A Word About Weeds at the Close of the Season.

If there be one duty more urged upon farmers for at least six months of the year, than another, it is that of destroying weeds, root and seed. We know that a plot of ground will only nourish a certain number of plants, and so that they grow to perfection, these plants, whether beneficial or injurious, must have food and air and light. Now, it is evident that if there be plants enough of grain to occupy the soil and produce a good return, any other plants growing with them on that soil consume plant food that is required by the grain plant, thereby impoverishing the soil and preventing the luxurious growth of the crop. This is what weeds invariably do. They take for their own sustenance the food intended for the sustenance of grain, grasses or roots, and also prevent the needed access of light and air, needed in vegetation.

The labor of destroying weeds is not yet ended for the season. Thousands of seeds of weeds are disseminated from the tail of the fanning mill throughout the farm. Some are conveyed by fowl to a seed bed; some left as they lie, with the expectation that they will not grow; but nothing is more tenacious of life than the seeds of hardy plants. We have before us an article from the *London Examiner*, giving an instance of the surprising vitality of seed, in the germination of seed two thousand years old. Seed preserved from air and moisture will retain its vegetative power for an unlimited period of time. This has been repeatedly proved by experience.

A most interesting observation referring to the power of germination in seed which is hundreds and even thousands of years old, is said to have been made by Professor Heindrich, in Greece. In the silver mines of Lamium only the slags left by the ancient Greeks are at present worked off in order to gain, after an improved modern method, silver still left in that dross. This refuse is probably a thousand years old. Among it the seed of a specimen of poppy was found, which had slept in the darkness of the earth during all that time. After a little while, when the slags were brought up and worked off at the smelting oven, there suddenly rose a crop of glaucium plants, with a beautiful yellow flower of a kind unknown in modern botany, but which is described by Pliny and others as a fragrant flower in ancient Greece.

The only effectual way to prevent the farm being overrun with weeds from seed is to burn the seeds from the tail of the fanning mill, and also the weeds that have been allowed to mature their seed among hoed crops, as they sometimes are late in the season. All weeds maturing their seed should be burned.

Planting Trees.

Trees, whether evergreen or deciduous, may be planted in October, but let it be as early in the month as possible. As soon as the sap begins to descend in the tree, it may safely be planted, and when that time comes the earlier we plant it the better, in order that the tree may be fully established in the ground and have taken root well before the winter comes with its storms. When planted with sufficient care in September or early in October, the sap will ascend in spring, and the growth commence as if the tree had never been disturbed by transplanting.

The first thing to be attended to in the planting of trees is the preparation of the ground where they are to be planted. If the hole be merely made in hard, untilled earth, and the young tree thrust into it, the planter should not be disappointed if it die; nothing else could be expected. The ground should be well cultivated the previous season, so that the soil be rich and friable. This should especially be the case in planting fruit trees. Another thing necessary, fully as necessary as the preparation of the soil, is the taking up of the trees from the nursery with as little injury to the roots as possible. When the roots are hacked and mangled, the trees cannot make vigorous growth, if they grow at all. We have seen trees so treated in digging in the nursery as to make their growth impossible. When taken up, let not the roots be dried by exposure to the air; cover them at once. Let the holes dug for them be so large that the roots and rootlets be not bent or cramped unnaturally, but be placed in their former position. If the ground be moist, they do not need watering; if dry, water then well at planting.

If planted with the care we have directed, there need be little fear of the trees not growing, if planted as late as October. They may occasionally suffer from a very severe winter, but if planted in spring they may suffer from a long drought. We cannot prevent such casualties. Fall planting, however, has many advantages. In the fall the ground is generally in better order for planting than in spring. It is easier to spare a day in the fall for the planting. The roots of trees planted in the fall can supply the trees with the necessary food from the moist earth earlier than those planted in the spring. The injury from frost may be guarded against by mulching with litter, leaves of trees or sods. This should not be at all neglected.

Our Markets in England.

