



Vol. I. No. 18.

Toronto, August 15th, 1882.

\$1. per annum, in advance.

### RURAL NOTES.

The *N.Y. Tribune* exclaims: "Hoe! ye dyspeptics."

The army worm is doing damage in Suffolk County, N.Y.

The *American Bee Journal* is advocating the establishment of a Professorship of Agriculture in the Illinois University.

Strong soap-suds with one part of kerosene oil to ten of the suds, also strong tobacco-water, will kill cabbage and other plant lice. So says the *N. Y. Tribune*.

FALLOWING is based on the erroneous theory that idleness improves land. Busy growth, and the conversion of the vegetation produced into fertilizing material, are the true means of soil enrichment.

The Southdowns were prominent at the recent Royal Agricultural Show. Lord Walsingham was the leading prize-winner; the Prince of Wales, Duke of Richmond and Gordon, Mr. W. Rigden and others following suit.

To destroy lice on cattle, the *Live Stock Journal* recommends melting an ounce of tar with a pound of lard, stirring while cooling. Rub a little on parts most affected, and if a little be applied lightly over the whole skin, there will be no injury done the animal.

The eminent and venerable pomologist, Charles Downing, does not consider it safe to give a decided opinion on any new strawberry or raspberry short of five years' trial. If all were similarly cautious, much money would be saved in the purchase of untested novelties.

ONE of the attendants at the recent nursery-men's meeting in Rochester, N.Y., "particularly noticed" that the "great mass" of strawberries for sale at the fruit stands, and in use at the hotels, were Wilsons. Somehow this old standby holds its own wonderfully against all comers.

GAS-TAR is recommended as an insecticide. It is suggested to keep a barrel with a few gallons of it in the garden; pour water on the tar, and have it ready for use as needed. When insects appear, they can be dosed from a water-pot. This gas-tar water is said to be "sure death" to melon bugs, cabbage worms, and even the Colorado potato beetle.

SIXTY years is said to be the average age of apple trees in the best fruit districts of the State of New York. Some Illinois orchardists put the

life-time of an apple tree in their State at twenty, and one as low as fifteen years. Now, there must be something wrong about the treatment of these trees, to abbreviate their term of existence to this extent. What is it?

A new style of barbed fencing has been introduced, called "The Buckthorn." It is not wire, but a solid strip of steel, rolled, not drawn; with short, stubby points, one inch apart. The barbs are short and lance-shaped, so that they cannot injure stock. The surface of the strand is broad, and can be readily seen by stock. These features remove some of the worst objections to barbed fencing.

A DOCTOR, complaining that practice was dull, found consolation in the thought that "the time of the deadly cucumber draweth nigh." It is the opinion of many horticulturists that the bad reputation of this vegetable in connection with summer complaints comes of eating them when stale, and that, if fresh, they hurt nobody. Nevertheless, it will be well to eat them sparingly, if we wish to keep out of the physician's clutches.

THE Jersey fever continues to rage. Advertisements trumpet forth their lovely colours, wonderful points, and big yields of milk. The bull "Scituate" serves a limited number of cows at \$200 apiece. At a recent auction sale in Philadelphia, sixty cows brought an average of \$457.58 each, the highest price being \$1,350 for a two-year-old "Coomassie" heifer. The premium two-months-old calf brought \$700.

Just now, the usual summer intimations of fruit scarcity are in the air, the design being, doubtless, to bull the market for early apples and peaches. But, from all accounts, we judge that there will be a fair though not a full crop of these fruits. In Maryland, one of the largest contributors to the peach supply, the crop is reported to be larger than ever known; in Michigan it is fair to good. The yield of apples is partial, and very variable; plums only seem likely to be a conspicuous failure.

Those who keep bees need to look out sharply for toads. Go among the hives in the "gloamin'" and ten to one you will see a solemn toad beside each of them, with face upturned heavenward, as though praying. So he is, phonetically speaking; but phonography, with all its advantages, fails here, for you must spell that word with an "e." He is praying on your bees, and if you watch him closely you will see him, every now and then, dart out his long, slimy tongue, and gather them in with a celerity and gusto perfectly marvellous. Toads are valuable in a garden, but destructive in an apiary.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Country Gentleman* recommends the use of salt in liberal quantities to destroy grubs in grass and potato lands. He says that the error of those who have had recourse to salt for the extinction of grubs has been a too scanty application of it. Grass or potatoes, he affirms, will grow luxuriantly under an application of a ton and a half per acre. This quantity will kill all manner of grubs and worms, preserve potatoes from scab and other excrescences, and prevent rot. He would apply one-half this quantity in the fall, and the rest in the spring. Half this dose, or even two or three barrels, though not as effectual, will accomplish much; but the man who is contented with the use of two or three bushels per acre only makes a fool of himself. Do something or nothing.

THE Messrs. Geary, of London, Ont., have made large importations of Polled Angus and Hereford cattle, also of Lincoln and Shropshire sheep. Concerning their cattle purchases, the *Liverpool Drovers' Journal* says: "In the matter of neat cattle, Mr. Geary was largely aided by the ripe judgment and great experience of Mr. Hugh Nelson, of Liverpool. In company with this gentleman, nearly all the famous herds of the three kingdoms were visited, and purchases made of Hereford bulls and heifers. The cattle are splendid in quality, possessing all the characteristic points that have made their breed so celebrated. The Polled Angus cattle particularly are among the best to be had in Scotland, and their 'black but comely' figures would delight the most fastidious connoisseur. Taken altogether, this shipment, in point of excellence and usefulness, is quite remarkable, and will be a distinct and valued addition to the district they go to."

ON the 2nd inst., the steamship *Buenos Ayreas* landed 110 Clydesdales, Cleveland Bay horses, and Shetland ponies at the port of Quebec. They were selected from the studs of the principal breeders in Scotland and England by Messrs. Banks & Harding, of Indiana, and Messrs. Power Bros. of Pennsylvania; Galbraith Bros. of Janesville, Wisconsin; Mr. Taylor, of Ontario, and other dealers who had smaller lots. They are all intended for breeding purposes, and part are to be exhibited at fairs in Canada and the United States. Prince George of Wales, of the batch, is a noted prize Clydesdale; weight, 2,100 lbs. He was sired by Drew's Prince of Wales, also a prize. A two-year-old named Music, one of the champion two-year-old fillies of Scotland this season, weighs 1,785 lbs. These two are owned by Messrs. Galbraith Bros. Messrs. Banks & Harding have a mare purchased from Beattie, of Annan, accompanied by a yearling out of her, got by Prince of Wales.