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RURAL NOTES.

MR. R. C. BALDWIN, of Dixville, cut a head of timothy hay that measured eight inches and a quarter in length.

HORSE buyers are busy in the vicinity of Gananoque picking up every animal that can be got. Prices for good working horses range from \$100 to \$175.

MR. JAMES MAIN, of Milton, has been to the old country for choice stock, and has brought home with him a lot of prize-winning Cotswold sheep and Berkshire-pigs.

THE Boston Transcript, chronicling the arrival of 8,000 watermelons by the Norfolk boat, says: "We expect to hear of the doubling up of our population in consequence."

A BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION has been formed in the county of Norfolk. It now numbers forty-six members, with good prospects of increase. Every county in Ontario should follow suit.

THE cheese market is on the rise. Shrewd factory men will sell their stocks. In the long run, it is wise policy to accept good prices for all farm produce, instead of waiting for better.

HOPS are hopping up. There is every sign that they will be scarce and dear. Judging by the past, big plantations will be made next season, with the usual result of over-abundance and low prices.

PROF. MANLEY MILES, who has been experimenting at Houghton Farm, Orange County, New York, for three years past, gives the preference to barn-yard manure over any and all artificial fertilizers.

SEVERAL prominent horticulturists have, at various times, been credited with saying, "If I had a call to preach on gardening, I would take as my text, 'Stir the soil.'" At present, the late A. J. Downing has the pulpit.

MR. ACORN BURROWS, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Winnipeg, has issued a circular stating that he is arranging to send a collection of Manitoba products to the Provincial Fair at Kingston. This exhibit will excite much interest.

JOHN SNELL'S SONS, Edmonton, Can., made shipments from Liverpool, July 27th, of a new importation of Cotswolds and Berkshires, which includes the first-prize pen of ewes, and the first-prize boar and sow at the Royal Show lately held at Reading.

MR. JOHN O. ROSS, Jarvis, Canada, has just arrived from England with a large importation of Cotswold, Oxford Down, Shropshire Down and Southdown sheep, including the first-prize pen at the Royal Show in England, and the first-prize pen at Oxford.

THE Hamilton Times states that Mr. Bamberger, of Bamberger's Half-way House, on the H. and D. S. R., sent in to Mr. A. A. Anderson, Superintendent of the H. and D. Railway, a sample of wheat stalks measuring seven feet six inches in height. This is the largest yet.

MR. PLUMB'S prizes for the best farms in the township of Niagara were awarded as follows:—First prize, a gold medal, Henry Woodruff; second prize, a silver medal, James Hutchinson; third prize, offered by the Agricultural Society Division, a silver pitcher, was won by James Osmond.

THE Port Hope Times says:—"Mr. E. B. Morgan shipped on the steamship Cornwall to Bristol, England, last week, one thousand and one sheep, and this week he ships twelve hundred on the steamship Dominion for Liverpool. He reports sheep this year improving in both quality and breed much better than in former years.

THE Grand Trunk crop reports gathered by the station-masters along that line, and comprising about 120 localities in Ontario and Quebec, harmonized, so far as Ontario is concerned, with the report of the Bureau of Industries, and the state of things in Quebec seems not far at variance with the sister province. Fall wheat is a fine yield all over; spring wheat above the average; hay a fair average; barley rather over than under the average; peas and oats heavy crops; and roots promising well. Allowance must, however, be made for destructive storms and unfavourable weather generally, which have prevailed to a greater or less extent since these reports were collected.

A MONTANA paper contains the following paragraph:—"The Cochrane Cattle Company have purchased 8,000 head of cattle from Poindexter & Orr, of Beaverhead county, paying at the rate of \$25 per head for the entire herd. The range of the Cochrane Cattle Company is at Bow River, 100 miles north of Fort Macleod. The cattle will be driven to the range during the months of July and August. Thirty men and 100 horses will be required for the drive. During the past year the above company have purchased over 15,000 head of cattle in Montana, and their purchases alone have had a great tendency to raise the price of cattle in the Territory. It made a market upon

the range where the cattle were grazing, and on fire bands were purchased there.

WHILE there is little short of an æsthetic craze in the United States about the colours of Jersey cattle, and our own Jersey breeder, V. E. Fuller, of Hamilton, seems to be affected by it, judging from the way he writes about "colour, solid dark fawn, shading with black; tail black points, etc. it is worthy of being noted that the first prize Jersey bull at the Royal Agricultural Show held at Reading, England, last month, was wholly destitute of the hues that are so fashionable on this side of the Atlantic. He is thus described: "Brown; black on the sides of the neck and body and thighs; chine, back, and rump nearly white, rapidly shading as it meets and blends with the dark colour lower down. The twist is also nearly white." What Jersey breeder of any note on this continent would take such a bull as a gift to preside over his herd for a single season?

THE Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, at its recent summer meeting, discussed pretty fully the best modes of packing fruit for market. Selecting or assorting according to size was regarded as quite important. Obtaining a reputation in the same market had proved valuable to those who always sold good fruit. Mr. Arnold said a barrel of fine apples was sent to Scotland to a special market, every specimen being wrapped in a separate piece of paper. The fruit arrived in fine condition, and as the result of that shipment he can now sell hundreds of barrels. Others stated that much fruit had been injured on the way to market by not sufficiently settling the specimens compactly together, as well as from want of pressing. It was also stated that some were packed too soon after gathering, and before they had shrunk slightly and become elastic by drying.

THE English papers all speak highly of the display of Cotswold sheep at the recent Royal Show at Reading, and we clip the following paragraph from the North British Agriculturist: Cotswolds made a specially formidable array in the shearling class. While not losing size and scale, the turn-out of this long-woolled breed last week showed an improvement in quality. Recent decisions were here, as in some other classes in the yard, considerably upset. Mr. Jacob's first prize shearling, a big, lengthy, well-covered sheep, bred by exhibitor, was only second at Cardiff; while the Messrs. Gillet's second ram led at Cardiff, and was champion animal at the Oxford Show. He is bigger, and to some people's mind better all round than the winner of last week. Mr. Swanwick's first two-shear sheep is an animal of immense frame and flesh, with fine form. Mr. Jacobs' winning gimmers were well grown, and displayed excellent coats.