

Award of Prizes at the New York State Trial of Ploughs, &c.

THE following is the official report of the award of prizes at the trial of ploughs and other implements, held at Utica in September last, under the auspices of the New York Agricultural Society:—

PLOUGHS.

CLASS I. *Sod Plough for Stiff Soils*—The Judges unanimously awarded the Gold Medal to F. F. Holbrook, Boston, Mass., for his plough, 95.

CLASS II. *Plough for Stubble Lands in Stiff Soils*—The Gold Medal awarded to F. F. Holbrook, Boston.

CLASS III. *Sod Plough for Sandy Soils or Light Loams*—No trial in this class.

CLASS IV. *Plough for Stubble Land, cutting a furrow twelve inches deep, with three horses, and raised the lowest soil to the surface of the furrow—furrow five inches wide*—Unanimously awarded the large Gold Medal to F. F. Holbrook, Boston, Mass.

CLASS V. *Michigan Sod and Trench Plough*—Unanimously awarded the Medal to F. F. Holbrook, Boston, Mass.

CLASS VI. *Subsoil Plough in connection with an ordinary Plough*—None of the Ploughs offered are worthy of a premium.

CLASS VII. *Ditching Plough for Opening Drains*—Unanimously awarded the Gold Medal to N. Hawks, Appleton, Maine.

CLASS VIII. *Machine for Excavating Ditches for Underdraining*—Edwin Heath, Fowlerville, Livingston County, Gold Medal. Unanimous.

CLASS IX. *Steel Plough for Alluvial and Uncluous Lands*—Gold Medal to Collins & Co., New York. Unanimous.

CLASS X. *Swing or Side-hill Plough*—No award. Judges equally divided.

HARROWS.

Best Harrow—J. E. Morgan, Deerfield, Oneida County, Gold Medal.

The Judges recommended a special premium of a Gold Medal to F. Nishwitz, Williamsburg, for his *Pulverizing Harrow*.

CULTIVATORS.

CLASS I. *For Corn and Root Crops—One-horse Cultivator*—Alden & Co., Auburn, Gold Medal.

CLASS I. *Two-horse Cultivator, for cultivating two rows*—To Chipper, the inventor, (the Machine being entered by A. L. Brearley & Co., Trenton, N. J.) Gold Medal.

CLASS II. *For Mellowing Soil and Killing Weeds*—Gold Medal to Forde & Howe, Oneonta, N. Y.

Best Cultivator having Handles—Wm. H. Burtis & Co., Malville, Saratoga County, Gold Medal.

So great is the demand for the Osage plant, for fencing purposes, that the price has recently risen from two and a half to four dollars per thousand in the State of Illinois.

At the Government experimental farm, at Washington, 576 varieties of cereals and garden vegetables were tested last year. Among these were 109 varieties of wheat, twenty of oats, ten of corn, twenty-nine of grass seeds, and thirty-six of potatoes.

The Illinois State Agricultural Society's committee on scoured fleeces recently reported an elaborate trial of wool cleansing, with results which are but the repetition of those which have been reached by New York and Vermont trials.

The *California Farmer* says the agricultural products of that state already exceed those of the mines, and are increasing in value with great rapidity.

W. W. BELLUS, Pierpont, N. Y., says the great trouble with the farmers in his region is that as a general thing land tilling has been superseded by land getting.

A SUGAR MAPLE was lately cut on the pasture of N. K. Abbott, West Concord, N. H., nearly 5 feet in diameter and over 100 feet high. It had been tapped 106 years.

EX-GOVERNOR DOBTELL, of Massachusetts, does not think much of agricultural colleges, but would have educated scientific men sent out every summer among the farmers to make observations, and then revisit the country in winter and point out to the farmers their mistakes.

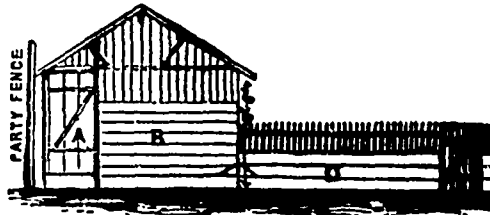
A new grass is springing up in the Southern States. It appears to be a dwarf clover, is very thick set, covering the earth with a beautiful carpet of green. It is much relished by cattle, and is a complete exterminator of Bermuda, joint, sedge, and other grasses. In Middle Georgia very abundant, and is attracting much attention.

Poultry Yard.

