

that I find the subject so ably handled as it is in your April number in the paper contributed by l'Abbé Provancher. I think the act for the protection of insectivorous and other birds should be amended by placing Bobolinks and Wild pigeons in the list of protected birds, and placing shrikes, and perhaps cedar birds, among the exceptions. The close season should also be extended to 1st Sept. The regulations regarding the granting of licenses to persons desirous of obtaining birds or eggs for scientific purposes should also be made more stringent. The licenses now granted are abused by persons collecting bird-skins for commercial purposes.

The Department of Agriculture should make it a condition, when making a grant of money to any Agricultural or Horticultural Society, that such society should undertake the enforcement of the act within its district.

I enclose a circular which I drew up, in 1868, as Sec. Treas. of The Fish and Game protection Club, a copy of which I intended sending to the teacher of each public school in the Province, which intention was however never carried out owing to want of funds. I think the article by l'Abbé Provancher should be printed in pamphlet form, and copies of it distributed among all the public schools, together with some such circular as the enclosed, and that the same should also be sent to the different Agricultural and Horticultural Societies v. p. 26.

H. R.

April 9, 1881.

The question as to the usefulness or non-usefulness of small birds is not yet a settled one. It seems at present to be in course of inquiry what birds are and are not beneficial; v. extract from *The Canadian Sportsman and Naturalist* in the present number.

A. R. J. F.

The useful Birds.

The readers of the Illustrated Journal of Agriculture will have appreciated on perusal the valuable essay of l'Abbé Provancher on the protection of insectivorous birds. The law referred to was promoted and drafted by the then Secretary of the Fish and Game protection Club at Quebec, who wrote up the subject during two or three years before venturing to submit it to the Legislature. It was deemed prudent at the time to omit birds of the hawk kind from protection, owing to the prejudice which existed that these birds lived upon the poultry of the farmer—on the contrary, the birds of prey afflicting this province are the best friends of the agriculturist, as their principal food consists of field mice and like vermin. It was also considered that the law would be more easily worked by not mentioning by name the various insectivorous birds to be protected, as that would create the necessity of having an ornithologist to attend at every prosecution brought for infringement of the law. The exclusion of the beautiful Bobolink from protection was owing to an error in the printing of the draft of the bill—snow birds were exempted from protection as they are only with us during the winter—The word "snow bird" in the draft was printed "rice bird" in the act, which is an other name for the Bobolink—The shrike, a fierce predacious bird, should not be protected, but the hawks as well as the crows should—a few words will suffice as an amendment—There is still in the game law a serious defect—Wild ducks are not sufficiently protected—these birds are in pairs and commence breeding in the country in the neighbourhood of the city of Quebec in the end of April. All kinds should be spared between the 15th March and the 1st September—if not molested in the spring, they would increase amazingly.

F. W. G. A.

Megantic, April 1881.

I must beg to differ entirely from the writer of the above as to hawks being the farmer's friends. I had the misfortune, once upon a time, to farm in a thickly wooded district. The damage done to my poultry by hawks was something frightful. A. R. J. F.

The sale of horses, brood mares, &c., at Messrs. Dawes' farm, Lachine on Saturday, April, 30th, went off most successfully. The Clydesdale stallion, and one or two other lots, were withdrawn, but the rest fetched very high prices. I went to buy Berkshire pigs for a friend, they were all sold, one man having carried off 25 the week before. A. R. J. F.

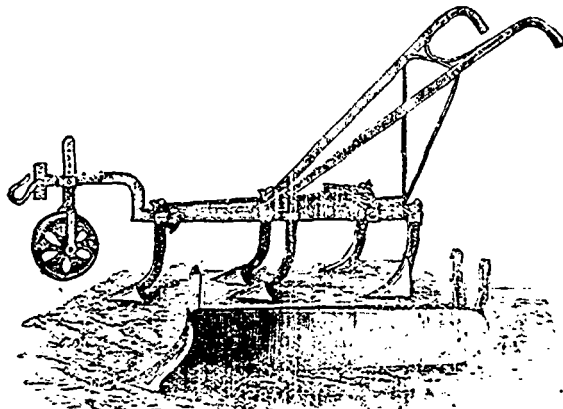
Fonthill Nurseries.

We beg to call attention to the advertisement in connection with the Fonthill Nurseries. The reputation of the firm stands high, and from all we have heard, we doubt not that the promises made by its members will be honestly and honourably fulfilled.

Hay in Stack or Barn.

"HAY: A., *Montreal*, says:—There are ten acres of hay out; half of it to be put into stack, the other half into a barn. The barn is double boarded, and the doors are tight and sound. One half of the hay is thoroughly made, the rest rather green. Which half would you put into the stack? (Put the dryer half into the barn)." The above, from the *English Agricultural Gazette*, edited by John Morton, ought to settle the dispute between me and Mr. Deming. But it will not, I suppose.

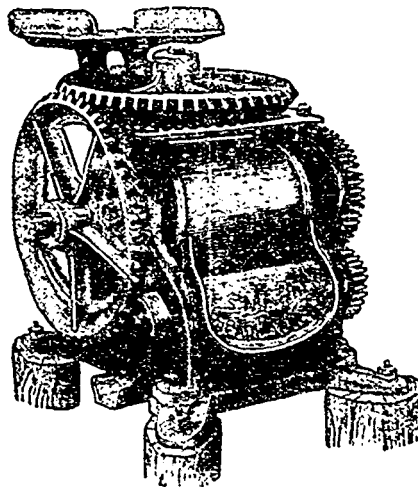
ARTHUR R. JENNER FOST.



Improved horse-hoe, cultivator, &c.

Syrup and Sugar from Sorghum.

We call the special attention of all those who cultivate Sorghum to the advertisement of Mr. E. S. Manny. From our knowledge of him as a manufacturer of great practical ability we are convinced that the implements from his factory will be satisfactory to the purchaser. Samples of syrup, both



Sorghum Mill.

from the Sorghum and from beet-root, made by Mr. Manny himself, we have tasted lately, and we found them excellent. Mr. Manny has 100 acres under Sorghum this year, on his own account, with such a quantity, he will have no difficulty in showing to every one who cares to learn the perfect adaptation of his implements to their intended purposes.

Shropshire does not seem to agree with my appreciation of the Hampshire-down sheep. I am sorry for it, but as he assigns no reason for his opinion there is no matter for discussion. He has clearly never seen the animal in his native habitat, so he can have no idea of the daily hardships