

of Port Perry, as will be seen by their advertisement in this issue, are now prepared to fill all orders for the Marsh Harvester, in reference to which they make the following statement:

"The history of this invention is confined to the last three years. From 250 machines built in 1866 the number has increased to over 2,000 for 1868. The advantages of this machine over the old styles are very marked and prominent, and in part consist of the following, viz:—In *Light Draft*, two horses being sufficient to draw it. 2nd, In *saving hands*, two men being able to bind as much riding on this machine as four or five following the old styles. 3rd, In *saving shattered grain*; the difference in favour of the harvester being from half to one bushel per acre. Now, these advantages are real, and very obvious; they have insured large sales wherever the machine has been tried, and mark the 'Marsh Harvester' as the reaper which can show at the end of each season a decided saving of money to the farmer. We ask a candid consideration of what we claim, and a fair trial for this new candidate for public favour. The practical farmer admits the very great advantage in saving half the labor of binding, enabling him to save his crops without hiring a housefull of extra hands. We know and are ready to warrant that this machine will perform all that we claim for it, and will make all sales conditional that it performs in the field as we represent. We ask for these statements a candid consideration, and hold ourselves in readiness to answer promptly and fully all enquiries."

We believe the introduction of the Marsh Harvester will prove a valuable boon to the Canadian farmer, and will mark an important era of progress in the history of the reaping machine.

The Taste of Horseflesh.

That eminent naturalist and sportsman, Frank Buckland, gives an amusing account in the *Mark Lane Express* of his attendance at the Langham Hotel horse banquet. First he states his own deliberate opinion as to the merits of the new article of animal food, thus,—"the meat is nasty." He says he went to the dinner "without fear or prejudice," tasted all the dishes from the soup to the jelly, and in every form an unwonted and peculiar taste could be recognized. This taste he likens to the peculiar odour emitted by a horse that has been hard galloped, and it is so inveterate, that he does not believe any kind or amount of cooking can possibly conceal or do away with it.

So much for himself. In regard to his fellow-guests, he says,—"In the middle of the dinner at the Langham Hotel I stood up to watch the countenances of the people eating, and I devoutly wished I had had the talent of a Hogarth to be able to record the various expressions. Instead of men's heads wagging, there seemed to be a dubious and inquisitive cast spread over the features of most who were present; many, indeed, reminded me of the attitude of a person about to take a pill and draught; not a rush at the food, but a "one-two-three" expression about them, coupled not unfrequently by calling in the aid of the olfactory powers, reminding one of the short and doubtful sniffs that a domestic puss (not over-hungry) takes of a bit of bread-and-butter. The bolder experimenters gulped down the meat and instantly followed it with a draught of champagne; then came another mouthful, and then, as we doctors say, "*Fiat haustus ut antea*." And if after the feast an average had been taken, I fancy there would have been more empty bottles than empty dishes for the waiters to clear away."

Mr. Buckland thinks "hippophagy," as the eating of horseflesh is termed, has not the slightest chance of success in England. Even the poor cannot, he believes, be induced to use it. He has talked with many people of this class on the point. The greatest abhorrence is expressed, especially among the women, who, he says, would as soon think of cooking cats'

meat for their husbands as horseflesh. He is of opinion that if this meat contained in it the elements of good and cheap food, the poor people would have found it out of themselves long ago, and it would not be needful for a lot of gentlemen to meet together to show them the way to eat it. Among the better classes he believes the flesh of the horse will never become popular, for these reasons: first, the cooks will not prepare it under compulsion; secondly, the ladies will object to it; and thirdly, the master of the house will find it vastly inferior to beef and mutton.

By all accounts "hippophagy" is making progress in France, notoriously the country of skilled cooks and connoisseurs of food, but the phlegmatic English do not espouse novelties so readily as the mercenary French.

GOLDSMITH'S CATALOGUE OF SEEDS.—We have received a copy of Mr. Goldsmith's Annual Catalogue of Garden, Agricultural, and Flower Seeds, which, together with the advertisement in reference thereto in our present issue, we commend to the notice of farmers and horticulturists. The catalogue contains a very complete list of seeds adapted for this climate, with brief and simple directions in regard to their culture. Mr. Goldsmith also advertises a large assortment of bedding-out and other plants, &c. We can confidently and cordially recommend Mr. Goldsmith to those who may find it convenient to obtain their supplies of seed and plants from him. Address, St. Catharines, Ontario.

COST OF THE DOG LUXURY.—We happened to glance, the other day, at the published account of the Treasurer for the Township of Puslinch, as it appeared in a local paper. Observing that "paid destruction of sheep" came very often, we had the curiosity to foot up these items. The result was that out of \$119 44c. of township expenditure, \$351.25 were paid for destruction of sheep. We don't suppose the Puslinch dogs are any worse than others, and the inference is clear that the dog luxury (luxury?) is a very expensive affair. The fondness of many human beings for dogs is very inexplicable to us. We are patriotic enough to wish that the crows had at least nine-tenths of the canine race as it exists in Canada.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Crop Reports in England.