Plan of a Poultry House.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

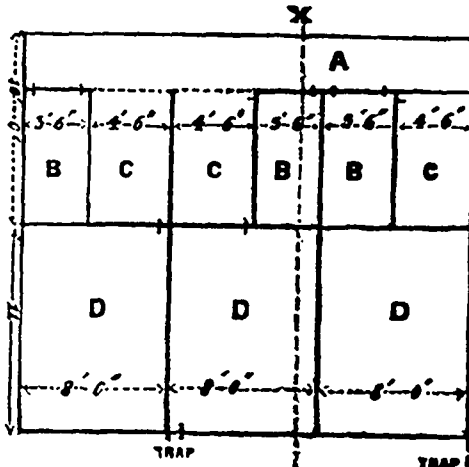
SIR,—I am sorry that my promise has been delayed so long, and that I have not been able to furnish you with a plan of my poultry house before this. However, your pages did not lack poultry matter, and I am quite sure you did not need it before. I now send



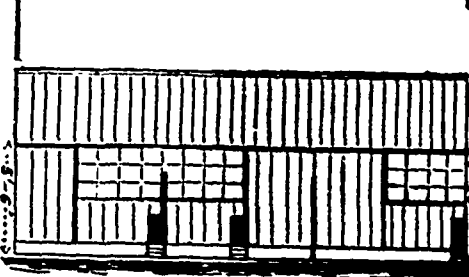
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it with a brief description. You know there is nothing new under the sun; and it will very likely be said that I copied my plan from the drawing of Mr. Lane's house, at page 64 of Wright's Poultry Book, for it so happens that it is as near as can be the same; but I did not see Mr. Wright's book until a short time

PLAN.



GRASS YARD



FRONT ELEVATION.

since, and my house was put up in May, 1866. In some respects mine is preferable for this climate to Mr. Lane's, but on the whole, his being larger, is better. In fact, I consider mine just half the size it should be. In Mr. Lane's plan the birds cannot be seen in the day time without going out of doors in



ELEVATION INSIDE PASSAGE.

NOTE.—A Covered Passage.
B Roosting and Laying.
C Covered Yard.
D Gravel Yard.

front of the covered yards, or through the roosting houses; in my plan, you can see the fowls in all weathers, as the yards are along-side the roosting houses. This is preferable for Canada; and in the winter my inside yard or shed is protected with glass. Having only kept cochin, my partitions are low, or I should have to import wire. It is a curious fact that none is to be had here except hand-made at a prohibitory price. Surely, with the poultry fever raging, it would be a paying enterprise to import the cheap wire fence used in England. My house is made of the commonest lumber, put up in the quickest and cheapest way. It took two good carpenters a week to put up the main part and the division yards, and the cost was about fifty dollars. This does not include the glass on the inside. The yard is simply made of four feet laths nailed to pieces 1 inch x 1 1/2 inches as rails, with a few posts to keep it up.

In the inside elevation you will see the arrangement. I have left the gate off to show the glass house clearly. In the part C, there is no floor, but I keep it well covered with wood ashes, and am never troubled with vermin. The gates lift up from two cleats, which I find more convenient than hinges. I use no artificial heat, and find the birds do very well. Water and soft food they have to eat through the bars, the food being placed on the passage floor in pans. Grain I generally throw over the gate to them. The great thing is to keep them dry and clean—and there is no better plan for this than the roost mentioned in the description of the octagonal house in the CANADA FARMER.

There are various ways of fitting up, according to locality and taste—what I send has been found to answer for eighteen to twenty hens and three cocks. I have other places for setting hens and chickens. If any person is inclined to adopt this plan, I would recommend that the covered yards should be at least double the size. In summer, it should be understood, the ashes are taken out and the yards C, C, C, left open; they then afford good shelter in wet days.

F. C. HASSARD.

The Apiary.

Artificial Swarming.

THERE is no doubt but artificial swarming, successfully practised, has many advantages over natural swarming. Swarms may be made artificially from one to two weeks earlier than they would come off if left to themselves. This is quite a gain, as such swarms will have their hives nearly filled with combs before natural swarming commences. Old stocks are forced to raise queens several days earlier than they would naturally. The bees never lie out for the want of room to labour, waiting for a queen to be reared so they can swarm (as the old queen will never leave until the bees have commenced to rear another); and swarms never leave and go to the woods. It frequently happens, too, when bees are left to swarm naturally, that certain colonies refuse to do so—hanging out the whole season, but never swarming. Such stock may always be artificially swarmed and do well, and at the end of the season the bee-keeper has two or more stocks where he would have only one. Natural swarming is also attended with a good deal of care. About the time swarms are expected the bees must be closely watched for days, and more or less for weeks, in order that swarms may be seen and hived as soon as they come off. This requires some person to be at home every day, Sundays not excepted. But nothing of this kind attends artificial swarming, as a large number of hives may all be swarmed in a day, and all is over. There is another difficulty with natural swarming, especially where there are a number of colonies together. The loud humming of the bees and the excitement that generally prevails when a swarm is