

## Correspondence.

## Agricultural College.

(To the Editor of the CANADA FARMER.)

Sir:—We farmers in these northern regions are more familiar with the axe, the bar spike, and the plough than with the pen, which feels as intangible to our grasp as the essence of our own thoughts when we attempt to commit them to paper. Although of necessity unused to the graces of composition, and unable to wield the pen of the ready writer, we feel that we are nevertheless welcome to the columns of the farmers' page, and therefore permit occasionally upon our page. We are always eager to welcome and appreciate "more light" when it is thrown upon the details of our daily avocations; and it is but reasonable and proper that the value of services rendered should be endorsed by our applause and approbation. I for one am glad to take this opportunity to record my high appreciation and approval of the efforts of the CANADA FARMER, whose admirable object and sole aim it has been to raise a high standard of agricultural authority amongst us by disseminating scientific information of the very highest and most authentic kind, and of incalculable value to agriculturists. Its mission, I am happy to observe, is not so circumscribed as to be an altogether local one, for I occasionally receive papers from England and elsewhere, in which excellent articles are copied and commented. Their entire reliability and high tone, I am sure, have helped to pave the way for Canadian progress in the English markets, and have created confidence in our resources, and attracted the consideration of our neighbors, on both sides the Atlantic. How glad I am to see that the CANADA FARMER, as in duty bound, speaks favorably of the new scheme for an Agricultural College and Model Farm. We sorely need an institution of this kind, and if sound agricultural education and confidence in its results can be beneficially and practically imparted, so as to be brought to bear effectively upon the great farming community of our country, we need not stop to wait the odds. We cannot hope to bridge the gulch which is felt to exist between the great mass of the people and the scientific journal in any other way than by sending out trained exponents of scientific ideas among them who will be able to speak from their own experience, and point triumphantly to its results. And in this wise scheme of the Government care has been taken that the pupils shall speak from their own experience, and that a sympathy will be created between them and their noble profession, by engaging them continually in the practical working of the farm, all of which is done under their own eyes and by their own hands. The system of imparting agricultural education simply by theory has been found to be a mistake. The young farmer must not be subjected to the enervating influences of a "centred boarding school" life. His muscles must be kept in working order by continual contact with the plough-handle, the shovel, and the hoe. Let him be taught to make his calling as it deserves, and taught to make the most of it pecuniarily and otherwise, and he is more than the peer of a king—for the monarch is in fact the servant of all, while the farmer is the lord of society. But in order to attain this enviable position, he must be a true farmer—that is, thoroughly master of his trade. Is it not absurd that while a mechanic requires the close application of years to learn his trade, and always strives to attain the position of a first-class hand, the great mass of our farmers content themselves with the simplest rudiments, and seldom evince a desire to attain high excellence in their vocation? Of course the want of opportunity, real training, example and advice accounts for it all, and the Agricultural College is the true remedy. I say I was glad to see that the CANADA FARMER gave the matter its most cordial support, and I had no doubt that all the other journals which felt interested in agricultural affairs would second the efforts of the Government with all their might. You may then judge of my

surprise, disappointment and disgust when, upon taking up a fugitive number of the *Farmers' Advocate*—a paper which pretends to be solely devoted to agricultural pursuits and to the interests of farmers—I found these words in regard to the Agricultural College in its columns: "Nothing could show better how little the College was desired by our farmers than the fact that the Government Commission have deemed it necessary to offer a bonus for scholars. Pupils are to be fed, taught, and lodged for a year at the public expense, and then presented with fifty dollars. Now, any person that knows the real facts of the case will at once detect the execrable unfairness of this statement. There is not a word or a hint about the fact that the pupils have to give six hours daily of hard manual labor, such as they have been accustomed to on their own farms, and that it is in order to induce the young men to submit themselves to this part of the programme that a bonus has been offered. The same paper predicted its unpopularity, and it has already been most triumphantly proved to have been a false prophet, for I am told that the institution could be filled twice over on account of the multitude of applications for admission. If the editor of that paper has the interests of the farmers at heart, as he pretends, his conduct in this instance is an enigma to me. It can in truth only be explained on the grounds of either stupidity or treachery. The first named cannot be pleaded as an excuse, for the subject has been sufficiently discussed to make it clear to the most limited understanding, and as to the latter, it is beyond my comprehension how he could better himself by betraying interests that seem bound up with his own. I am, &c.,

Oro May 25th, 1874

NORTH.

## The Game Law.

(To the Editor of the CANADA FARMER.)

Sir:—Will you oblige a number of your readers in this quarter by publishing in the next number of the CANADA FARMER such portions of the Ontario Game Law as relate to the protection of quail.

Hepworth, May 18, 1874

The following are the clauses referred to by our correspondent:—

Wild turkeys, grouse, pheasants, or partridges, may be killed only between the 1st day of September and the 1st day of January.

