maritime Provinces. Contributions upon Agricultural topics, or that in any way relate to Farm life, are cordially invited. Newsy notes of Farmers' gatherings or Grange meetings will be promptly inserted. Farmers' wives and daughters should make this department in THE CRITIC a medium for the exchange of ideas on such matters as more directly affect them.

The Agricultural Bureau of Nova Scotia, in Dr. Lawson's report issued in August, dealt with the grain and hay crops, but others of importance had, of course, not then matured. Another report has recently been issued on the fruit and root crops. It is, however, chiefly confined, in its actual information, to the great staples—apples and potatoes.

An analysis of the summary discloses the fact that the crop throughout the great apple growing district of Nova Scotia, may be estimated at about 56 per cent. of the average, the redeeming feature being that a large proportion of what has been secured is of superior quality. From the point of view of the purchaser, the report is not cheering. To the vendor, some compensation for shortage in quantity may accrue from the enhanced prices due to scarcity. It is to be noted, however, that last year was the full bearing year of apples. We are impressed by the report with the conviction that orchard cultivation is too exclusively confined to the region *par excellence*, the Annapolis Valley, and that very much more might be done in other districts in this direction, which would, in a short time, put money into the pockets of an additional number of farmers, and so augment the general wealth of the Province; and we here use the word "wealth" in its old English signification of well-being and happiness, as well as that of the mere chink of the almighty dollar in the pocket.

Taking the reports from all the counties of Nova Scotia, as summarized in Dr. Lawson's report for October, the potato crop—notwithstanding the long drought of the early summer, and somewhat too heavy rains in some localities succeeding it—would seem to be well up to the average. Here and there tendencies to rot are noticed, and we have ourselves seen many samples which are affected in the middle, while the outside is, at present, all that could be desired.

There are statements which seem to indicate that the dreaded "bug" has, in some parts, assumed a more menacing aspect than heretofore, but it appears on the whole to have been well kept under, and has not been as mischievous here as in Germany, where it "suddenly appeared during the summer, in spite of the strictest prohibition against American importations."

It is to be noticed in this connection, that Major-General Laurie is said to have made a discovery, which may suggest a remedy for this pest. The General writes, that "on the farm of one of the most enterprising farmers of Newport, his attention was called to a milk which grew among the root crops, and to which the potato beetle is much attracted. It lays its eggs on the under side of the leaf, and the larvae, when hatched out, feed on the plant and die, being apparently poisoned by it. Where this plant grows, potatoes are apparently not touched by the beetle. The milk or juice is apparently very powerful, giving a burning sensation down the throat and into the stomach, lasting for days." General Laurie sends, with his communication, a specimen of the milk weed, which proves to be *Emphorbia Helioscopia*, a common weed of gardens and fields in England. It grows also on the ballast heaps of Pictou, as well as in Newport, where farmers in fear of the beetle may obtain seeds, and adopt the tactics recommended by the General, of "playing off one enemy against another."

Here would certainly seem to be an indication of the possibility of fighting fire with fire, and it is quite possible that the cultivated growth of a weed among the potatoes might be less detrimental, and also far less troublesome, than the other remedies which have been tried. It would also be less expensive, and would have the always radical effect of cutting off the operations of the pest at his base. Altogether, the idea seems well worth the attention of our farmers where they find themselves threatened with the scourge.

Grain generally seems to have been a fair average. Wheat, wherever sown, is for the most part well-spoken of, as are also barley and buckwheat. Oats are, in many cases, reported as light in weight, though, on the whole, as of fair quality. Little is said of carrots and beets, though such as we have seen are decidedly good, and turnips would seem to be rather above than below the average. On the whole, the effects of the long drought do not appear to have been nearly so disastrous as was apprehended.

In the United States the yield is reported as follows:—

Corn—Less than $\frac{2}{3}$ of a full crop.

Cats—A little below the average, about 92 per cent.

Barley—20 per cent under average.

Rye—A little less than wheat.

Wheat—Nearly the same as last year, quality mostly good.

Potatoes—"A peculiarly unfavorable season," as the crop, as a whole, was probably the least ever reported.

If, therefore, with the great demand of Ontario, the Canadian farmer sells his potatoes to American buyers at a price less than will cover every disadvantage supposed to be entailed on him by the absence of reciprocity, it will surely be his own lookout. We fear, however, judging from some of the prices quoted of the great export going on, that this is being done to a considerable extent.

Dead or decaying fruit trees should be removed at once from your fields and orchards, and burnt up without delay. Many injurious insects will thereby be destroyed.

