

Super-Phosphate of Lime for Turnips and Potatoes.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR.—I should much like to try the Super-Phosphate on Turnips and Potatoes, but I do not wish to do it in such a way as to lose my labor and the benefit of the manure. My practice with turnips is to open drills, put in manure, close again, roll and sow with barrow. I do not think it would do to apply as you direct at page 89, "by putting it in the drills," and if applied as a top dressing it would be removed from the plants by the subsequent hoeings. Potatoes, after having the ground well harrowed, I plant with a dibble and afterwards work with horse-hoe and plough. In this case I think it would do to apply to the plants as soon as up; and shall feel obliged for opinion and advice.

BRIAR.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—We think our correspondent will find on trial that the Super-phosphate of Lime will do applied to turnips in the manner directed on page 89 of THE CANADA FARMER. Why not? It will also benefit potatoes if used after they are up, but still more if put into the rows before planting. If the dibble is used in planting it would not be easy to apply the Super-phosphate, as it is too rich to be safe in immediate contact with seed of any kind. It requires to be well intermixed with the soil in all cases.

SCRATCHES.—"I. K. S." will be replied to on this subject in our next.

SHOULDER STRAIN IN HORSES.—"C. G." of Manvers, will have his enquires answered in an editorial under the veterinary heading in our next.

BROWN BREAD.—"A Subscriber" writes from Clinton:—"Perhaps you or some of your correspondents could tell me how to make Brown (or Graham) Bread. If so, please state in THE CANADA FARMER."

WEATHER INDICATOR.—A correspondent referring to an item in our last respecting barometers, strongly recommends a "Weather Indicator," got up by P. R. Randall, Toronto.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—"T. F." of Metis, C. E., has our thanks for his suggestion. We will endeavour to act upon it in future. His enquiries will receive attention shortly.

HALL'S THRESHING MACHINES.—We have received several communications highly recommending these machines; among the rest a very enthusiastic letter from Mr. John Moore, of Eramosa.

ROOT HOUSE.—"W. W." writes:—"I am going to commence to build a root-house to hold turnips. Perhaps some of the readers of THE FARMER will give their experience as to the best kind for the above purpose, and if it will be safe to put 12 or 1500 bushels in one without danger of heating."

DRAINING TILE.—A. T. McLachlin, of Mallorytown, wishes to know where he can get tile for draining, and at what prices?

ANS.—We do not know where our correspondent can get what he wants sufficiently near his own locality to be available. Perhaps some of our readers can inform him.

ACTION OF PLASTER.—"H. C. T. A." enquires in what way plaster acts beneficially upon growing crops?

ANS.—It furnishes two elements of plant food, lime and sulphur, and also fixes the ammonia of the atmosphere, and husband it for the future use of plants. It acts chiefly through the leaves of the plants to which it is applied, and should be scattered in the shape of fine powder while the dew of morning or evening is on the plants, that it may stick. It should not, however, be applied in rainy weather.

DRIVING BEEF CATTLE TO MARKET.—"A Subscriber," writing from Blanshard, asks:—"Could some of your readers inform Mr. Alex'r. McDougall, of Blanshard, the best way to manage beef cattle to be easily driven to market? A short time ago he was driving two of them, tied head and foot, to St. Marys, when the animals became perfectly savage, (though driven quietly along,) and he and others ran great risks of being gored by them. He could not get them into the village, but had to drive them into a neighboring field and leave them there till the butcher (Mr. Young) came out and slaughtered them there."

DISOWNED LAMBS.—"P. W." of Ramsay, sends us the following narration:—"In the spring of 1863, one of my ewes had two lambs. One of them she would have killed if I had not been there to save it: so I took her into the door-yard, drove two stakes into the ground, placed her head between them, gave her plenty to eat and drink, and left her lamb beside her, but as soon as it came near to suck, she would kick at it. I then placed a flour barrel at each side of her head, so that she could not see the lambs when sucking, and drove a stake into the ground just before her hind leg, to break the kick. After ten days I let her loose, when she showed no preference for one more than the other. The cure was complete."

EXPLANATION.—An enquiry having been sent us from Blanshard respecting the "Merino Sheep Speculation," narrated on page 103 of THE CANADA FARMER, we have consulted Mr. Nellis, and find that the omission of the full-stop after "53," and the insertion of a semi-colon after "hired them," have obscured the meaning designed to be conveyed. Thus corrected, the account becomes clear enough. Mr. Nellis' whole flock numbered 53; and consisted of 13 pure Spanish bucks, 10 French and Spanish ewes, and 30 Spanish grade ewes and wethers. The next sentence should read:—"Divided them out, and hired them kept by three different parties."

