

for all those who never pay (including merchants as well as others, for the wholesale merchant has to put on a margin to cover bad debts as well as the retailer), is about played out and ought to be relegated to the limbo of the past along with wooden mouldboards and threshing flails, and the days when people went to mill on horseback or in the ox cart.

The Grange movement recognises the fact that the world moves and its members are determined to move with it. In the Grange the farmers and their wives meet and the practical pursuit of their calling is discussed. There is no one, no matter how obtuse he may be, but can derive a great amount of benefit from the experiences there related by his neighbors and friends in regard to the practical pursuit of his calling. There is also its social aspect, where neighbours meet, and those kindly interchanges of thought and sentiment are expressed which tend to bind neighbors together in the bonds of unity and friendship, each feeling that he or she has an interest in the welfare and happiness of their neighbors.

P. P. ROSS.

The Prevalence of Highway Robberies.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER.—I should be one of the last to advise farmers to resort to lynch law, but the present insecurity of life and property is becoming unbearable, and unless our Ontario Legislature at its next session can pass some effectual measures for driving the burglars, incendiaries and highwaymen out of the country, I fear the farmers will find it necessary to organize Vigilance Societies in their respective neighborhoods for self defence. Perhaps it would be sufficient if a law were passed allowing stipendiary magistrates to direct the police to arrest all suspicious characters and deal with them under the Vagrant Act. And if professional fortune tellers were included amongst the vagrants, as they are in England, no great harm would be done. Such a law, if strictly acted on, would frighten the criminal part of our population out of the country, as most of them, probably, are from the adjoining States.

In the meantime I would recommend farmers, when they have sold their load of produce in the market, to deposit their money in one of the banks, branches of which may be found in every city and town in the Province. They can make their payments as well by cheques as in cash, although if every one were provided with a revolver, and would take the trouble to acquire a little skill in the use of it, they might give a very efficient cheque to any one who might attempt to stop them on the road, or at least, if they are too nervous for that, they should be provided with heavy handled whips, and when possible, two or three teams should leave town together and keep within hearing of each other as long as possible, as few of the unprincipled scoundrels who now infest our roads will dare to attack two or three farmers in company, though they do not scruple to attack a solitary traveller.

SARAWAK.

Creature Comforts.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER.—As winter approaches, creature comforts should be thought of, so as to prepare in good time; and as many would like to have them if they could afford them, it may be well to point out a few things that are within most persons' reach.

At one period of my life I suffered much in health by riding against the wind in cold weather. Reflecting on the qualities of stout paper, I got a large sheet of paper from a grocer, and placed it over the front of my person inside my waistcoat and trousers. I found that it was impervious to the wind, and that being a bad conductor of heat, it prevented the natural warmth of my body from passing off, at the same time the insensible perspiration would pass through, and thus no inconvenience resulted from condensation of the moisture. I was delighted with the effects of my experiment, for it kept me as warm as an extra coat, and its weight was a mere nothing. When I got indoors, I took it off, wrapped it up, and put it in my pocket. It lasted for several weeks at the small cost of one penny. Of course paper may be applied to many similar uses, such as inside the linings of waistcoats, sleeves, etc. Old newspapers pasted together at the edges, and

placed between the sheet and the blanket, afford nearly as much warmth as an extra blanket. Try it.

Exeter, England.

J. F. W.

WE HAVE HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE, says the *Detroit Tribune*, to meet several of the graduates from the Michigan Agricultural College, and more practical, common sense young gentlemen we have found nowhere. The reason is that when a scientific truth is taught at that institution, the next thing done is to teach the student how to use it in some of the arts; and when the course is ended, the pupils are competent to engage at once in farming, gardening, engineering, or in mechanical trades.

Nobody is more interested than the farmer in the state of the weather, and to no one will the report of weather probabilities be more valuable when the laws which regulate that erratic functionary, the Clerk of the Weather, are more clearly understood. His clerkship is, even now, not the arbitrary despot that he used to be. Though we are almost as much in the dark as ever about the reasons that move him to send us so many changes of weather, we are getting much better acquainted with the probable character of the weather we are going to get. Of the warnings issued by John Bull's "Old Probabilities" in 1874, seventy-eight per cent. were justified by subsequent weather. Still, as the old saying goes, "It is a mighty poor prophet that can't guess right half the time."

AN ENGLISH VETERINARIAN, Mr. Henry Reece, says, that "carbolic acid, when mixed with all animal poisons, renders them inert. The venom of the rattlesnake, the poisonous saliva of the mad dog . . . are all harmless when mixed with carbolic acid." The statement is too sweeping, if not entirely incorrect. As respects the mad dog portion, it is known that hydrophobia does not follow in one case out of twenty even where the dog doing the biting is proved to be rabid. To prove Mr. Reece's statement, experiments would, therefore, have to be made on so large a scale as to be almost impracticable. And yet it would be the height of folly for a professional man to commit himself to such a statement unless he knew there was something in it. We hope, therefore, that Mr. Reece will make public his reasons for the declaration.

