

own corruption to its surroundings, it follows that the troughs, mangers, stable-pails, hitching posts &c. in towns should all be regarded with the utmost suspicion. In this portion of the Province it is the usual practice amongst us agriculturists to deliver any town business we may have on hand until Saturday of each week. On these days I have repeatedly seen all the town stables well filled with the country horses around. Every empty stall was taken up and, apparently without a thought on the owners' parts, the animals were allowed to stand there hour after hour, imbibing possibly the combined virus of half a dozen others in all stages of disease, that might have been there before them. The same water pail is used, without rinsing, to water a score or a hundred horses during the day, and thus disease is propagated and spreads, farmers the while wondering what has come over their horses, or, the trouble discovered, speculating as to what peculiar feature of the season or at a sphere has induced it. I have known cases myself wherein three-fourths of the horses of a township took a most violent, in many cases fatal, distemper from contact with a trough out of which a diseased animal had previously eaten but two meals. Now what is the remedy for this—or is there one? There is; and it should begin with the keepers of town and village stables. They should, in cleaning out their stables every morning, see to it that every manger, both outside and in, every comb and brush, all pails, in fact everything employed in and about the building, should be scrupulously purged as well as the floor. But will stable-men do this? I think I may safely answer that they will not. What then is the other remedy? It is to see to the matter ourselves. Let us be careful in selecting our stall; clean out the manger well, carefully wiping those portions of it that horses usually nibble at, and be particularly careful when using the water pail to cleanse it thoroughly. These remarks are more directly applicable to the warm weather of summer, so favorable to the spread of disease. Happily the cold of our Canadian winter is an excellent disinfectant of itself, and obviates the necessity of some precautions otherwise essential. Let every farmer also have a vacant stall disconnected and isolated from those of his own stock, in which he may accommodate a strange animal when circumstances require it, as I have no doubt but itinerant peddling horses, carrying, as most of them do, the seeds of disease around with them, cause an incalculable amount of injury.

Durham.

FARMER.

Nothing could be more true than the saying that "nobody works so hard for so poor a living as the thief does." And it is equally true that if professional swindlers were to devote to honest work the skill and intelligence which they bestow on their crookedness, they would become wealthy and honoured men. There is a new and elaborate way of swindling in vogue among our neighbours which may or may not be imported here; probably not, for the reason that with us the ways of the swindler are hard, and law is stronger and more economically, speedily and surely administered. But a few details of the *modus operandi* will do no harm. The method is as follows:—A party look over the advertisements of farms for sale, and having hit upon what they want, go to the advertiser and get description, price, etc. Then they take a trip to the country, see the farmer, exhibit forged deeds or some other bogus evidence of purchase of the property. Upon this they demand the rent in advance, offering an inducement or bonus if they will thus settle. If not forthcoming, they threaten immediate proceedings of ouster. This generally brings the rent. An instance in point: A few weeks ago a well-dressed person came to an advertiser and said he wished to purchase. A full description was given, and the swindler went to the farm and demanded the rent for a year in advance. He secured it in the shape of a good team of horses and a note. He immediately went to the nearest town, sold the horses, shaved the note, and now the tenant will be obliged to pay his rent twice. It would be difficult in all cases where these pretences were used, to make sure that a swindle was not intended. The farmer will know that the farm he rents has been advertised for sale, and he naturally will not be suspicious of the stranger who brings the deed and speaks him fairly, probably offering him a renewal of his tenancy on advantageous terms. It would be well in any case, no matter how honest the transaction may appear on the surface, for the farmer to withhold his money until he can communi-

ate with his landlord and ascertain whether such a sale has really been made. If the suspected swindler could be detained in the neighbourhood on some pretext while the correspondence was going on, he could, on receipt of intelligence, be handed over to the myrmidons of the law, or he could be dragged through a horse-pond, or pumped upon *ad libitum*—the law for choice, however.

ADVICES FROM KANSAS indicate the advent there of a new wheat enemy, the *Leucania Albilinea*, whose ravages have likewise reached Maryland, Pennsylvania, and other states of the Union. Professor Riley describes the caterpillar as follows:—A broad dark brown line along the back, divided along the middle by a fine white line, generally obsolete behind; beneath this broad line on each side a straw-yellow line, half as wide; then a light brown one of the same width as the last, and becoming yellow on the lower edge; then a narrow dark brown one, containing the white spiracles; then a sulphur-yellow as wide as the third; then a less distinct light brown subventral one, the venter being pale yellow. The head is large, straw-colored, and with two attenuating brown marks from the top to the lower face. The chrysalis is of the ordinary mahogany-brown color, and terminates in a stout horny point, with a corrugated base. The moth has the front wings straw-colored, with a pale line running along the middle to the outer third, and shaded with brown as follows:—a shade beneath the white line, intensified at each end, where it joins the white; another along the posterior border, narrow at apex and broadening to the middle, where it projects along the middle of the wing above the white line, fading away toward base, and a fainter shade along the front or costal edge, intensifying toward apex. The species is one of the smallest of the genus, being but two-thirds of the size of the army worm. The *L. Albilinea* is not by any means a novelty to entomologists; on the contrary it has been known for many years back, although never as a very formidable aggressor until 1874, when its depredations began to attract more than ordinary attention. It is however undoubtedly spreading, and may, if not checked, prove as injurious in its sphere as the potato beetle. Professor Riley is following up his investigations assiduously, and will be able in a short time, no doubt, to announce both the cause of the pest and its remedy, both of which at present appear to be enshrouded in mystery.