BALL'S OHIO REAPER AND MOWER COMBINED.—Charles Munn, of Erin Township, writes commending this machine, manufactured by Joseph Hall & Co., Oshawa, to the attention of his brother farmers. He says, "It has given entire satisfaction. Its mowing and reaping qualities, are far superior to anything yet introduced into this country, and the grand secret is, the mowing and reaping attachments are entirely independent of each other, as much so as a threshing and sawing machine would be, driven from the same horse power. I can make the change in five minutes, from a perfect reaper to a perfect mower, and *vis versa*. Were I going to make an objection, it would be the price demanded, but when I take into consideration, the quality of the material, the workmanship displayed by the iron, steel, and wood workers, the simplicity and durability of its construction, the amount of work it performs, and the almost incredible ease upon horses, I cannot say that any price, within the bounds of reason, would be an objection."

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, JUNE 15, 1864.

Legislative Encouragement to Farm Improvement.

THAT the movement in the Canadian Parliament referred to in our leading editorial of March 15th was a wise and needed one, is generally, if not universally, conceded. But it is not surprising that there should be varieties of opinion as to the shape legislative aid to agriculture should take, and the objects it should seek to accomplish. We have received a number of letters expressing warm approval of the endeavour to rouse the united wisdom of Canada to a more practical and liberal care for the farming interest, and various suggestions have been made as to particular measures. Our valued correspondent, "W. S." of Woburn, has written us on a very important subject,—that of farm drainage, and propounds a scheme by which Government may forward that greatly-needed agricultural improvement. He urges, very justly, that the great expense of draining precludes the mass of farmers from attempting it on anything like an extensive scale. He estimates the average cost to be about thirty dollars per acre,—a sum equivalent to the purchase of an improved farm the second time. Few could afford such an outlay, and to such as have their farms already encumbered, there seems, under existing circumstances, no practicable method of securing, on a widely-extended scale, this most needful improvement.

Our correspondent proposes that an Act of the Provincial Legislature should be passed, similar to that

existing in England, by which money may be borrowed for permanent farm improvement at a low rate of interest, such loan to have precedence over all other incumbrances, and to be paid off, principal and interest, in twenty-one years. Without now expressing any opinion as to the feasibility or desirableness of this particular scheme, we lay it before our readers in detail, to provoke thought and invite discussion:—

"The proposed Act might, in the first instance, be permissive, and for the Upper Province only. Let its adoption in each County be the act of a majority of the County Council; then in each Municipality of the majority of the Municipal Council, special individual loans within the limits of such municipalities, on the written application of the proprietors of lands, pledging themselves in all respects to observe the conditions. We mean by this, that each respective County must be responsible for the aggregate loans to the bond-holders, again, the Townships to the Counties; and lastly, the absolute security of the lands of the Townships. Another point would be to simplify and economize the management. The most ample powers must be had to enforce prompt payments. This would be the life of the whole scheme. We would use all the existing machinery only. We would neither create new offices nor new sources of patronage. We would reimburse the County Treasurer, Municipal Collectors, Clerks, and Treasurers by a small fixed commission on the amount of business transacted; and in view of the general benefit afforded to the County, the important services of County and Municipal Officers would be honorary. The services of a competent County Drainage Surveyor or Engineer would, however, be indispensable, but his services might be secured by a per centage on the extent of work he might be called on to perform. Preliminary to any actual operation a survey of each Township would be necessary, in order to fix the main outlets, and the expense of making such outlets available should be borne equitably by the entire Municipality. After this, when application was made for a loan, the applicant would in the first instance be required to have his lands surveyed and a plan of the works made at his own expense. It would not be expedient for proprietors to plan and carry on works under the Act themselves. The folly of those with little or no experience in draining or engineering, attempting to direct such operations would be on a par with attempting to erect a vast public building without an architect.

"Under some such proper system there would be no difficulty in obtaining more funds than would be required. The rent charge must be preferential to all existing encumbrances; but then there would be no hardship or want of equity in this; for the property would be so improved, its value in the market so enhanced, that the mere rent charge over twenty-one years would be a very small consideration. Suppose the expense to average \$30, the annual rent charge at 7 per cent. would be \$2 10 per acre. But the produce of that acre would be at least DOUBLED; how much better would be the position of the mortgagee! It must be obvious to the dullest perception.

"The interest or rent charge would be payable either at the County Treasurer's Office, or at some leading bank in England on a fixed day. Stock should be made transferable free, same as the English public funds, and that part of the business could be effected in the offices alluded to in the Province or the Bank in London. There are various companies at present organizing in England for the purpose of loaning funds, and some one of these with means more than adequate to all our present or probable future wants might be found very willing to enter into our plans.

"We submit these views in the hope that public opinion may be aroused to examine this most important question. Others may be able to devise yet better methods. In the multitude of councillors there is wisdom."

TOWNSEND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The following are the Officers of this Society for the current year: Aaron McMichael, President; Henry J. Barber, Vice-President; Nelson Boughner, Secretary; James L. Green, Treasurer.