The question of supply is one that interests alike producers and consumers, and now that the English journals pay so much attention to the probable sources whence the needed supply of meat for English beef-eaters will come, we would keep before the minds of our readers the fact that for all the cattle that can be exported in good condition from the pastures and stalls of Canada, there is a constant demand in the free markets of Britain. Under the significant heading, "Will the beefsteak become cheap?" the London *Spectator* comments on the falling off of the quantity of meat imported. The imports of tinned meat from Australia had decreased from 327,000 cwt. in 1872, to 111,000 last year. Notwithstanding the increasing demand and high prices of meat, the English people will not have the canned meat, though the quality is "excellent and the price not excessive." They must have their beef fresh killed, and this Australia cannot supply them with.

The writer says:—"Apparently, therefore, the experiment (of importing tinned meat) is not successful. And the importation of the live stock teaches the same lesson. In addition to our stock in Great Britain our supply is practically limited to Ireland, the Netherlands and Germany. The British Colonies, with their boundless pasturage, are grouped together in the returns under 'All other countries,' and last year they sent us only one head of cattle for every two hundred we received from other foreign lands." We see the demand for our fat cattle is so great that we need have no fear of overstocking the market. In feeding and purchasing cattle for England let us bear in mind that they who would be our customers will not have half-fed meat. They find themselves well-to-do, and liking well-fed, succulent meat, they insist upon gratifying their taste. In order to reap the benefits within our grasp in supplying the English markets, we must feed cattle of a superior quality—not the old country stock, but high-bred or good grades, and we must feed well. In this too there is an additional source of profit. Feeding good stock as they require to be fed, implies improved agriculture.

Tobacco From the Potato Field.

How little do they who luxuriate in the use of tobacco think that a large proportion of it is from as common a vegetable as the potato plant! That tea is adulterated is no longer a secret to any one. It is well known that in the cup "that cheers but not inebriates" there is a large admixture of other matters, and the adulteration is said by analysts to be not one iota less deleterious to the human constitution than the drugs in the intoxicating dram. The manufacture of green tea makes it especially injurious to health. But few, perhaps, who enjoy the soothing influence inhaled through the tobacco pipe, or the more fashionable cigar, have any idea that what they purchase and use as tobacco is in great part the leaf of the potato vine, dried and prepared for the purpose of adulterating the genuine "Havanna." A small proportion of tobacco cunningly mixed with the dried leaves of the *solanum*, to give it the required flavor, makes the deception imperceptible; and the purchaser receives in return for his cash his due weight—if not of tobacco, of a compound of which tobacco forms a part. However, we have high medical authority for believing that the adulteration inflicts no injury on the consumer, further than the fraud in selling potato leaves for tobacco. When adulterated it is not more unhealthy than when pure. A member of a College of Medicine in Stockholm says that the dried leaves of the potato vine would answer all the purposes for which tobacco is used, and would be better for smoking than tobacco of the coarser sorts. Much of the tobacco sold at Hamburgh and Bremen is mixed with potato leaves. Nor is the adulteration confined to Europe. Some American grown tobacco is peculiarly suited for the purpose. That which comes from Maryland seems especially suited for it. We are told that it can be mingled with the potato leaf imperceptibly, and the adulteration can hardly be detected. Now, would it not be well for farmers if they must have tobacco, to grow it for their own use. They would then at least have the pleasure of knowing what they use. In the Province of Quebec this is generally practiced, and why should it not be grown here as well? A large amount of money is sent out of Canada every year for the purchase of what might be easily grown on our own farms. To keep within our own country much of our money that we pay to foreigners, as well as to guard against the frauds from adulteration, it is well to encourage home industry.

Australia a Market for Canadian Produce.

One great hindrance to agricultural improvement in Canada has been the want of good, accessible markets for the general produce of the farms; hence the uninterrupted cropping the land with wheat and its consequent impoverishment. The farmer not unreasonably asked why should he follow the improved systems of agriculture as so successfully practiced in England, when there was no market in which he could dispose of his meat and cheese and his manufactured wool at remunerative prices. This state of affairs is passing away, and good markets for every product of the farm are being opened up. We have already referred to the English markets for meat and cheese, and the success attending the speculation of shipping fat cattle to Liverpool and London. Now we have tidings of a market in Australia open for our products. The Australian Commissioners to the Centennial Exhibition saw and admired the goods exhibited in the Canadian Department. They say they are such as to make an intercolonial trade between the countries very advantageous to both. The Australian colonies import to the extent of $200,000,-