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RURAL NOTES.

In the State of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa there are 1,689 creameries. This means an immense production of butter, and as it is of first rate quality it means a large result when converted into dollars.

The fodder from a good corn crop, especially if it be cut and gathered when the stalks are in a succulent state, is worth nearly as much for cows as an average crop of hay. A mixture of both is better than either.

All rubbish around fruit trees should be removed and burnt before snow falls, otherwise there is danger of the trees being girdled by mice. If in addition the trees are banked with earth there need be no fear of the mice.

Timothy seed succeeds best when sown on wheat land in the fall, but in order that no harm may be done it should not be sown until a few weeks after wheat seeding. Clover is more tender, and should not be sown until spring.

The farmer who has the greatest variety of products to sell is the one best prepared for low prices, and as mixed husbandry is best for maintaining fertility it is reasonable to believe that it is the best policy for all times and places.

On the farm, and especially in the dairy, ice soon gets to be regarded as a necessity, when it has once been used. It costs but little to build a good ice house, and any farmer handy with a saw and a hammer can easily build one for himself.

Up to the middle of October 50,606 head of live cattle were shipped from Montreal to Liverpool, being 4,841 more than the corresponding period last year, and 11,696 more than in 1882. The exports of sheep to the same date were 45,596 head, which is somewhat less than last year.

The best rule for keeping apples in winter is, to keep them cool. The fruit cellar should be cool, clean, well ventilated, and have a northern exposure; and excepting on rainy days the northern windows should be kept open until there is danger of freezing. Of course apples must be well sorted to keep well.

The farmer who provides warm quarters and plenty of wholesome food for his live stock is not usually the man who seeks loans from neighbours or the banks, or who complains of hard times and low prices. Experience shows that extra care in providing choice food, pure water and warm stables in winter pays a good profit on the cost.

The labour of caring for a hundred sheep is not greater than is needed in a dairy of two cows, and in spite of the continued low price of wool the profit is not less. Sheep farming ought not to be abandoned although wool is a drug in the market. There is, as we have pointed out on previous occasions, a good opportunity in breeding sheep for the meat market, matured animals for shipment to England, and lambs and yearlings for our own and the United States markets.

In its final growth before seeding the clover plant sends its roots down into the soil deeper than at any previous stage of its growth, and for this reason land after a clover-seed crop has been taken off is richer than after almost any other crop. It is, therefore, of great importance that our farmers should continue to grow it, and in spite of the ravages of insects it may be successfully grown. All that is necessary is, to pasture the clover fields until the 10th or 15th of June, then take the cattle off and leave the crop to mature for seed.

It seems to us that the practice of feeding horses out of a nose-bag is deserving of the attention of the disciples of Bergh. It is a very unwholesome and disagreeable practice, as any teamster may learn to his thorough satisfaction by sticking his own head in a bag for the space of five minutes. Yet many a poor horse is left for the whole of his noon hour inhaling his own foul breath while munching his feed of oats—his head encased to his eyes in a close-fitting leather sack. The wonder is, not that the poor animal's usefulness is impaired by such treatment, but that he is not literally smothered. The practice is a barbarous one and ought to be suppressed.

It is only in rare instances, where soil and climate are peculiarly favourable, and with careful culture and expensive manuring, that dwarf pears are successful in a financial sense, yet on the strength of the successful rare instances nurserymen have sold millions of trees at good profits. It is a mistake to take for unqualified truth the stories of nurserymen or their itinerant agents. It is a risky thing in such matters to deal with any except well known and responsible men. To do otherwise is to run the risk of sore disappointment after the labour and waiting of years. The time will come, let us hope, when the nurserymen will find it necessary to abandon the tree pedler business, and try something less odious.

No apples sent to the English markets are in so much demand or bring such good prices as the apples grown in Ontario. A leading exporter, who has himself an extensive orchard, informs us

that the offering of a consignment of Canadian brand never fails to attract a crowd of buyers, and that the bidding is always spirited. Many American exporters understand this so well now that they make their shipments *via* Montreal and brand their apples as Canadian. But this is a matter that can be looked after, and Canadian dealers will find it their interest to attend to it. Our fruit growers have a great opportunity before them, and there is little doubt that ere long the trade will attain to large proportions. The prospect of shipments to England was never more promising than now, especially for the better and later varieties of apples.

It is noticed in the Western States that when the Indian corn crop is injured by frost, it shows at once in the weight of hogs. Thus in September of last year the hogs sold at Chicago and fed on the corn of 1882 averaged 258 pounds; while those sold in September of this year, fed on the corn of 1883, averaged only 238 pounds. This year's crop is fully ripened, of prime quality, full of saccharine matter, and the total product of the United States is estimated at from 1,800,000,000 to 1,900,000,000 bushels. It might therefore be assumed that a large increase will appear in the pork product of the country, but it must be remembered that not only was the number of hogs reduced in consequence of the failure of last year's corn, but that their condition during this year was under the average. It will therefore be some time yet before the lost balance is restored. In our own Province the conditions are much the same, and pork will be several weeks later than usual in reaching the markets.

It is stated that the farmers of Minnesota and Dakota are likely henceforth to pay more attention to the growth of flax than of wheat. The estimate of this year shows that about one-half of the entire crop of flax in the United States, or about 4,500,000 bushels, has been produced in this state and Territory, the average being eighteen bushels per acre. The wheat average is about the same, but while wheat brings only fifty to sixty cents per bushel this year flax-seed is selling at \$1.15. Indeed in many parts of Dakota the highest offer for wheat is only thirty-five cents per bushel. It is no wonder, therefore, that the farmers of this American Northwest are seriously considering a wholesale change from wheat to flax, and with a large and growing demand for the various products of flax they are sanguine that the crop will pay for many years to come. It is stated that at the present time the oilcake product of the linseed oil mill at St. Paul is disposed of entirely to the dairymen west of Chicago. Here is a hint for our own farmers.