

No one of our native fish deserves more cultivation than this. It comes in delicacy of flavour nearer the English sole than any fish I have tested. Mr. Staunton rather curtly contradicts my statement that Lake Ontario is 1,000 miles from the sea. We are 600 miles from Quebec, and I call the sea. "the open sea" in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. We cannot cultivate salmon here, but we can trout in any numbers in any of our rapid streams—the Speed, the Humber, the Credit, &c., &c.

**HEDGE ROWS.**—Mr. McMullen, of Picton, should go down to Quebec to see splendid hedge rows. It is not true that hedge rows of various kinds won't grow with us. But it is true that the farmers are too indolent to plant them and care for them afterwards. Not long ago there were beautiful hawthorn hedge rows near Weston, and at the Quaker settlement at Newmarket.

**BORAGE AND FENNEL.**—Can any of your readers inform me if we have, on this continent, either of the above herbs? If not, what is the best substitute for eating with mackerel and flavouring cider cup? I am glad to see the consumption of cider greatly increasing among us. It may not be generally known that cider has some peculiar and valuable properties. There are no orchards in Norfolk, England, and the statistics of disease there show more cases of stone and gravel than in any county where orchards are grown and cider consumed. Large quantities of cider from Oswego were used last year in the Lower Province.

Toronto, Dec. 5.

H. P. H.

### Leicester Sheep in Canada.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—The Leicester sheep are profitable on the borders of Scotland, they are equally so here in Canada, owing to the heavy fleece of wool and large carcass of mutton which they yield. Our country is particularly well adapted for the production of a heavy sheep. Why, then, should our farmers be content with the "hard-feeding," short and light-woolled "rakes" that are so numerous in Canada. Leicesters at one year old might easily shear 7 to 8 lbs. wool, and weigh from 103 lbs. to 120 lbs. without any great effort in feeding, further than attention being paid in the way of shelter, and regularity in feeding turnips and hay. These weights I have no difficulty in producing in my flock. I may add, that I have had some very fair specimens of the native breeds, wintering and sharing the same as my Leicesters, and then the difference of quality was most remarkable—the natives always being the "lean kind."

The proof of Canada being an excellent sheep-producing country is to be found in the weights obtained. A flock of sheep fed on turnips all the winter, well pastured the following summer, and again fed on turnips through October, November, December, until January or February, and weighing 80 to 100 lbs. on an average, when sold for fat on the borders, is considered good management. Now, in Canada sheep can be made these weights the first spring. Old sheep—ewes for instance—gain a heavier weight than what they do in the old country. Light, inferior land will not produce a heavy old sheep; it may feed a fat lamb or hoggett, but it never will carry through the weight to maturity. We have a healthy country for sheep. Our winters require much about the same length of winter feeding. In Scotland, from October to the middle of April, they are fed on turnips—two weeks will make the difference here. Turnips are solid and juicy, and feed more rapidly here. We are not troubled with black hearts in turnip as they are all through the borders.

SUBSCRIBER.

Wroxeter, November 23, 1861.

**EXTRAORDINARY TURNIP CROP.**—"W. M." sends the following item:—"J. Gormley, lot 31, concession 4, Markham, has raised this season from six acres of land, 6840 bushels of turnips, or 1140 bushels per acre, which at the rate of 12½ cts. per bushel, would realize the handsome sum of \$855 dollars."

**FLAX SEED AND OIL CAKE.**—A correspondent, writing from Woodstock, says:—"As an answer to the enquiry made by 'J. B. T.' of London, where to get a machine for grinding flax seed for farm purposes, I believe there is no such thing. In England, oil cake is the form in which flax seed is usually given to cattle. It is also often given to calves, boiled into a sort of jelly and mixed with milk, but the cheapest way of giving linseed is in the form of oil cake. This 'J. B. T.' will be able to procure by the time of your next issue, in this town, where a linseed oil mill is now erected, and is expected to be in operation in a few days, and

where, no doubt, 'J. B. T.' if so inclined, may either exchange his seed for cake or find a market for his seed and purchase the cake. In the *Genesee Farmer* for this month, on page 365, are some extracts from a recent number of the *London Agricultural Gazette* for December, on the great dearth of fodder in England this year, and recommending the use of both oil and oil cake for sustaining the stock during the coming winter. Oil cake can be procured here at a much lower price than that mentioned in the extracts referred to."

**DRAIN TILE MACHINES.**—In answer to our correspondent, D. Norton, we are informed that drain tile machines can be had from W. Lindsey, Newcastle, C. W. These machines are of English invention, with Canadian modifications, and it is believed improved. The dies which form the tile, are lately improved. They are made of a bright composition metal, which makes the tile as smooth as a bottle. The advantage of this metal is, that it is bright and clear. This machine makes tiles of any shape, as round, round with flat bottoms, egg-shaped, and horse-shoe tiles. The round tiles with flat bottoms are most used. Horse-shoe tiles are going out of vogue, and will soon be amongst the things that were. Price of machine, \$130.

### Bound Volumes.

The current volume of "The Canada Farmer" is now ready, consisting of 24 numbers, and comprising 384 pages of reading matter in a bound form. The binding will be charged 30 cents in addition to the subscription price, making \$1 30 in all for the volume. Parties desirous of having their Nos. for the present year bound, will please send them to us, securely packed, with their name and address, together with 30 cents in stamps or otherwise, and we shall return them bound, free by post.

