

there as anywhere else, but a neighbor to whom I sold some seed and who sowed it about the same time, without steeping it, had more smut in his wheat than I had in mine. Some other cause, therefore, must tend to produce smut, besides smutty seed.

So many farmers had their land burnt last year that perhaps some would like to know how to manage it. I am sorry to say I have had some experience with that kind of land, and shall now have more than ever in consequence of the extensive fires in the woods last year. But I must defer this subject till another time.

CHARLES JULYAN.

Sarawak, Co. Grey, March, 1872.

We have frequently asked for criticism, and have said through the paper that we would admit articles, should they either condemn or differ with us. We want open and fair discussions on any subject pertaining to the farmer's interest. "C. J." may differ with us in regard to the farmers having cheap money, but we do not see the reason why farmers should be compelled to pay 20 or 40 per cent., which we know has been done, and they would have to pay it again, if a pressure occurred in the money market. The farmers are the first drawn on and the last accommodated. No doubt Mr. Vick saw England with American eyes, and circumstances differ in different parts and among different classes in England. We hope some of our subscribers will treat on the smut question. The smut in one corner of the field might have been occasioned by putting wheat in a flour bag. We know of no better remedy than brining and liming the wheat.

GOOD WORDS.

AN AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me space to say a few words in your valuable paper. I have frequently heard remarks favorable to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE in this neighborhood, and, having subscribed for a copy (what every farmer should do,) I find that it is all and more than I expected. A farmer's journal conducted without fear or favor, and open to all to express their views in, is, as a medium of communication and intelligence, a valuable boon to the Dominion of Canada, and ought to be largely supported by the agricultural community. We, as farmers, don't so much want high-flown, professional theories as we want practical, useful suggestions and information. We urgently need and must have variety and change in seed and stock. What, then, is better than for farmers to have a journal accessible to them, all giving information on these very topics? Learned discussions on flies, bats, etc., are all very well in their way, but we have not time to attend to such things, before we have gained time by first attending to the more urgent necessities of the farm and the farmer's life. I would therefore suggest that the farmers should liberally sustain such a paper as the ADVOCATE, and it will repay them a thousand-fold.

The paper is very popular here, and would be still more extensively read if some one would start clubs, or if a travelling agent visited these townships. For myself, I intend to take it and do what I can for its circulation.

Howard Township, March, 1872.

FARMERS' RIGHTS.

SIR,—I admire your unflinching advocacy of the agricultural interests of our country. Your editorials have the right ring. The farmers of this country do not occupy the position in the Government they ought to, and they are very much to blame themselves, for they, as a general thing, educate their brightest sons for doctors or lawyers, thinking that those who are to be farmers require but little education aside from what they get on the farm.

I believe this is a great mistake. Every farmer who is in circumstances to do it should fit his sons for holding the best offices in the gift of the people, and then make agriculturists of them, for I assure you we will never get our rights as farmers until we get control of the Government of the country. Why, sir, the fact is, we have always been ruled by a class of men who have had no interest in common with ours, men who have legislated to a great extent for their own personal interests. I think these men have ruled the coun-

try long enough, and I would advise every agricultural constituency to select from among themselves some good, honest farmer who is competent to represent them in parliament; then, and not till then, will we get our rights.

Yours, &c., J. B. CARPENTER.

Simcoe, March 9, 1872.

HORTICULTURE.

PLANTING TREES.

If I am not taking up too much of your valuable space, I would like to say a few words on the best manner of planting trees, evergreens, &c., as I am what is called a lucky man in this respect. Many persons take up young trees by force, dig a hole, swing them in, then fill up with chunks of earth and tread down with their feet, expecting the tree to live, and wondering what has caused it to die. This will not do. I look upon a tree as a thing endowed with life, just in the same way that many look upon the horse and cow—the only difference being, the one is vegetable life, the other animal. If we wish to see a tree thrive, we must attend to its requirements in the same manner that we would to any other living thing.

