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RURAL NOTES.

PHOSPHATE is sold by the Provincial Government of Quebec at \$6 per ton. Of course it is mineral phosphate.

JOHN SNELL'S sons, Edmonton, Ont., offer their celebrated Gold Medal flock of Cotswolds for sale. They will sell in lots to suit, but would prefer to sell all in one lot.

THE *Farmer's Review* (Chicago) has issued a coloured chart showing the agricultural products of the world. It was executed by the Lakeside Press, and is copyrighted.

THE best manure is made under cover. A wise farmer will not only try to save all he can, but try to have it of the best quality. Let no golden stream flow from the barn-yard after every storm.

OWING to the high price of potatoes during the past winter, it is likely there will be an unusual quantity planted the present spring; the probable results being an overstocked market and low prices next fall.

WASPS are such a source of injury to fruit in England that one enterprising gardener thinks it pays him to give threepence apiece for queens. Last season he bought and destroyed 1,192. Wasps puncture fruit; bees do not, but they follow the wasps and suck up the flowing juices.

IT is thought that new wheat will be in the American market from two to four weeks earlier than usual this year. Texas will give new wheat in May. Arkansas and Tennessee will follow not long after Texas. An extra early crop will do much to counteract an expected shortage arising from the light stocks of old wheat now on hand.

AT a recent meeting of the Orange County, N. Y., Farmers' Club, one of the members remarked: "I have three acres of orchard grass which produce more hay than any other grass on my place." He added: "I have observed that it will cut as early as clover." Orchard grass and clover make a better mix than timothy and clover.

RATS are often very troublesome in granaries. A correspondent of the *Journal d'Agriculture Progressive* suggests a method of getting rid of these pests, that has the advantage of having been most successful in his own case. It is to fill their holes with chloride of lime and oxalic acid, when a violent disengagement of chlorine takes place, their holes are filled with gas, and they are suffocated.

THE largest shipment of thorough-bred cattle ever made sailed from England on the 15th ult.

in the steamer *Texas*. It consisted of 205 head, seventy of which were Herefords, and the remainder Polled Angus cattle. They were purchased of the most noted British breeders for Hon. M. H. Cochrane, and the larger proportion of them will probably go to his great ranches in the North-West.

THE *Wilmington* (Delaware) *News* gathers from the reports of peach-growers representing a large section of country devoted mainly to that fruit, that there will be a two-thirds crop of posches, comparison being made with 1875, when the yield was enormous. Bearing trees never looked better at this season of the year, but their number was reduced about one-third by the severe winter of 1880-81.

A SYRACUSE, N. Y., grape-grower who has tried the *Champion*, says it is "early, hardy, prolific, and for a few days after colouring makes a fine appearance, but is really one of the poorest grapes within my knowledge;" and advises "anyone who can grow the Hartford, Concord, and Delaware, or even the Clinton," to plant these and "some other kinds whose fruit he can eat without squealing."

A DRAFT from the Bow Park herd of Shorthorns to the number of thirty-five head, and the Woodlawn herd of twelve head, were sold at Waukegan, Ill., April 20th. "Fair average prices" were realized; the highest figure obtained for any one animal being \$750. Next day Messrs. R. and J. Gibson, of Frederickton, Ont., sold forty-seven head of Shorthorns at Dexter Park, Chicago, the total prices amounting to \$27,000.

THE *Globe* of April 21st says. "Veal is the cheapest meat in Toronto to-day." So it ought to be every day, for it is the poorest, and the *Globe* is quite right in denouncing the wholesale slaughter of calves which is going on as "an outrageous piece of wastefulness." Every calf born into the world has two rights that ought to be respected: first, the right to be well-bred; and secondly, the right to live until it becomes profitable either for milk or beef.

THE famous Hampton Court vine, so long remarkable for its great size, large crop, and long-continued productiveness, is rapidly succumbing to the influence of time. It appears by the *London Garden* that after continuing, until recently, in health and vigour, bearing twenty years ago no less than 1,800 bunches, and nearly that number five years later, it is rapidly declining. Its fruit-bearing powers are nearly expended, after giving excellent Black Hamburgs for more than a hundred years.

CONCERNING the wheat market, the *Country Gentleman* says:—

"England is not so dependent on America for bread-stuffs as formerly, and if speculators now holding wheat for higher prices should lose money, they have no one but themselves to blame. In the words of the *Commercial Bulletin*, 'the fact is, the world now is practically all one market. If there are short crops here, or anywhere, the deficit can readily be made up from other sources of supply within range of the telegraph at all times, and unless there is a universal failure of crops—a contingency in the economy of nature happily not supposable—a recurrence of the famines with which mankind were formerly visited, even in civilized countries, would seem to be out of the question.'"

THERE are more oxen in Manitoba than in any other part of Canada, as they are better than horses for breaking up the prairie, and it costs less to keep them. But the supply is not equal to the demand, and at least a thousand additional teams could be sold here next summer when actual settlers begins to go in. A good team will bring \$150 to \$200 readily, and it ought to pay to export them from Ontario at these prices. More horses will also be needed, but care should be taken to let them rest after the long journey before they are put to work, as well as in feeding them till they get used to the water and hay there.

DARWIN, the great naturalist, died April 20th, in the seventy-fourth year of his age. During a long and earnest scientific career, he rendered much important service to agriculture and horticulture. His last work was on earth-worms, and the creation of mould through their agency. He was a bold and independent searcher after truth, and had the courage of his opinions. Even those who do not concur in all his conclusions must award him honour for his industry, sincerity, and devotion to the pursuit of useful knowledge, and accord him a distinguished place among the world's great men.

ONE of the famous weather prophet's critics says, "Out of thirty predictions made by Vennor for this region lately, two were just right, six partly right, and twenty-two wholly wrong." Another says. "So long as we have no means of knowing what the weather is in the northern polar regions, except guessing at it, our prognostications of the seasons must be merely guesses at best." To which the first-quoted critic adds:—"Amen, say we. And further, until we have some means of knowing the other vast, remote, and immensely varied causes that affect the weather months ahead, our predictions must be like setting the clock by guess, and then reading the time by it, or like the Dutchman's mode of weighing the hog—balance it on a plank with a stone, and then guess at the weight of the stone! Still, if we make enough guesses, some of them will come true."