



Vol. I. No. 8.

Toronto, Wednesday, March 15th, 1882.

\$1 per annum, in advance.

RURAL NOTES.

The *Kansas Farmer* says: "Without an exception, all our farmers that have made any money here, have done so by driving their products to market on legs."

The silk industry is growing rapidly in the United States, about \$16,000,000 of silk goods having been produced by the silk mills in Pater-son, N. Y., during the past year.

The *Concord Monitor* affirms that ensilage is a success as a mere auxiliary food, but "that is all there is to it." Most of those who feed it give a liberal allowance of meal along with it.

A New York doctor declares that horses ought to be treated to fruit and sugar now and then, and he agrees with Rev. Mr. Spurgeon, that, above all, one day's rest in seven is important for them.

Grapes are often over-pruned. A Maine cultivator of them gets fine crops from vines that have been permitted to climb and cover an arbour or trellis without being taken down or pruned for nearly fifteen years.

A New Jersey man says that two days' attendance at a farmer's meeting thirty years ago—which his neighbours laughed at as a waste of time—gave him information by the use of which he has since saved hundreds of dollars.

PROFESSOR SHELDON'S book on Dairy Farming is advertised by the Orange Judd Co. of New York at \$12.50. It is, no doubt, a very full, comprehensive, and useful work, but the high price is against it. If some one would boil it down, and give us the essence of it at a cost not exceeding one dollar, some thousands of dairymen in Canada and the United States might be induced to buy it.

The "New Guide to Rose Culture," issued annually by the Dingee and Conard Co. of West Grove, Pa., is not only a catalogue of the varieties of "the queen of flowers" kept for sale by this enterprising firm, but a complete hand-book of rose culture. It is sent free to all intending purchasers. The Guide for 1882, just received, is embellished with a beautiful coloured plate representing, in a life-like manner, a trio of new roses.

Referring to the excessive use of pork in farmers' families, E. P. Roe says, in a recent work of his: "In June, of all months, in sultry July and August, there arises from innumerable country breakfast tables the pungent odour of a meat into which the devils went, but out of which there

is no proof that they ever came." Beef and mutton can be produced as easily and cheaply as pork, and they are at once more palatable and more wholesome.

Will some advocate of sugar-making from the beet be kind enough to "rise and explain" why this industry does not flourish on the North American continent? Another abortive attempt at it is reported. The Delaware Co., operating near Wilmington, Del., has found the project "unprofitable in that climate." While the sorghum and amber cane sugar interests appear to be prospering both north and south, the beet sugar industry languishes. The first really successful attempt in this line on this continent has yet to be recorded.

The horse disease known among veterinary surgeons as "Epizootic Cellulitis," and commonly called "pink-eye," which has been raging for some time past in the United States, has broken out in Toronto. It first appeared in the stables of the Street Car Company on Front Street, and spread so rapidly that over thirty horses were soon laid up. The malady is not dangerous except when it assumes the rheumatic form, in which case the animal's joints swell, there is great pain, and the results are often fatal. Exposure to cold, wet weather is supposed to be the cause of the complaint. It takes from ten to thirty days to effect a cure. Shelter and warmth are the most likely precautions against it.

The *Prairie Farmer*, which is ridiculously tinctured with Anglophobia, and loses no opportunity of chronicleing anything that indicates the ruin and decay of Britain, "gets off" the following sarcastic fling in a recent issue:—

The English have at last found something to fall back on. America may flood Great Britain with wheat, flour, corn, beef, pork, and canned goods; butter, cheese, but-terine, suine, oleomargarine (the latter a misnomer, chem-ically speaking), glucose, cotton, manufactured goods, in short any and everything but the ingredients of "alf and 'alf," and "Bass's pale." We "'aven't got the 'ops nor the barley, you know!" Hence we find a British bard sings with a satisfaction soothing to the whole nation:—

"Wheat, Rye, or Beans may flourish or may fade;
To bring them here is the importer's trade;
But Hops and Barley, Britain's boast and pride,
By foreign farmers ne'er can be supplied."

APIARIAN humbugs of one kind and another still infest the market, and bee-keepers, or those intend- ing to become such, need to be put on their guard against them. It should be understood that there are now no "mysteries of bee-keeping," except to the class who do not read publications on apicul- ture. The secrets of this business are all "open secrets." Any parties who offer by mail or other- wise to make known "new methods," by which fortunes can be speedily made out of bees, merely trade on the ignorance and credulity of the public.

Patent hives, moth-traps, and all such devices for money-getting have had their day, and bee-keep- ing has been reduced to a business, the principles of which are the common property of all intelli- gent and well-informed apiarists.

There is about as much difference between wild and cultivated grasses as there is between a wild crab and a good, grafted apple. Yet many farmers are satisfied with natural pasturage, and some even think it better than any other. The wild grasses are usually coarse, deficient in nutri- ment, and do not fill out the season. This last is a very important consideration. An Iowa farmer, writing in the *Country Gentleman* on this point, says: "With plenty of good tame grass pasture, we can lengthen out our grazing season in Iowa about two months longer than with wild grass pastures only; get more milk and butter, and have our stock in better condition." Seeding down should be done with the utmost care, and with a variety of grasses, early and late.

A CONTRIBUTOR to "Notes and Queries" has unearthed a list of agricultural implements and sundries which were in use on a farm in Warwick- shire, England, in 1565. Here it is:—

"One cart bound with iron, seven yokes harnished with iron, two yokes with iron rings called copyokes with rings, six iron taws, three cock-cleaves with pins, two culcers, two plough-shares, three nagers, two muck forks, two muck hooks, one double-grained fork called a pike fork, one wain rop, one mattock, one brier sithe, two carts called tum- brels, two spades, one hopper, four rings called ox bows, two iron rings called sibe rings, four carts, one great har- row called an ox harrow, two harrows called small harrows. The above implements were estimated to be then of the value of 100s."

If this be compared with one of the handbills advertising an auction sale of farm stock and im- plements in these days, some idea will be got of the progress agriculture has made during the past 300 years.

It is to be hoped that "Wild Oscar, the Aas- thete," will not bring the sunflower and lily into disrepute among sensible people. They are good, old-fashioned flowers, though rather large for wearing in one's button-hole. The sunflower is a cheerful and happy-looking plant when in bloom. A grove of it around a dwelling is a counteractive of malaria. Its seeds make excellent food for fowls. The lily in all its varieties is lovely, from the modest lily of the valley to the gorgeous and mammoth *Victoria Regia*. These deserving flow- ers are worthy of a better fate than that of being linked with the name of a man, if man he be, who has made himself the laughing-stock of two hem- ispheres. There was point in the wit of the ven- erable poet who went about the Century Club on the night of the "Aas-thete's" visit, asking, "Where is she? Well, why not say 'she'?" I understand she's a Charlotte-Ann."