My plan of transplanting is this:—As soon as the ground will allow (the earlier the better), I take a sharp axe and cut a circle around the trees varying from 14 ft. to 3 ft. in diameter, according to size; if the ground is frozen to a depth of 3 or 4 inches, all the better, as the soil will then adhere closer to the roots. I then take a strong, sharp spade, and drive down as far as possible, so as to cut the under-roots off clean; I next take them out by means of a lever. All mangled and split roots should be cut away, so as to leave the wounds small. I take carefully on a sleigh to holes dug to receive them; the holes should be deep and wide, and partly filled with rich mould; a little manure, perfectly rotted, is very well; some use rotten wood and decayed leaves, but I prefer a rich mould. To set them properly requires two persons—one to hold the tree erect, and the other to get his hands underneath the bulb and place every root and fibre as near their original position as he can, all in, being careful to pack the earth about the roots; if the earth is very dry, use a little water. Tramping down with the foot, as a general rule, is quite needless, and often tends to stop the growth. Many desolate-looking homes here may be made not only less desolate, but really attractive, by the addition of a few trees, evergreens and flowers. I know many will say that there is no profit attached to this sort of planting, and others that they are going to sell out in a few years. My answer to this is, that they amply repay for any time or expense bestowed upon them, either in making the home cheerful and attractive, or in raising the value when you may wish to sell out, as a well-planned homestead will always command a greater price than a desolate one.

Rosedene, March, 1872.

APIARY.

SPRING MANAGEMENT OF BEES.

The past season has been very unfortunate to the apiarian. The constant drought throughout Canada has placed the bee-keeper in an unfavorable position for the coming season, stocks being so weak, they will require extra care, and many will perish for want of stores. The time has now arrived to examine all stocks and ascertain their condition; they will require a thorough cleaning out of all dead bees, &c. If their supply of honey is short, they should be supplied by taking refined sugar, three pounds to one quart of water, making a syrup of the consistency of honey, which can be fed either by taking out a card of comb and trickling it into the cells and replacing it, or by feeding it at the top of the hive, which is preferable. There are many fixtures for feeding bees, and two kinds of material are used, metal and cloth. The Harrison Bee-feeder is made with cotton attached to a cup, like a strainer; these feeders do not answer in a cold or damp place. I use one which is an improvement on the original, being made of zinc, in the form of a cup, and perforated like a grater, let down into the hole in the honey-board in reach of the bees. This is the only safe and convenient feeder in use. By feeding in small quantities and often you keep the bees

supplied until the season opens. Box hives can be fed by inverting them and trickling the feed around the cluster of bees; care should be taken not to smear them as the bee is a puny insect that cannot stand the cold when damp. To assist bees at this season of the year it is sometimes necessary to take cards with honey from the outside and place them in the centre of the hive, where they may get at it. By so doing stocks may be saved that would perish if left to their own fate until stores could be gathered. Spring-feeding stimulates early broods, which is very necessary in all cases. Bye-meal may be put where bees can get at it, in a dry place, to advantage. Care should be taken to close all top ventilation, in order to get all the accumulated heat for the raising of brood.

B. LOSER.

Cobourg, March, 15, 1872.

SEEDS.

NEW SEEDS.

SIR,—In the January number of the ADVOCATE you put some questions to me which I feel pleasure in answering.

Your enquiries had reference to new varieties of seed grain, samples of which I had previously sent you, and I may here add that all were grown in West Gwillimbury, from seed I received from England late in April last, and that I did not start on equal terms with neighbors who had their grain up before mine arrived.

Of all wheat known, the April Wheat makes the most rapid growth; Scotch Wheat, if planted two weeks before it, will be one behind at harvest, and the former will be bushels an acre ahead of the latter in most seasons. It was so in all cases that came under notice last year, and I look for the same result in this. 1871 was a most untoward season for imported seeds, being too dry and hot for grain that had to acclimatize itself. April wheat, when first planted in England, was brown and thin; two years later it had become bright and plump, and much liked by millers. One more sowing will effect all that can be desired, and constitute it a favorite. I am no novice in growing wheats or grain, Mr. Editor. Upwards of 40 years have fallen to me in England and Canada. Scientific farming will always beat scow-of-brow in the matter of growing prize wheat, and it is as simple a thing to make up a field that will grow the finest quality of wheat, as to fix or mix a plum pudding. Numerous trials created this opinion.

The Golden Melton barley I introduced into Canada in order that the best two-rowed sort known should have a trial. It succeeded admirably, and will be found the most valuable of all barleys, and as the climate suits barley so well, I think a short time only will elapse before good runs of two-rowed will find a ready sale in England. Fine qualities there command 4s. per quart, or \$1.34 per bushel.

The Early Providence is a grey, feed pea, and the greatest cropper I have ever known. They are scarcely ever below 40; but often yield from 50 to 60 bushels per acre. Land too rich would not be the best for them; they grow about enough straw anywhere else, nothing excessive, and almost any kind of soil suits them.