### To the Readers of "The Canada Farmer."

Subscribers to "The Canada Farmer" will please observe that this issue is the last of the year, and that the next paper will not be sent to any one who does not remit for 1865. Our Club terms will be found advertised elsewhere. Persons engaged in getting up Clubs are requested to close up their work at once, so that subscribers may receive their papers without delay.

## The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, DEC. 13, 1861.

### Horse-flesh as Human Food.

ATTEMPTS are being made in France to introduce horse-flesh as an article of human food. A meeting of Parisian gourmands was held not long since, for the purpose of testing the feasibility of the movement, and reporting on the result. The following paragraph on the subject appeared in *Galvani's Journal*:—

"Last week M. Decroix, one of the secretaries of the society for the protection of animals, delivered a lecture at the Garden of Acclimatization of the Bois de Boulogne, on the alimentary use of horse-flesh. After showing, by official data, that the supply of butcher's meat of all kinds, which is so necessary to support the strength of man, and enable him to bear fatigue and avert disease, is not equal to the demand, he showed that if the flesh of disabled horses were introduced into public consumption, it would increase the present supply of meat at least one-twelfth, and that in Paris especially it might daily produce upwards of 2,600 kilogrammes of good meat, even admitting that the flesh of one-third of the horses slaughtered were rejected on account of their diseased state—a proportion which he considered exaggerated. M. Decroix reminded the audience that the illustrious Larrey, in the course of his military career, had three times prescribed the meat of horses for his patients, and that in Egypt especially, he had, by the use of this aliment, stopped a scorbutic affection which had broken out in the army. More recently, he added, in the Crimea, two companies of artillery had, by Dr. Baudin's advice lived entirely upon the flesh of unserviceable horses, and thereby escaped the diseases which had afflicted the rest of the army. He further stated that at Vienna, Berlin, Hamburg, Altona, and other towns, horse-flesh is

eaten, not only by the lower orders, but by all classes of society. In order to confirm his theory by experiment, the lecturer concluded his address with ordering in a large tureen of broth made from horse-flesh, and a dish of the latter flavoured with spices, of which the company partook with great relish."

There is nothing in itself repulsive about the use of horse-meat as an article of food. Like the ox and the sheep, the horse is gaminivorous and herbivorous, and a far more cleanly feeder than the pig. Indeed, the flesh of a young horse cannot but be good eating. We have read a story of a strong-minded lady-farmer, who once had a fine young horse that broke his leg in a gate. She instantly had the animal killed, and directed a butcher to dress it and cut it up exactly as he would an ox. She then sent presents of it to her friends, requesting them to cook it the same as "other beef." It is said they one and all pronounced it to be equal to any beef they ever ate. In a surreptitious manner, there can be no doubt that in England, and perhaps other countries, horse-flesh finds its way to the sausage-makers, and is often eaten by human beings.

A writer on this subject in one of the English agricultural papers, suggests a few insurmountable difficulties as he regards them, that stand in the way of the use of horse-meat as an article of diet. The first objection he urges is the friendship subsisting between man and the horse. Englishmen at least, regard the horse as a member of the family, and on this account, that noble animal is "safe from the shambles." Another difficulty is the value of the horse for other purposes, at the age suitable for making use of him for the table. Under ten or twelve years, the horse is too valuable for work to come into the butcher's hands. Another consideration is that old, worn-out, unsound, and perhaps diseased animals, would be unfit for human food. The consumption of such meat would be confined to a class whose stomachs, like that of the ostrich, will digest iron. On these and other grounds, there seems little likelihood of the French movement making much headway.

For ourselves, we see almost resistless force in the first of the above-named considerations. While we believe in making friends and even pets of all the live-stock on a farm, the horse from his intelligence, affectionate disposition, and the kind of service he renders, becomes a kind of companion. To think of turning on an old and faithful servant—nay a trusty friend—who has carried you on his back, or drawn you in a vehicle thousands of miles, and performed all manner of work for you with the utmost cheerfulness; to think of turning on him—taking his life and picking his bones, is very much like a modified kind of cold-blooded murder. The poet Bloomfield's tale of Abner wooing the Widow Jones, for the sake of being able to keep "Bayard" his faithful old plough-horse; and the grateful humanity of the philanthropist Howard, who would never suffer an old horse to be sold off his estate, but when past work, gave him the run of the pasture field and barn-yard till the weary wheels of life stood still: are examples we should propose for imitation far sooner than M. Decroix and his fellow horse-eaters.

### Stock-feeding the Present Winter.

BOTH in England and America farmers will be put upon their mettle to carry their stock well through the winter that is now upon us. In this country, the unusual drouth of last summer told sadly upon the hay crop, and upon the yield of straw. Generally speaking, there is a scarcity of both these articles.—in many localities it was quite up to the average;—but it is as yet the minority of our farmers who grow turnips, and therefore but few, comparatively speaking, have this resource. In England, not only did the summer drouth sadly diminish the forage crops, but the turnip crop—the main dependence of British agriculturists for winter feeding—proved al-