Quail, between the 1st day of October and the 1st day of January.

Woodcock, between the 1st day of July and the 1st day of January.

Sparrows, between the 15th day of August and the 1st day of May.

Mallard, grey duck, black duck, wood or summer duck, and all kinds of teal, between the 15th day of August and the 1st day of January.

No person shall have in his possession any of the above birds, or any portion of them during the close seasons. They may be crossed for sale, nevertheless, for one month and no longer, after such periods, and in possession at any time for family use; but in all cases the proof of the time of killing or taking shall be upon the party so in possession.

None of the birds above mentioned shall at any time be taken by means of traps, snares, gins, baited lines, or other similar contrivances. Any person may destroy any such traps, snares, &c., which may discover, without incurring any liability for so doing.

No one shall have in possession the eggs of any of the birds mentioned, at any time. No batteries, snare pits, or night lights, allowed in the killing of swans, geese, or ducks.

The fine for having in possession the birds or eggs of any of the birds protected, shall not be less than five dollars, nor more than twenty-five dollars, for each bird or egg.

## Dynamite.

(To the Editor of the CANADA FARMER.)

Sir:—I noticed on page 192 of your last issue (May 15), a short paragraph on the adaptability of dynamite to land clearing in Canada, and having been engaged in "stumping" for the last sixteen years, I feel particularly interested in the success of an agent that is likely to do away with the cumbersome and expensive appliances now in use. Will you please inform me where the article can be purchased, and the cost; also in what manner it is applied, &c.,

Any information on the subject will be thankfully received by, yours truly,

STUMPER.

Colborne, May 19, 1874.

Dynamite is manufactured and sold by the Dynamite Company of Glasgow, Scotland, but its price we are quite unable to state. It is put up in cartridges, ready for use, and is equally effective in breaking up boulders and heaving out stumps. When the boulders are very large it is necessary to bore a few inches, but when small, they are rent assunder by merely exploding the charge on the surface. In the former case the bore requires no packing, which shows at once the irresistible force of this substance, as compared with that of common blasting powder. Stumps are dealt with by exploding the charge as nearly under the body or trunk as possible, and it has been found that in such a situation the dynamite will operate effectively in mud, or even when immersed in water.—Ed. C. F.]

## Corn Marker.

(To the Editor of the CANADA FARMER.)

Sir:—Can you or any of the numerous readers of the CANADA FARMER inform me how to construct a corn-marker? I intend this season to put your "corn folder" theory to the test, and in order to carry out your instructions about cultivating, &c., it will be necessary to sow the seed in the most careful manner. An early reply will much oblige

AMATEUR.

[A very simple implement for the purpose is made as follows:—Out of a piece of sound, 2 inch, hardwood plank cut a wheel, measuring in circumference exactly the number of inches you intend having the seeds apart, and in its periphery or rim insert a pin, say 1 inch in diameter, letting it project an inch or so beyond the rim. At each forward revolution, the indentation made by the pin will mark the proper place in which to deposit the seed. Affix shafts, stake your ground, and go ahead. A correspondent of the *Cincinnati Gazette* constructs a corn-marker in sled shape, with three runners, made of plank three inches thick, two feet and a half long. On the top are fastened two boards by being nailed to the runners. The board in front is six inches wide, the one behind one foot. To the front one the tongue is attached, and the back one serves for the driver to stand on. The runners are eight feet apart from outside to outside, the middle one being in the centre. This marks out drills three feet eight inches from centre to centre. Then with stakes eleven feet long, for markers, and to be set up to go to, any good ordinary hand will mark out five acres per day.

He then attaches a small shovel to each runner, to pass with; or, with a two or one horse planter, plant by dropping just three grains in each hill. If the corn is drilled in he takes a single or double drill, and marks three and a half feet, dropping one grain every foot in the row.—Ed. C. F.]

## Transplanting Turnips.

(To the Editor of the CANADA FARMER.)

Sir:—In reply to the inquiry of your correspondent, 'A. S. MARK' (April 15th), about transplanting turnips, my experience is that it is always best to preserve the tap root, chiefly for the reason that through it the fibres attached to it the bulb is mainly supplied with moisture. When the tap root is removed, the roots, in their efforts to supply its place, become unduly developed, a state of things very undesirable, as many a broken-backed farmer knows only too well. Then again these rooty bulbs are to be rejected for table use (and they are not as good for stock as) on account of the large number of harsh, tough fibres which are found all through them, occasioned by each side roots. I do not think that the removal of tap roots will affect the growth, in size, of the bulb, but I know that the effects of breaking off or badly injuring the leaves are disastrous in the extreme.—I am, &c.,

THOMAS ALEXANDER.

Durham, Nova Scotia.