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RURAL NOTES.

WHETHER it is more profitable to breed especially for eggs or for flesh, each one must determine for himself. It is largely a question of location and circumstances.

MR. FULLER, of Hamilton, is so well satisfied with the record of his famous cow Marianne, of St. Lamberts, that he has recently doubled her price. She is now held at \$20,000. It's a pretty stiff price for one little cow.

THE potato crop is hardly up to the average in Ontario this year. On low lands it was attacked by rot, especially in districts visited by heavy rains, and all late potatoes were more or less affected by frost—growth being arrested by the cutting down of the vines. Still it is likely that we have enough and to spare.

THE fine growth of young wood made by fruit trees this year gives good promise for next year's crop. Fruit buds are plentiful, especially on apple and peach trees, and fruit-growers are hopeful. But it is very important that something should be done to arrest the spread of black-knot among plum and cherry trees. The damage done by it this year has been enormous.

THE Government of New Brunswick is making an effort to encourage dairying in that Province. The proposition made with that object is, that if any individual or company will give a satisfactory guarantee to the Government that they will set up a permanent dairy and run it, the Government will purchase the outfit imported by that firm and allow such persons the use of it.

KEEP an account with the farm. This is as important as keeping accounts of sales and purchases. You will know what you are doing, and whether the farm is paying or not, if a strict account is kept with it. You will know your gains and losses year by year, and exactly what you are worth. You will also learn where the leaks are, and where your largest profits are made.

THE *Stock-Raiser's Journal* is a new candidate for favour, the initial number having been issued in November. It is a sixteen-page paper, neatly printed and well edited, and is exceedingly good in its special department. Mr. Thomas Shaw, of Woodburn, Wentworth county, is himself a successful breeder of stock, and his practical life will be invaluable in dealing with live stock topics. The new journal is published in Hamilton.

THE Province of Ontario has a new Commissioner of Agriculture, Hon. James Young having

resigned on account of ill health. His successor, Hon. A. M. Ross, of Huron county, is a very able man, and, although his forte is finance, we believe he also takes a keen interest in agricultural subjects. But it needs a strong man to make a reputation in the Department of Agriculture after the long and successful administration of Hon. S. C. Wood.

A FEW years ago experiment stations in Europe began testing seeds which were offered for sale in the markets, with the result that adulterations were discovered, most ingenious in character, harmful in effect and remarkable in amount. The same thing is doubtless true of our own country, but the remedy is not easy. It is a well-known fact that several varieties of noxious weeds have gained a foothold in Ontario during the past ten years, through the sowing of imported clover and other seeds.

THE pollution of the marsh by the Gooderham & Worts byres is one of the vexed questions with which Toronto's city fathers have to deal. One would suppose that the enterprising farmers and market gardeners of the adjacent country would gladly join in putting a stop to the nuisance complained of by carting the manure to their own lands, or, in these days of syndicates, perhaps a syndicate might be formed to purchase a block of land, utilize the manure of the byres, and conduct a model farm.

THE man who invests his money in improving the productiveness of his farm is wiser than the man who delves and pinches to put money at interest. A hundred dollars at interest will earn six more in a year; but the same money spent in draining, tilling, and manuring a field may double itself in the same period. Many a patch of land on our Ontario farms has lain for a generation producing nothing but coarse grasses and weeds, which, when reclaimed by underdraining has paid for the whole outlay with one crop.

MILLERS are anxious to get the duty on wheat reduced or abolished, and a deputation of their association has been urging their views on the Finance Minister. It is not alone that we have a short crop of wheat in Ontario this year, but the quality is very inferior. Much of the fall wheat in the western counties is little better than tailings, and the flour product is five to fifteen pounds less than the average per bushel. But our spring wheat is of a far better quality, and probably enough of it has been grown in Ontario to bread our own people.

ONE of the objections made to agricultural shows is that, in the competition for live stock prizes, there is no distinction between the profes-

sional breeder and the average farmer. The latter may be owner of one, two or three very good animals; but what chance has he with the former who enters the pick of a herd of thirty or forty? The professional breeder "scoops" all the prizes, and the average farmer is nowhere in the competition. It is a question whether the time has not come for a change of the regulations in this matter, especially as regards the Provincial, Industrial and Central fairs.

SO far as has been observed the clover seed midge does not appear to do much injury to alsike clover, probably because this variety grows only one crop in the year and the first brood of the midge is much less numerous than the second. Alsike grows best in a low clay or a sandy loam; on high or well-drained land it is almost certain to fail, excepting in a rainy season. It does very well when mixed with clover and timothy seed, and often spreads by natural process from field to field and farm to farm. As an exterminator of Canada thistles and other noxious weeds, the alsike clover is a pronounced success.

THE recent convention of cattle men at Chicago considered the subject of contagious diseases, and several interesting papers were read by professors and scientists. But it does not appear that anything new was said; there were the same old reports on the prevalence of pleuro-pneumonia in the Atlantic States and of Texas fever in Texas and the States immediately northward of it. What they want is to procure authority from Congress to stamp out these diseases, and surely the influence of the agricultural class in the United States is strong enough to accomplish this object if it be properly organized and directed. The danger is that they may defer action until it is too late.

HOW many farmers are there who know with any degree of accuracy the area of their cleared land, or of their several fields? A very small minority of the whole, we do not hesitate to say, and yet it is desirable for many practical reasons why the exact area of every field on the farm should be known, and a record kept of it with a plan of the farm. The fields on the plan may be numbered for convenience of reference, and the dimensions and area of each noted. To ascertain the area of a square or rectangular field, take a pole one rod (sixteen and a half feet) long; measure two sides of the field; multiply the length (in rods) by the breadth and divide the product by 160, the number of square rods in an acre; the quotient will be the area of the field in acres. Measure your fields this winter; the work will be more instructive than a day at school for the boys.