OUR COSY CORNER.

LITTLE THINGS WORTH KNOWING.—That a bag of hot sand relieves neuralgia.

That warm borax water will remove dandruff.

That salt should be eaten with nuts to aid digestion.

That milk which stands too long makes bitter butter.

That it rests you, in sowing, to change your position frequently.

That rusty flat-irons should be rubbed over with beeswax and lard.

That a hot, strong lemonade, taken at bed time, will break up a bad cold.

That tough meat is made tender by lying a few minutes in vinegar water.

That a little soda water will relieve sick-headache caused by indigestion.

That a cup of strong coffee will remove the odor of onions from the breath.

That a cup of hot water, drunk before meals, will prevent nausea and dyspepsia.

That well-ventilated bedrooms will prevent morning headache and lassitude.

That consumptive night sweats may be arrested by sponging the body nightly in salt water.

That one in a faint should be laid flat on his back, then loosen his clothes and let him alone.

That a fever patient can be made cool and comfortable by frequent sponging off with soda-water.

That cold tea should be saved for the vinegar barrel. It sours easily, and gives color and flavor.

That to beat the whites of eggs quickly, add a pinch of salt. Salt cools, and cold eggs froth rapidly.

The above, which have been partially going the rounds of the press, seem to be worth sending further on their travels as simple and practical notions, which ought to be found useful in any household.

Of course what is meant by soda-water is a solution of carbonate of soda. With regard to cold tea, we rather fancy that thrifty housewives allow but very little of that article to go to waste at all.

If soda is taken to relieve heart-burn, caused by acidity arising from indigestion, a good teaspoonful in about a third to half a tumbler of water, is about an efficient dose.

We understand that *Demorest's Monthly* has been making extensive changes in its editorial staff. If parallel results could always be obtained, we would advise every publisher to go and do likewise, for the November number, which has just arrived, is certainly a grand success. *Demorest's Monthly* has always been in the front rank of family magazines, but the new blood that has now been infused into it puts it ahead of all rivals. Before subscribing for your family magazines for the coming year, you should see *Demorest's*, for they say with truth that "it contains a dozen magazines in one, and furnishes information and amusement for the whole family." Published by W. Jennings Demorest, 15 East 14th Street, N. Y.

The following descriptions of costumes prepared for the late autumn and early winter days will give a tolerably accurate idea of some of the newest devices employed to show to the best advantage the beautiful materials of which they are composed.

A costume suggestive of autumn is made of yellowish-brown faille and leaf-brown velvet in combination. The front of the skirt is laid in wide lengthwise folds of the faille cut in leaf shaped points at the foot that fall over similar leaves of velvet. The back of the skirt has a drape of silk and broad velvet, one-half of each material, and the velvet basque is arranged with a high collar, and square revers opening back of a plaited silk vest. Passanterie ornaments of brown beads are placed on each side of the basque below the waist, just forward of the postilion.

A lovely costume, suitable for a bride's travelling-dress or for a gown to be worn at a quiet wedding, has silver gray faille draped in full hanging folds over a skirt of gray-and-white striped and changeable moire antique, made in straight plain breadths mounted on a gored foundation skirt. The front drapery is plaited at the belt, falls straight to the foot of the skirt in the middle, and is draped very slightly by being caught up at each side. The basque is of faille, with the chemisette, collar and cuffs of moire antique to match the skirt, and a complete set of silver tinsel passanterie ornaments are added. Precisely similar in design is a costume made of plain terra-cotta faille over a skirt of faille of the same color with detached designs in brown velvet. The front drapery is caught at the foot, however, by a great bow made of the two fabrics, and the basque is ornamented with revers and a half-belt of plain brown velvet.

A dress of rich *luciole*-blue faille has the underskirt quite plain, and the back drapery gracefully arranged over the supporting skirt-steels; while the front drapery falls very full, being massed in many fine plaits at the waist and caught up a little at the sides, which are finished with plain panels that display a garniture of jetted passanterie with pointed bordering. The basque has a vest of satin folds, and is trimmed with an open work of jet beads. The effect of the gleaming black jet on the blue is very pleasing.

Our lady friends will be interested in knowing that by sending 20c. to pay postage, and 15 top covers of Warner's Safe Yeast (showing that they have used at least 15 packages) to H. H. Warner & Co., Rochester, N. Y., they can get a 500 page, finely illustrated Cook Book, free. Such a book, bound in cloth, could not be bought for less than a dollar. It is a wonderfully good chance to get a fine book for the mere postage, and the ladies should act promptly.