THE LOCATION OF FARM HOUSES was the subject of some remarks in the last number of the CANADA FARMER. We are not much in favor, for reasons before given, of the suggestion of some of our cotemporaries, that farmers should locate their homesteads near each other. One weighty reason in favor of near neighborhood, however, is given by the *Massachusetts Ploughman*; and that is, that if homesteads were nearer to each other, the great and increasing nuisance of tramps would be deprived of part of its terrors. We do not suppose that Canada has suffered so much as New England from this cause, but there are unmistakable signs that there is rapidly growing up amongst us a class of men who will not work but insist on eating their fill. We have hopes, however, that, on this side at least, some other and effective remedy will be found which will prove to the tramps that Canada is no country for lazy folks.

WHILE AT THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION AT OTTAWA we were somewhat amused at a remark made by an American visitor about the roots that were shown there. "Ain't them roots splendid, now? We can't grow such roots in Vermont." We assured him that if he would come to the Toronto Exhibition, the following week we would show him some of twice the size—and we have no doubt that some of the Toronto roots were actually double the weight of the first prize-winners at the Provincial. To satisfy our American friends as to the size to which roots can be grown in Canada, we give the weights of a few which Mr. Wm. Rennie of Toronto now has on exhibition. Three Long Red Mangels weigh 9½ lbs., the heaviest being 31 lbs. three Yellow Globe Mangels, 9½ lbs., heaviest 35 lbs.; three white turnips, 18½ lbs., parsnips, 11 lbs., and Swede turnips (Rennet's Purple-top) 15 and 19 lbs. each. The Swedes were checked in their youth by drouth. Mr. Wm. Burgess of Muncey grew the whole of

them. We venture to state that none of our American cotemporaries can trot out a larger root story.

"MAUX CATS," that is, cats destitute of the caudal ornament proper to the genus *felis*, are, as often as not, merely ordinary mousers abbreviated some eight or ten inches. It seems too, that the manufacture of Galloway cattle is an industry that is assuming some importance in Scotland. Principal Walley of the Edinburgh Veterinary College, who was a short time ago prominently before the public as an opponent of the practice of "horning" cattle, says that Mr. Finnie, a farmer residing four miles from Edinburgh bought at that city twenty cattle, presumably Galloway. He did not examine them closely at the time of purchase. When the cattle arrived home, it was found that the horns of the whole lot had been sawn off close to the head, and the long hair of the poll had been so drawn over the wounds, and retained there by some tarry composition so closely as to preclude, without digital examination, the possibility of detection. The whole of the sinuses of the head, which were full of pus (escaping in large quantities when the head was turned to one side) were exposed; and a large, granulating, acutely painful surface was left behind. A case of more fiendish cruelty has rarely been reported—and all performed for the sake of a few shillings per head extra. Civilization is a failure, if the perpetrator of the barbarous act is not punished roundly.

A CORRESPONDENT OF THE LONDON *Agricultural Gazette* is writing a series of articles on farm life in Canada. The tenor of them is fair, as they neither magnify our advantages nor gloss over our disadvantages. He has a good word and a bad one for Canadian farmers' boys. "Boys in Canada, on the farm," he says, "no matter how low their origin, like to go to school. There is a great deal of ambition and emulation in Canadian boys: they are by no means willing to grow up without some education; they see other farmers' sons—whose fathers are struggling quite as hard as their own—regularly sent to school, and they are not satisfied unless they also are spared from the duties of the farm. Where this is not attended to, there will most certainly creep in some most unpleasant feelings between the father and sons, and this often ends in the sons leaving the father and hiring out to work elsewhere. This is one great evil in Canada, and yet it is a most natural consequence. A boy of 14 or 16 years of age can do almost as much work as a man, at ploughing, dragging, driving the team, and in many other kinds of farm work; and to the man who works instead of the boy you must pay at least 15 to 20 dollars a month for the four or five summer months, and board of the best kind additional; consequently a boy soon learns his own value, and unless his interests are well looked after, he will leave home and go elsewhere.

AS WELL AS CONVERTING HORNED CATTLE into the polled variety, alluded to elsewhere, the enlightened British farmer improves upon nature by knocking out the front teeth of his sheep, so that the poor animals can eat the tops off mangolds without being able to injure the roots themselves. So learns the *Agricultural Gazette* from a report from the Wisbeach district, and, says our contemporary, "the statement suggests painful reflections. We have heard of the practice in years gone by, but had hoped that it was numbered among the things of the past—that it had gone out with such things as yoking horses by their tails, or cutting out turkeys' tongues to make the meat white. As we understand, and as the report implies, it is not broken-mouthed sheep, but sheep "with teeth broken," that are put into the mangel fields to eat off the tops. The operation is performed—God knows with what uncouth surgery?—to prevent the unfortunate animals breaking into the roots, so that they may be intact for storing. Let any one try to imagine the sensation of having his teeth broken with pincers, and he will then, perhaps, feel for the poor sheep on which this barbaric practice is used. We are so hardhearted that we would condone ear-marking, and even forgive trimming a puppy's ears should the master have a fancy for so doing. But these we think are trivial matters compared to the wholesale torture inflicted on a flock of sheep by breaking their teeth in their jaws."