

"No man liveth to himself," are the words of the Book of books, and no man's bugs will stay where they are raised, as I have learned to my sorrow. If people have not judgment nor interest enough to protect and spare the birds on their own lands, let the law step in and teach them a profitable lesson. Let petitions be prepared all over the State for the better protection of insectivorous birds, and send in early to our next Legislature, with such a list of names as will insure us attention and respect.

In the meantime, let farmers keep quail-hunters out of their enclosures, as they have the right to do, until we can get such a law as we want for their protection.

Farmers, your boys might trap a flock or two of quails during the winter, and perhaps get a dollar for them, all in cash, and by the same transaction you will give the chinch bugs a wagon load of grain, and lay the foundation for the destruction of your own and your neighbor's crop another year. I believe that a flock of quails is worth at least three times its market value in one season to the farmer, and in many cases ten times as much.

In a future article for the *Rural World* I will mention some ways in which we can assist in increasing the number of useful birds. W. R. E. Savannah, Mo., Nov. 2, 1876.

### Correspondence.

#### The Crop Yield for 1876.

Sir,—In the township of Suwak spring wheat from about twelve to twenty bushels per acre; but the latter amount only on one farm, where the grain was sown late—too late for the hedge, and the great heat was over before the straw began to change color, so that it had a chance to fill well. One of my neighbors had a yield of Spring Wheat, part of which was badly filled, and a poor sample; this grew on soil the usual depth for this part of the country; the other part produced wheat well filled, and an excellent sample; but this part of the field had only a foot of soil lying in a flat limestone rock. Lime possesses the property of attracting moisture from the atmosphere; so that lime when applied to land has a better effect in a dry summer than a wet one. For my own crops, what Scott Wheat I had was sown immediately after harvest, it ripened early; but the grain shrank considerably. Of a field of Treadwell Wheat, which was sown very late, one half was winter killed and re-sown with peas; the other half, though rather short on the ear, gave an excellent sample, better if anything than the wheat of the same variety which took the first prize at the County Exhibition. The Treadwell Wheat appears to suit my soil best, and I have sown no other variety this year. It was looking very well till the frost and snow came on the 14th October; this checked the upward growth, but as the weather became mild afterwards the check will probably prove beneficial by making it strike root downwards. My Spring Wheat was a fair crop for the season. I had both the Genesee and Glasgow varieties; the Glasgow proved the best as the Genesee is more apt to rust, unless sown very early and the summer proves dry, when it gives the best crop and makes the best flour. We had not much rain in June in this section of the country, so that the hay is only a moderate crop, although better than last year. Oats, peas, and root crops good, as we had showery weather during and after harvest, though not rain enough to interfere seriously with our harvest operations. We had rain on six days in August, six days in September, or seven days rain and four days now in October, though in no case was there a whole day's rain at any one time. The rain, however, seems to have been only local. In a township not more than twenty miles to the eastward, the drought dried up the pastures, and injured the root crop also. For the benefit of any of your readers who may be short of hay, I can recommend a method of feeding horses which proved very successful with us last winter, viz., in cut straw, pea straw is best if well saved, and sprinkle it with pickle from a common garden watering pot, and mix chopped feed (oats and peas.) This will stick to the damp straw, and in this way my horses, one of them a three in foal, stood their walk well through the winter, reserving some hay for them till the spring. In this manner one ton of hay will be sufficient for three horses from now till the grass season commences next spring. For oxen or cows the cut straw also sprinkled with pickle should have some bran mixed with it. Milk cows, of course, are better for a regular supply of roots, sugar beets, Swedish turnips or carrots throughout the winter. An occasional feed

of turnips or sugar beets may be given to horses, but carrots are better, if to be had. In these hard times farmers must study economy, but not to such an extent as to pinch their stock. I have kept young pigs through the winter on sugar beets, cut up and fed raw every day with my leavings from the house, but no grain. As for parsnips, I prefer leaving them in the ground till the spring, they are valuable then either for cows or table use, but they must be taken up as soon as the frost leaves the ground, after they have begun to sprout they are very little use.

SARAWAK.

#### Michigan Pomology.

Sir,—The Michigan Pomological Society was organized at the city of Grand Rapids, Kent County, July 5th, 1871, since which time it has become one of the most active and important societies in the interest of agriculture in the State. It has become a settled fact that Michigan as a fruit growing region is second to no other State in the Union. Michigan apples are now looked upon as "A. 1" in all the apple markets of the world. Her peaches are of the choicest varieties, and the crop abundant in certain localities on the lake shores which so nearly surround the State. Pears are cultivated in large quantities and of all varieties known in the market. Plums and cherries, notwithstanding the ravages of the Curculio, are being raised with reasonable success, and grapes are found of the finest quality.

All these, with a fair show of the smaller fruits—so delicious—are all nearly the outgrowth of this organized effort of the fruit men in the above Society. It holds its meetings quarterly in different parts of the State, thus giving each section, with its peculiar fruit, an opportunity to exhibit its product. Its last meeting has just closed—a three days' session at the beautiful City of Coldwater, in Branch Co. There was a good attendance and a splendid display of apples, grapes, preserved fruits and flowers.

