

**POTATO PIE.**—A correspondent sends us the following useful recipe, taken from Cassell's (London) *Illustrated Family Newspaper*:—Make a thin pie crust in the usual way, and line with it a basin or deep pie dish. Fill to the top with finely-shred potatoes, among which mix an onion or two sliced very thin, pepper and salt, and a little butter, dripping, or lard. Pour over all as much good milk or cream as the dish or basin will hold. Either cover with a crust or not, according to option, and bake in a slow oven.

**COST OF WIRE FENCING.**—"R. McLennan," of Lancaster, C. W., makes the following enquiry:—"Being desirous of ascertaining the cost of a wire fence, if you can, through THE CANADA FARMER, give me the desired information, it would be received with interest by your subscribers here, for two reasons. First, because cedar, or suitable timber for fencing, is becoming scarce. Secondly, because a wire fence would ensure almost a total immunity from snow drifts on public roads."

**Ans.**—We are unable to furnish the required information. Probably some of our readers who have experimented with wire fence will kindly supply it.

**EARLY MERINO LAMBS.**—"Andrew Black," of Warkworth, Percy, writes:—"You are greatly against Merino sheep, but as ten of my ewes of that breed have had lambs, I thought I would mention it. The lambs are all alive and doing well. The first came 11th December; the tenth, 15th January. Three of them came during the cold snap, about the 8th of this month. I am not much acquainted with Merinos, this being only my second winter with them; but I think it remarkable for ewes suckling lambs to have a second lamb the same year. They were not pampered in any way, but ran with the rest of the flock, which numbers over 150."

**EFFECT OF CLIMATE.**—"G." writes us as follows:—"In a seed catalogue, published in Rochester, N. Y., among other articles from customers' letters is the following: 'The Dwarf Hollyhock, or seed so marked, are the most showy flower in any garden, and have attracted much attention. They grow very high, twelve feet or more, resembling the engraving, except in height.' To which the publisher (an Englishman, by the way) remarks: 'The English dwarf hollyhock seed, like the men and women, seem to grow larger and finer in our free land, and can no longer be called dwarf, so we have discarded the word "dwarf" in our present catalogue.' Who would have imagined that the blessings of Republicanism descended even to the vegetable kingdom?"

**LAMPAS IN COLTS.**—"A. B. Scott," of London, makes the following enquiry:—"Would you, through the medium of your paper, inform me of the best way to cure Lampas in colts? Burning being the most convenient way of treating them, and a good many having objections to it, any information on the subject will be thankfully received."

**Ans.**—Lampas is known as an enlargement of the bars or ridges behind the incisor teeth of the upper jaw. It occurs most commonly in young horses, and arises from a natural congestion of the gums consequent on the shedding of the teeth, and is best treated by scarifying the enlargement with a lancet or common penknife. The parts are sometimes burned with a hot iron, which is called burning out the lampas. Such a barbarous operation is quite unnecessary, and is highly injurious.

**RINGBONE.**—"Newsham Leeson" writes as follows:—"One of my horses, I am afraid, has got the ringbone coming on his fore foot. I should be obliged if you could give me a hint through THE FARMER that would help me to cure it."

**Ans.**—Ringbone is a very common disease among horses in Canada, and certain breeds are found to be more liable to this disease than others. It consists in a bony enlargement situated upon the lower part of the large pastern bone, and the upper part of the small pastern bone, and in many instances involving the pastern joint in disease. It arises from the inflammatory process being set up in the periosteum or fibrous membrane covering the bone; exudation takes place, lymph is thrown out

around the joint, and this becomes ossified and receives the name of ringbone. The affection is easily seen as a bony enlargement around the lower pastern joint, an inch above the hoof, and may either occur on the fore or hind limb, but oftener on the latter. The exciting cause of ringbone is hard work; but in very many cases it can be traced to hereditary origin.

The treatment of ringbone is not generally attended with much success. When causing lameness, the horse should have rest, and the parts should be fomented with hot water, or cold applications. Afterwards blistering, should be repeated at intervals of ten days, or, in place of blistering, the firing iron may be used.

Subscribers will please notice that owing to a new regulation in the P. O. Department it is necessary to pay postage on numbers of The Canada Farmer returned to this Office for binding,—and 30 cents must be remitted to the Publisher, to defray binding expenses.

### Bound Volumes.

The Second Volume of "The Canada Farmer" is now ready, consisting of 24 numbers, and comprising 384 pages of reading matter in a bound form. The binding will be charged 30 cents in addition to the subscription price, making \$1 30 in all for the volume. Parties desirous of having their Nos. for the past year bound, will please send them to us, securely packed, with their name and address, together with 30 cents in stamps or otherwise, and we shall return them bound, free by post. Vol. 1, containing the numbers for the year 1864, may also be had at the same price.

