

improve the appearance of their homesteads. The most profitable branch just now is cheese-making. I have visited several factories during the past week or two, and having had access to their figures, find that good cows are netting 33 1-3 cents per day, equal to two pounds of butter per day, at present prices, or 33 cents per pound for butter. In one factory the May milk gave, on the average, one pound of cheese to every 9 5-16 pounds of milk. The majority have sold their May cheese at 12 1-2 c. per pound, but I look for lower prices in the future.

We hear a great deal about hard times, but the substantial improvements everywhere manifested, such as fine houses and carriages, improved implements, stock, draining, fencing, &c., furnish a palpable contradiction to the statement as far as farmers are concerned. How true it may be with merchants and others it is not my business to meddle with in this paper.

In an early number of the present volume a correspondent made enquiries respecting the white willow for fences. In answer I would say as far as my observations have extended, both in Canada and Michigan, it is a failure. It will never be useful or ornamental, either for fences or wind-breaks.

R. W. S.

Woodstock, June 21, 1869.

Patrick Bell.

To the Editor.

SIR.—Twice lately I have read a notice of the late Dr. Bell and his reaping machine. In both accounts the birth of the invention was placed in the twenties. Yours in the CANADA FARMER of the 15th June, says: "It is now more than forty years since he brought out his first reaping machine." The other account said "in 1826." I had in England, a complete set of an old Agricultural Magazine, in which there were drawings of Mr. Bell's Machine as seen when at work. The volume the cuts were in bore the date "1815." I hope some of your elder readers have also seen that Magazine, and will confirm my statement. I also hope that you will take pains to place the truth on record. It is of more consequence than appears at once. Ten or twelve years may at some future time enable an imitator to supplant the inventor. The man who invented the reaping machine was a greater benefactor to his race than he who first produced a spinning machine. In either case, in every case, the least that we ought to attempt is to give honor where honor is due. All the reaping machines that have been made are founded upon Bell's.

W. R. CARTER.

NOTE\* BY EDITOR.—We took the dates in the notice referred to from the English journals. We have great pleasure, however, in inserting Mr. Carter's communication, though it seems he writes only from recollection, not having the old magazine of 1815 in his possession at the present time.

**SALT FOR MANURE.**—"V. C." will find his enquiries answered in the number of the CANADA FARMER for May. Due caution should, of course, be used in the application of salt to land as a manure. It is quite possible to use so much as to injure the soil and subsequent crops. Land salt can be had at the Stapleton Salt Works, Clinton, for 25 cents per barrel.

**COST OF WIRE FOR FENCE.**—A correspondent asks the price of the wire used in making fence. The wire is sold at the hardware stores at \$3 25 for a bundle of 63 pounds, or a little over five cents a pound. Perhaps in buying a quantity some reduction would be allowed. Of No. 7 wire, an English hundred weight, 112 pounds, would extend over 428 yards, and of No. 8, 112 pounds would reach 509 yards.

**YELLOW CLOVER.**—A correspondent asks us specimens of a small yellow clover, of which he wishes to know the name. It is *Trifolium agrarium*, a common annual of no great importance to the agriculturist.

**ADVERTISEMENTS FOR THE CANADA FARMER** should in every case be sent in to the office of publication not later than the 7th of each month. Particular attention to this notice is requested, as advertisements received after the above date will be too late for insertion.

## The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, CANADA, JULY 15, 1869.

### The Season and the Crops.

The past month of June has been an unusual one even for our somewhat fickle climate. Rain was much needed at the beginning of the month; it came, and has since been coming, till we have had so much of it that we now almost wish there had been none.

The amount of rain we have received this month is 4.40 inches, or 1.66 more than the average, and within 1.20 of the amount that fell in 1857, when the summer proved so unusually wet. On one day, the 26th, 9-10ths of an inch of rain fell. There has been rain on nineteen days out of the thirty in June, leaving but eleven dry days. At the same time the temperature has kept at a comparatively low point, being three degrees colder than the average—so that the crops have not benefited so much as they otherwise would have done from the rainfall. Grass especially, which bloomed short, is not making much headway yet, and old meadows look very short of grass.

The highest temperature was "81° 4" on the 29th, the lowest 36° 4" on the

6th. There have been seventeen days that were clear, or partially so; but rain in the shape of showers fell on some of them; thirteen cloudy days, and nineteen days on which more or less rain fell. The prevailing winds have been westerly; but there has been a considerable number of days on which the wind was east, or south-east. The two last days of the month have been warm, but very foggy and damp in the mornings, from rain during the night; and it is to be feared that such weather will not help the fall wheat crop just at its most critical period. Rust is especially liable to attack wheat at such a time, and such weather as we are now having might do much to destroy the hopes of the husbandman, now centred in the fall wheat crop, of which the prospect is, by all accounts, a good one, and only favourable weather is needed to bring it to a successful issue.

On the evening of the 27th, a remarkably terrific tornado of wind, accompanied by a hail-storm, passed across the counties of Middlesex and Oxford, doing an immense amount of damage to buildings and crops, the loss in Oxford township alone being estimated at a quarter of a million of dollars. Hailstones were picked up as large as a turkey egg, and weighing half-a-pound.

In Great Britain and Europe, by last advices, the weather has been more favourable, and several hot days successively have so much improved the appearance of the wheat crop that prices are again on the decline.

Such changeable, and we might say unseasonable weather, as we have had this spring, seldom occurs in Canada; yet, on the whole, we can find room for congratulation in the present appearance of the crops, and the prospect of another abundant harvest. But it is undeniable that the grain and hay crops will be late in arriving at maturity.

Slight frosts occurred on the 7th June, but did no damage of consequence near the lakes. During the second and third week of June we travelled through several counties bordering on the line of the G. W. R., and were glad to notice the great improvement in the crops due to the copious rains that have fallen since the 30th May. Fall wheat generally looked well, and was then heading out; but the want of warmth has been the great drawback, especially on strong soils; and we feared that should the cold weather continue long (and it was so cold on the 15th June, that we needed a fire in the room), the grain might suffer seriously. Wheat becomes especially liable to the