A RECENT number of the *Mark Lane Express* gives the condensed substance of five hundred and fifty letters received from all parts of England in reference to the cereal crops of the harvest of 1867. These letters appear to have been elicited by printed questions for carded to the writers by the proprietors of the journal in question. It is, we believe, their custom to seek information about the crops annually in this way. The following are the chief results of the enquiry, thrown into tabular form:—

	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
Failure	—	—	—	—	15
Two-thirds under average	—	—	—	—	31
Half under average	—	—	—	—	—
One-third under average	—	—	—	—	27
One-fourth under average	—	—	—	—	34
One-fifth under average	—	—	—	—	—
One-sixth under average	—	—	—	—	—
Under average	—	—	—	—	127
Average	—	—	—	—	142
Over average	—	—	—	—	15
One-sixth over average	—	—	—	—	—
One-fifth over average	—	—	—	—	—
One-fourth over average	—	—	—	—	—
One-third over average	—	—	—	—	—
One-half over average	—	—	—	—	—
Total	550	522	515	375	405

As compared with the year 1866, the yields of all the cereals were below the mark, with the exception of oats, which were far in advance of the previous

year, as will be seen by the following comparative statement:—

Years.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.	Beans.	Peas.
	average.	average.	average.	average.	average.
	Under	Under	Under	Under	Under
	Over	Over	Over	Over	Over
1867	452	303	132	321	151
1866	328	171	352	183	330
	Under	Under	Under	Under	Under
	Over	Over	Over	Over	Over

From this table it appears that the number of reports of a deficient crop in 1867 exceeds those of 1866 in the following proportions, viz., wheat 121, barley 13, beans 120, peas 174; while the returns of oats are in favor of the last crop to the extent of 51.

This unfavourable condition of things was balanced to some extent by the excellent order in which the grain was harvested, and by the good price it commanded when sent to market.

The *Mark Lane Express* estimates the actual deficiency in last year's wheat crop at fully one fourth of an average, or four million quarters; and from the fact that the wheat crop was begun upon as quickly as it was housed, there being no old wheat in the country, it is estimated that at the present time there is a much smaller stock on hand than in any season since 1851. "It is, therefore, probable," says our contemporary, "that by next harvest we shall find ourselves as short of stock as at the last."

This is a very different exhibit from what appearances indicated at the time of harvest. From the look of the fields a plentiful yield was anticipated and proclaimed. During harvest, the lightness of the handfuls in the reaper's hands, led to suspicion that the crop was not so good as it looked to the eye, and soon the flail and threshing machine confirmed the suspicion. But only since the returns have come in from all parts of the island has it been ascertained how general and serious the deficiency has been. There, as here, the want of some plan of securing trustworthy crop returns is greatly felt. All parties concerned need to know as promptly as possible the character of the harvest. Ignorance converts legitimate business into mere speculation, which, though it may sometimes bring large gain, oftener leads to disastrous losses. There is, it would appear, no immediate prospect of cheap bread on either side the Atlantic.

Officers of Agricultural Societies for 1868.

CANAN.—President, Thomas McCamus, Esq., Bailieboro P.O.; Vice-President, Thomas Morrow, Springville P.O.; Secretary and Treasurer, J. W. Sootheran, Millbrook P.O. Directors:—Wm. Thexton, George Thorn, W. H. Lowes, Anthony Garnet, Richard Howden, Wm. Richmond, James Sissons, Thomas Williamson, James E. Jan.

SPRING HORSE SHOW.—The annual spring show of the Canan Agricultural Society, for stallions, will be held at Millbrook, on Monday, the 4th May, 1868. Prizes are offered for Draught, Carriage and thorough-bred blood horses.

CANADA SHORT-HORN HERD BOOK.—We beg to acknowledge the receipt, just as we go to press, of a sample copy of this long looked-for publication from Mr. Secretary Thomson. We can only at present announce the issue of this work from the press, and say of its external appearance, that it is a very respectable-looking volume. Of its contents we may have somewhat to say hereafter.

DAIRY MEETING.—A public meeting of the patrons of the Cedar Grove (Markham) Cheese Factory, will be held at the factory, on Saturday, April 18, 1868, commencing at 1 o'clock, p.m., for the purpose of making arrangements and appointing a committee for the coming season, after which the following subjects will be brought forward for discussion:—1st. The prospects of Cheese-making in this part of Canada. 2nd. The best kind of stock for dairy purposes. 3rd. The best kind of grass for dairy stock. 4th. The best manner of soiling cows, and keeping up the flow of milk during the dry part of the summer. 5th. The use and value of whey. Practical and experienced persons will be invited to attend and give their views on the above subjects. Farmers are requested to attend.