## The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, FEB. 15, 1866.

### Rinderpest.

It is no easy matter adequately to appreciate the gravity of the crisis, and the magnitude of the calamity that has fallen upon British stock-owners in particular, and the British nation in general, by the present fearful visitation. The deplorably serious aspects of the plague, its national character, and the imperative necessity for its prompt extermination by some or any means, are questions that John Bull seemingly regards with calm unruffled philosophy. Instead of decisive energetic action in some direction, the British public are treated to innumerable highly scientific discussions upon the theory of the plague. The respective advocates of the pole-axe, and the tendor dose politely brandy arguments, and even wax sardonically jocular over the matter. Medical practitioners of lesser magnitude, and fussy busy-bodies fill the columns of the daily and weekly press, with suggestions of endless nostrums, recommendations of precautionary arrangements, and shadowy expectations of some wonderful discovery, that shall annihilate the disease almost instantaneously.

Neither is there any unanimity of opinion among those that are in authority. The several Orders of Council, regarding cattle traffic, as they have appeared, may fairly be regarded as a fair reflex of the mind of the nation's rulers on the subject. The dawdling, ineffective course of action that has been pursued admits of easy inference, from the fact that the Eighth of those Orders has appeared. From reading those, and scores of other documents called forth, one is almost persuaded that rinderpest was never heard of before, that Britain is now dealing with the disease *de novo*, and that there is a likely expectation of the plague being quelled by some specific, which has eluded all the learning and practice of Continental Europe.

With the origin of the disease it is not now our purpose to deal. As to its nature, Dr. Murchison—a high authority—and a fair proportion of the medical profession, declare the plague to be so assimilated to

variola, or small pox in the human subject, that simple vaccination will give comparative immunity from its attack, or, at least, considerably mitigate its severity. On the other hand Professors Gamgee and Simonds, backed by a very large proportion of the Veterinary practitioners, hold an entirely opposite view. In a letter to the *London Field*, the former says:—

"Dr. Murchison may claim the honour of having stirred the country throughout its length and breadth, and to have encouraged trials as to the preservative influence of vaccination wherever the rinderpest appears. May he be successful in stemming that torrent which has swept away cow after cow, bullocks, bulls, calves, herds large and small, and threatens to involve the whole agricultural community in disastrous ruin! I fear, and have indeed too much reason to believe, that he has only paved the way for another great disappointment. Drug after drug, order after order, system after system, have all left us where I ventured to predict as far back as last August, they would leave us. It may be insane on my part to raise my voice freely and firmly against every suggestion, medical or non-medical; but unfortunately I am again in the unpleasant position of a destroyer of hopes, and staunch in my belief that until we kill out the rinderpest it must continue to destroy our stock."

And again:—"Cattle that have been vaccinated are dying. It is said that they have not been vaccinated successfully, but we are tracing reports of outbreaks where there is every reason to believe, from undoubted medical evidence, that herds which have had cow-pox in past years have been destroyed as rapidly as other herds supposed never to have been affected with variola vaccina."

Professor Gamgee concludes his letter in the following terms:—"Admitting, for argument's sake, that cattle, successfully vaccinated, resist rinderpest, it is a well-known fact that many successful vaccinations pass unobserved, and that in attempting the communication of cow-pox from cow to cow, failure is the rule rather than the exception. My own opinion is, that rinderpest is not variola; and I go further, and say that the present outbreak cannot and will not be controlled by the universal practice of the present time, which has been attended with one great evil—viz., drawing the attention of the people from the great system whereby the Russian plague may be returned to its native haunts in Tartary, or in other broad plains beyond the Don and the Volga. I need not tell you, sir, that to men in my position the present state of matters is most painful and vexatious. We know, as we have known all along, how to exterminate the plague; but the 'glorious' institutions of our country are in this instance only calculated to frustrate our efforts. We wait for the bursting of many bubbles, and amongst them the vaccination one; and the time may come when we may be listened to and asked to act. This is not said in any other spirit but that of wishing to vindicate a humble profession, whose members on the subject of the cattle plague, have seen right from the very first."

We shall not, at the present time, express an opinion as to whether Dr. Murchison or Professor Gamgee is correct. We will calmly, though not indifferently, await the results of further enquiry, and the lessons of multiplied experience. Whatever may have been the origin of the fatal disease, and whatever may be the best mode of treating it, one point is sufficiently clear—the supreme necessity of the Government to lend its sanction to the enforcement of precautionary measures, which should take absolute effect throughout the length and breadth of the kingdom.

A slight agitation among the agricultural community, for the purpose of inducing the Government to form a kind of national insurance to indemnify farmers for the losses occasioned by the plague, has called forth a characteristic letter from the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, Chancellor of the British Exchequer. It is a remarkable production, but altogether too lengthy for transference to our columns. It exhibits that excessive caution which, whether natural or acquired, must ever be considered as a fault on the right side, in the keeper of the public purse. The grounds of argument taken for refusing to sanction an application to the Government for relief are something like the following:—"That any guarantee on the part of the Government to pay for the losses which have been suffered would, probably, lead to carelessness, waste and fraud, by shifting the