The exercises consisted of addresses, discussions and reports of committees, among the most important of which was an address by President T. T. Lyon, who was chairman of the committee on fruit at the Centennial; he gave the Society his experience there and a description of the various exhibits of fruits. Another important lecture was by Prof. A. J. Cook, of the Michigan Agricultural College, at Lansing. His subject was the "Canker Worm." The Prof. illustrated his lecture with charts and diagrams, showing this pest in all its stages.

This insect, by the way, is just beginning to get a foothold in this part of the State, and it was with the deepest interest that the orchardists of Southern Michigan listened to his exposition of its habits and work. There were many other papers read, all of which were commendable efforts, and with the kind hospitality of the citizens of Coldwater, this was one of the most profitable meetings perhaps this Society ever held.

The officers for the next year will be Hon. T. T. Lyon, of South Haven, President; Prof. C. W. Garfield, of the Michigan Agricultural College, Secretary, and H. Dale Adams, of Kalamazoo, Treasurer.

The next meeting will be at Pontiac, Oakland County, in January.

Adrian, Mich., Dec. 12, 1876.

#### Spring Wheat.

Sir,—A most important question is asked when one says: "What is the best description to grow?" That is, what variety is most likely to yield satisfactory results? Of course in answering this question there are many considerations to be regarded, description of soil, condition of soil, climate, etc.

Most of the spring varieties are coarse, and are not held in favor by millers, and that is one reason why we, in England, are reluctant to sow wheat in the spring when we can avoid it. The French farmers are growers of spring wheat to a far larger extent than we are, but they have ever been complaining that their spring wheats blight or break down, and that they grow rough kernel.

Recently a new variety of wheat has been propagated here by Capt. W. Delf, who farms at Great Bentley, W. Colchester. This wheat is held in very high esteem as a fine white wheat which grows upon a red straw and in a chaff which is both red and rough; it is both an autumn and a spring wheat, and is very much sought after, not only in England, but in Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, Hungary, Russia, etc.

The London *Standard*, in speaking of this wheat,

which is appropriately styled the "Mainstay," says: "We saw the finest sample of wheat that we have seen this year (1875) at Ipswich market. It was a very fine white wheat, which weighed 66 lbs. per bushel, and made 4 shillings per quarter more than any any other wheat at market."

At Chelmsford, where the best wheats in the kingdom are shown, was offered the finest sample by far, the "Mainstay." The *Chronicle* speaking of it says, "It is really superb."

A large farmer speaking of spring wheat said that he put his in last March, and it was the best crop he had.

At the Centennial Exhibition this wheat carried off the only prize medal awarded for grain in the British section; the continental journals are loud in their praise of Capt. Dey's success, for the rare wheat and barley grown, he having bestowed great care in selection, etc.

The Societe Centrale d'Agriculture, France, has elected the originator of the "Mainstay" wheat Honorary Corresponding Member of the Society, and he has received the gold medal of the Institution.

There is sufficient evidence both in this country and on the Continent of Europe that the "Mainstay" is a very valuable wheat; it is very robust in its growth, the straw is very stiff, containing a deal of silica, and its roots strike down a great depth, it will stand a great deal of knocking about at harvest time, no amount of wind and storm has any effect upon it, it stands erect and does not lose its grain.

We send you these few lines, which may be a guide to some of your readers of the *FARMERS' ADVOCATE*, a journal from which it is not difficult for farmers on this side of the Atlantic to gain information.

ANGLIAN.

[As we have other English correspondents, we give the name of Anglian to the writer of the above article, from whom we expect more communications.—Ed.]

#### Artificial Manure.

Sir,—I see in your valuable paper a prize offered for the best article on artificial manure, written by practical experience by a Canadian farmer. My experience on artificial manure was on turnip ground. I manured one acre with barn-yard manure spread on top of the ground, ploughed in, after that harrowed and drilled up; another acre manured with dung in the drills; the third acre no manure but the artificial manure. The turnips on the artificial manure were much better than those sown on the manure ploughed in; the dung in the drills turned out the best. My experience on artificial manure, I can safely say that a fair yield can be got without any barn-yard manure by sowing the artificial manure, as I have given it a fair trial this year.

Ancaster, Dec. 4, 1876. RICHARD O'HARA.

[The next article must be more complete than this. We award a prize offered for an article on Artificial Manure to the writer of this article, although we should have preferred one giving more particulars in regard to soil, cultivation, and measured results. As the competition for this prize is not large, we think it judicious to offer another prize on the same subject, as some may not have had time to write.—Ed.]

A second article on the use of superphosphate has come to hand since our award of a prize to the foregoing communication. To the writer of this second one we also give a prize, and hope to further particulars of the application of the superphosphate in competition for the additional prize we now offer, and other competitors too will be found in the list.

Sir,—We are highly pleased with the *Advocate* and consider it conveys a great deal of useful information. Our wheat crop was poor the past year; the midge was rather bad in the early sorts, and the Scotch rusted badly, the first time I have known it to rust in twenty years. The two previous years it was first-rate on rut ground and summer fallow; it yielded from 25 to 30 bushels per acre. Our turnip crop in July promised first-rate, but resulted in not half a crop; drouth and caterpillars were the cause. Our other crops are about an average, excepting hay, which is above.

Please inform me through the *Advocate* of the best way to apply superphosphate to the turnip crop, as I intend to try a barrel or more. I have a drill that will sow salt or any fine substance with the seed. Would it answer sown in that way?

ALEX. SMYTH, Mariposa.

[Mr. Smyth will find on another page the information required concerning superphosphate.—Ed.]