YET ANOTHER NEW INSECT ENEMY has come to the front, in addition to the *Leucania albilinea*, mentioned above. This last addition to our many foes is heard of from our neighbouring state of Michigan, one of whose farmers sent specimens to Professor Cook of the Agricultural College. The latter gentleman declares the depredator to be the *Phytocoris leucolarius* of Harris, and the *Capsus ablineatus* of Say. It is of the family *Capsidae*, sub order *Hemiptera*, and is related to the destructive squash bug *Coreus tristis*, and the more dreaded Chinch Bug of Illinois and Missouri. Of the *Capsidae* family, the one in question is the only one that does serious damage, although the family is a very extensive one. This bug is about $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch long, olive yellow in colour, with a greenish tinge. On the thorax, or part back of the head, which is finely punctured, are two yellow spots, one on either side, that is narrowly bordered with yellow. While the scutellum, or triangular piece just back of the thorax, exhibits some white markings, of various forms, sometimes V shaped, sometimes like a Y, and sometimes simply dots, while in a few cases I find them altogether wanting. The thighs of the posterior legs—femur—are generally ringed with yellow. These bugs, like their near congeners, the Chinch Bugs, come in great numbers, but unlike them, are quick to take wing. The mature ones alone possess fully developed wings. Prof. Riley speaks of these as feeding on asters, dahlias, marigolds, balsams, cabbages, potatoes, turnips, and most of the fruit trees. When we add wheat and corn, we are led to the conclusion that they are not very particular where they sip or what juice they suck, that nearly all plants contribute to their aliment. Prof. Cooke suggests as the best remedy to burn all weeds and stalks, anything that would afford retreat in winter. Clean culture in summer and clean neat fields in winter—the same as recommended for the Chinch Bug—will doubtless aid in the work of deliverance. The insect is stated to have destroyed ten per cent. of the wheat crop in Cass Co., Mich.

THE DAIRYMEN and milk consumers of New York are in a state of revolt. The lacteal fluid, always high priced enough in all conscience, recently took a sudden and mysterious flight from the normal cost of eight or ten cents, to twelve cents per quart, and hosts of good citizens found themselves one fine morning either minus milk altogether, or from ten to twenty cents extra out of pocket before breakfast. Inquiries were instituted and paterfamilias shook their heads despondingly, but all apprehensions were speedily allayed by the plausible dealer, who explained that in the dairy districts many cows were sick, the supply of milk had consequently fallen off, and therefore, by the well understood law of supply and demand, prices of necessity must rise. So far conclusive at all events, if not satisfactory. But further enquiry revealed another state of affairs, certainly not very creditable to the coterie of milk-sellers. Farmers could never get from these business gents more than four cents per quart, even when the latter had raised their retail price to twelve cents. The difference was accounted ridiculously large. Remonstrance followed remonstrance without avail, and at length production was curtailed in every direction until milk actually became scarce—not from sickness or sign of sickness in the cows, but from the contemptible grasping of the vendors who have for some time past been dictating not only what consumers should pay but also what producers should receive. The present crisis is therefore a natural result of fraud, and will eventuate, as all such crises do, in a re-adjustment of the traffic upon an honest basis.

JAPAN, not satisfied with adopting English manners, dress and language, is going to attempt the transplantation of as much of English scientific agriculture as is found suited to the country. With this view they have selected some able teachers from that country, including Professor McBride, Custance, and Kinch, who have left for the new agricultural college at Tokio. The selection made, says the *Farmer*, is a good one, and yet our English friends must not think that they will do all the teaching. There is evidently something to be learnt from the Japanese. Their country is but little larger than the British Islands, while it has several millions more people in it. Notwithstanding this crowded population, Japan produces enough food for home sustenance, while the British Isles do not grow much more than half enough for their own use. And while the four corners of the earth are ransacked for fertilizers with which to keep up England's fertility, Japan imports not an ounce of manure. The difference lies in the fact that the Japanese are careful of their nightsoil, while English, and Canadians too, for that matter, think they are doing a fine thing when they have got rid of their sewage by dumping it into the nearest water, and thus not only wasting the life of the land but poisoning sources of the drinking supply. If the Japanese can teach us the solution of what will one day be the burning question here, as it is in England, the learned Professors will not go half round the world for nothing.

BRITISH FARMERS are notoriously slow to accept innovations, and this may be said without fear of hurting their feelings, as they are well aware of it, and in fact rather pride themselves on their conservatism. But they are now moving in a direction which possesses some interest to Canadian farmers. The United States and Canada may be said to have absolute possession of the British cheese market except for certain fine brands with which we do not compete. Our factory system has already made its way into Britain and as successful there as it is here. And now they are going to adopt another of our institutions, the Dairymen's Association. Certain leading spirits think it a shame that English cheesemakers can be beaten in their own markets and they are going to leave no stone unturned in the attempt to regain possession. Dear land and high taxes will operate against them just as distance will against us. The future will show whether the new British Dairymen's Association, which was formally instituted at Birmingham three weeks ago, will enable the farmers over the water to drive us out of their markets. We opine that it will not. Nevertheless, it is never well to have only one string to one's bow. The move of our English brethren should teach us to be on the alert for new markets. And if it should also direct our energies more to the manufacture of butter by the factory system, it will benefit us as much as it will them.