

Abolition of Premiums.

It has been suggested, in several quarters, that the cause of agriculture would be better promoted were the system of premiums now offered entirely abolished. As fairs are now conducted a suspicion prevails that personal favoritism has more to do with awards than the real excellence of the articles to which they are assigned. As a general thing, a premium is of small consequence to the recipient aside from the notoriety it confers on the products of the party receiving it. In this sense it is a good advertisement, and probably pays well, but the trouble is that the judgment of a committee, however honestly made, is not always in accordance with that of the general public, hence the dissatisfaction frequently witnessed at the conclusion of an exhibition. By dispensing

with premiums altogether, it is thought the morals of fairs would be improved without any abatement of interest in them by the farming community. It is a question, however, which can only be solved by making a few experiments in holding fairs without the stimulant which premiums are supposed to supply.—*American Farmer, Rochester.*

Before seeing the above extract we heard two leading gentlemen from Elgin Co. advocating the above course, and suggesting the use of the money for other purposes for the advancement of agriculture. Who can estimate the amount of cash that is annually taken from our farmers by false representations of different kinds of seeds and implements. How many thousands of dollars have been lost on that patent roller scheme? How many thousands of dollars have been expended on the Surprise Oats at \$1 per quart, while the farmers could be supplied with as good a kind for \$2 per bbl., and how many thousands on the Maxamillian Strawberry. We could continue enumerating such things, but ask yourselves what papers in the Province have exposed these humbugs. Also enquire what paper has given the fullest and most reliable accounts of the testing of different kinds of seeds, and has been the means of disseminating the most information about the American Amber, the Treadwell, or the Deihl's Wheat? Has a loss been sustained by such? What paper brought the Westwell and

Emporium Oats, the Crown Peas, and the Chevalier Barley into notice? Who disseminated the Harrison potatoes over the greatest extent of country? What paper brought before the notice of the country the necessity of disinfecting the cars, to take stock to and from the Provincial Exhibition of 1868, when the cattle disease was so prevalent? What paper was the first to bring before the Agricultural Bureau the advantages of a general trial of agricultural implements? Is the testing of seeds and implements of importance, and should we have some place in the country

for such a purpose, and also a paper devoted to furnishing information about such, unbiassed by any party politics?

Now's the Time.

Send for the Prize List, get up a Club for this paper, and gain some of the Norway Oats and the Harrison and Early Rose Potatoes. Be the first to introduce them into your neighborhood. They yield enormously, almost incredibly. You will be sure to make money on them, and it will take years before all are supplied. Everyone wants them who has seen them.

in the spring. Read the directions for planting. They can heel them in, as it is termed; that is, dig a trench and bury the roots, and they will be ready for spring planting, and perhaps better than if planted this autumn. Those intending to order trees, either fruit or ornamental, for spring planting, should send their orders in early. They can send orders by us, as we imported trees last spring. We supply them from either Ellwanger and Barry's nurseries, or Geo. Leslie's. These are the best we know of, one in Canada, the other in the States. We fill orders at the same price as charged by them. We send catalogues for ten cents each, and would thank you for your orders on either nursery.



The Oak-Leaved Mountain Ash.

The above cut represents one of the varieties of these very ornamental trees of that class, as raised by the celebrated nurserymen, Ellwanger and Barry, of Rochester, N. Y. There are fifteen distinct species of the Mountain Ash supplied by that enterprising firm. The majority of farmers cannot afford these trees, as they are advertised at \$1 each, but they can, for one dollar's worth of labor, go into the woods at any time this fall, when the weather is not freezing, and procure a few maples and plant them; they may be too busy

KEEPING A FARM JOURNAL—

No doubt there are many farmers who commence business with a determination to keep a daily record of their operations on the farm, and the results of them. This resolve is carried into execution for a time, but after awhile intermissions in these jottings occur, and finally cease altogether. This delinquency does not prove that the practice is not a good one, and as an incentive to perseverance, we would cite a case of the man who commenced farm life barehanded, but eventually attained great wealth—a result he attributed in great measure to a daily journalizing of his farming operations—a practice kept up for forty-five years, and not then discontinued.

These daily memoranda were made in books of convenient size, each containing the records of a single year, and when full, properly labelled and filed away for future reference when desirable. They contained the number of fields farmed each year, the character of the crop, the estimated or actual yield, the amount of labor bestowed, the names of the parties employed each day, the rate of compensation, the daily receipts for stock and farm produce sold, money paid out, and for what purpose, the character of the weather, together with such reflections as the current news of the day supplied. This journal was uniformly written up each night just before retiring to rest, but when the party was absent, as was occasionally the case, it was the duty of the person in charge to make the necessary memoranda each evening.

These records were often appealed to to decide disputed points in regard to the weather and crops of particular seasons, and not unfrequently taken before the courts for the purpose of determining the date of particular local transactions. At

first these nightly records may prove rather irksome; but if the practice is kept up perseveringly for two or three years, it becomes a habit, pleasurable rather than otherwise, and profitable to the parties who steadily pursue it.

TO PRESERVE CABBAGE FRESH.—Cut the stem so that about two inches of it will remain below the leaves; scoop out the pith as far down as a pocket-knife will reach; then suspend them in an inverted position, by means of small cords, and fill the cavity from time to time with clean, cold water. By a similar treatment, cauliflower and celery may be preserved for some time in a cool place. It affords a very easy way to preserve green vegetables during a severe winter.