The Horse Beans are Canadian grown too. I have a high opinion of their prospects in this country. They require, previous to planting, deep cultivation, to be sowed in drills about 12 inches apart, and once to be hoed when 3 or 4 inches high. Land may be over-rich for them, but that is not often the case. A keen, sandy, or rocky soil is not suitable, almost any other will do. The Horse Beans are the most useful of all grain for stock, and cannot be excelled as feed for calves.

Yours truly,

J. A. HOLLINGS.

Bondhead, Ont., Feb. 27, 1872.

THE EXCELSIOR PEAS.

SIR,—The Excelsior Peas I purchased from you did uncommonly well last season, yielding me 33 bushels per acre, while the old variety that I had only produced about 22 bushels per acre.

D. S. ROBERTSON.

Wanstead, Mar. 6, 1872.

THE POTATO.

SIR,—There are so many theories afloat regarding potato culture, that perhaps anything more on that subject may be thought superfluous; however, I would like to have my say with the rest, and what I have to say has reference to the kind of seed to plant. I

have heard some say that small potatoes were as good for seed as large ones; but I don't believe it. I believe that the potato has been taken from a wild state, in which it was no more than palatable, and improved by careful cultivation, until it has been brought to its present state of perfection (having no rival as an article of vegetable food, bread alone excepted), and if left to itself its natural tendency is to degenerate to the original wild state; and in order to prevent it from so degenerating, it is necessary not only to carefully select the most perfect tubers for seed, but also to change the seed frequently, either by getting new varieties or changing the same variety to different localities. In selecting seed, I would select not only the largest but the most perfectly-shaped and sound tubers, cut to single eyes, as too many eyes cause the tops to grow spindly, and you will have a great many small ones. If you must plant whole potatoes, cut off the seed end and throw it away.

REUSIC.

Fenelon Falls, March, 1872.

THE FARM.

LEAKAGE IN THE YARD.

SIR,—I have been much impressed this winter with a source of waste which extends to almost every farm that I know in a greater or less degree—viz.: the leakage from our yards. In my own case, and in many others which have been observed, the liquid manure—which is the most valuable—and a large portion of the soluble parts of the solid excrements, find their way, more or less directly, to a creek or swale, and are either entirely or in a great measure lost. It is generally believed that these contain the substances most suitable for the nourishment and growth of plants. A dung-heap, thoroughly leached, though still valuable, has lost its real strength, and is comparatively worthless; the leaching process is seldom quite complete, but there is no doubt that the aggregate loss is immense. Compost heaps and the use of dry earth and other absorbents would be of much value; but it is very difficult to compost in our climate in the winter, and when spring opens seed time and harvest follow one another so rapidly that we have little time to attend to such things; the high price of labor and the low price of produce are also against improvement in this and in other directions. There is often much loss also from the escape of the volatile portions of manure. This, I think, may be prevented, at least in part, by the use of gypsum. About six weeks ago my manure heap was giving off dense clouds of gas, with an unpleasant strong odour; I procured a couple of barrels of gypsum, and scattered about half a bushel over the heaps and yard; next morning there was no sensible escape of any kind. I have used a little more than a barrel since, in the yard and stables, with the best results, as far as I can judge.

Adelaide, March, 1872.

WHAT ENGLISH CART-HORSES SELL FOR.

Perhaps many of your readers would like to hear of the prices working cart-horses sell at in England. I yesterday attended, in Liverpool, the sale of forty-nine such horses. They were the property of the late Mr. Tipping, an extensive "cartowner," who did an extensive business as such on the Liverpool docks. The geldings consisted, with one exception, of steelings and mares, and were bought for workers. Mr. Tipping died a few weeks since, and the sale was entirely without reserve by order of the administrators of his estate. The average price of the forty-nine horses sold was \$336 per head. The whole lot were in fine order, and of great size. They would average seventeen hands in height, and probably 2,000 pounds each in weight; and a finer collection of sound, great, muscular horses, just from hard work, have probably never been collected at one sale. Almost every one of them showed fine style and action.

It is especially worthy of notice that the above were not fancy prices for breeding animals, (nearly all of them were geldings,) but every horse was purchased for work. Another item should also be noted. With horses at such prices, drayage is done in Liverpool for one-third the price that it is in New York, and is at that a very good business. Any two of the above horses could draw ten or twelve tons along the streets of Liverpool with ease.—JNO. W. GREER in Turf.

Hog hair is recommended for hens' nests by a correspondent of the World. He says hens sitting in these nests have never been infested with lice. Hen lice in hog's hair won't stay. These nests we select for latching our own chickens.