



Vol. III. No. 4.

Toronto, April, 1884.

\$1 per annum, in advance.

### RURAL NOTES.

THE sugar maple, the elm, the oak and the hickory are varieties of trees well adapted for cleared lands. They are hardy and picturesque, and form good wind-brakes.

IF low lands are given a coating of sand or gravel in early spring their productions may be very considerably increased. It warms them up and makes more available their supply of plant food.

THE pruning of grape vines and training them upon trellises should be attended to just as soon as the snow is off the ground, and before vegetation starts. They never thrive so well as when they start well.

MR. DRYDEN, of South Ontario, has carried a useful and practical measure through the Legislature in the session just closed. It deals with the glanders disease, and has the merit of being readily put in operation.

WHEN there comes a day for ploughing or cultivating the ground for spring crops the farmer ought to be ready for it; that is not the day for mending harness, going to the blacksmith's shop, or cleaning up seed-grain.

THERE should be good judgment used in the selection of breeding fowls. Vigorous females, as well as males should be selected. We mean by this that the colour of plumage, symmetry, and the carriage that denotes good health, should be considered.

ONE of the most valuable of the conditions of success in fruit culture is business honesty. The man who gives short measure, or who does not deliver a quality equal to sample, don't deserve success, and his sins are sure to find him out.

IT is not yet too late to warn farmers to procure reliable corn-seed before planting time. The safest way is to test it and see that it possesses vitality. The crop was so generally injured by last fall's frost, that sound seed this spring may be regarded as the exception rather than the rule.

KEROSENE OIL is a good insecticide, but it should never be applied alone. A good way is to beat it up well with soap and water and spray it over vines, plants or trees which are

troubled with insects. The cheapest and most odorous kerosene is the best for this purpose.

THE way to a colt's heart is through his mouth, and it soon learns to obey the hand that feeds it. Kindness, patience, and firmness will enable a boy to teach a colt anything; and nothing so much interests a boy in farm work as to be given a young colt to care for as his own property.

IT is a curious fact that whenever sheep suffer from disease or starvation a weak spot is developed in the wool then growing upon them, and experts are sure to discover it and mark down the price accordingly. The lesson is, that it never pays to starve sheep that are kept for their wool product.

TOO many sorts of vegetables, like too many varieties of apples in an orchard, are not profitable to the farmer, however they may be to the market gardener. Enough to supply one's own needs is as much as the ordinary farmer can afford to grow, and it is better not to experiment with new varieties.

THERE appears to be only one successful treatment of the grape mildew, and that is the burning of all affected leaves. There are two varieties of mildew, one of which attacks the upper and the other the lower surface of the leaves. The latter is much less injurious than the former, and usually yields to a treatment of sulphur dust.

THE Early Rose variety of potatoe in this Province has had its day, and farmers who continue to grow it are almost certain to be losers. Not only is the quality bad, but the yield is small. Those who have imported potatoes for seed from the Maritime Provinces, and especially from that portion of New Brunswick adjoining Maine, report the results to be very satisfactory. The Copper variety is one of the best.

Cows supplying milk for the cheese factories in this Province give an average return of about twenty-eight dollars per season. Ten hens laying each fifteen dozen eggs in the year would give a better return than one cow at the average Toronto price for eggs, and taking care and feeding into account the balance is still more decidedly in favour of the hens. Still it is not advisable for every man to go into hen-farming.

GOOD work may be done by farmers in the first days of spring by transplanting handsome young maples, beeches, basswoods, etc., from their woods to suitable spots in their clearings—in the neighbourhood of the house or barn, along the lane, the line fences or the street. A farm judiciously planted with shade trees is not only more attractive than one that is not, but it is worth more for grazing and grain-growing purposes and is invariably more saleable.

IT is yet a disputed question whether large or small or medium sized potatoes are the best for seed, and as a matter of fact good crops have been grown from all sizes. Two or three rules may be safely followed, viz.: (1) Select for seed the very best and soundest tubers; (2) Keep them cool and dry, so that they will not be weakened by sprouting; and (3) when the time comes plant them in good soil, give them the cleanest cultivation, and protect them from the beetle.

THE Commissioner of Agriculture has rendered important service to the farmers of the Province by giving them a law which deals with the subject of noxious weeds. Hitherto Canada thistles were alone on the proscribed list, but now a number of others are added and provision is made for putting the law in force by one officer appointed for each municipality. The appointment of such an officer is optional with the council, but in the case of a petition by a certain number of property-holders it is mandatory. The Act also deals in the same way with the diseases affecting fruit trees known as yellows and black-knot.

A MASSACHUSETTS farmer, Edward Burnett, of Southboro', tells that himself and his father before him had been breeding Jersey cattle for many years without much thought about the bull except to use one that was a good specimen of the breed. But it occurred to Mr. Burnett that with a good average lot of females he ought to have the best blooded bull that money could buy, and he proceeded to put his new idea in practice. The result was stated a few weeks ago, at a meeting of the Vermont Dairyman's Association. Many of his calves and heifers are now worth more than their dams, and the value of his herd has trebled in three years. We think there are some breeders in Ontario who might relate a like experience.