

Miscellaneous.

Weather and Crops.

A "Canadian Farmer," writes from Derby, County Grey, Sept. 10th, 1864. "The harvest is now well nigh over in this locality, although there are still some 'patches' of late oats to cut. The weather, on the whole, has been very propitious for harvest operations. For about eight days the weather was rather broken, and did some little damage to cut grain; but, with this exception, it has been all that could be desired; and I think that, generally, grain has been housed in excellent condition.

"With regard to the yield, it will be fully equal to that of last year in the amount of grain, although not more than half the quantity of straw. The quality, too, is excellent—the average, I should say, judging from what I have seen threshed, will be from sixteen to eighteen bushels of spring wheat to the acre. Fall wheat will yield somewhere about twenty bushels per acre. Barley and oats will not yield quite as well in proportion.

"The week of wet weather in the middle of harvest has wrought wonders in the root crops. Potatoes and turnips are growing finely; and parties who, three weeks ago, despaired of having any of those valuable roots, now expect to realize a fair crop.

"The grain has not been infested with aphids this year, but there was a small white worm, similar to the pea grub, that did some damage to the wheat crop, but not to any serious extent, although some of our farmers, from having heard of the ravages of the midge in other places, thought at one time that their crop would be destroyed, and that they would not have bread, believing that this was the veritable midge; for, fortunately, we do not know by experience what the midge really is. Perhaps you could give us a short history of the midge, its habits, description, &c., which would be interesting to many of the readers of THE FARMER, and would save us from needless alarm in future."

NOTES FROM OXFORD CO.—"R. W. S." writes from East Zorra, Sept. 12, 1864:—"Conjecture as to the probable yield of grain has given place to the half-bushel test, and a fair estimate may be made as to the general average. As far as my own knowledge and reliable information extend, I may safely assert that the general average in wheat will, at least, equal that of last year; oats and barley a little less; peas also less. My own yield is—fall wheat, 18 bushels per acre; spring do., 12 bushels; barley, 20; oats, 20—all of which, I think, may be considered a full average of the township. I have heard of 40 bushels per acre of fall wheat, but have not seen higher than 25 bushels. Apples will be abundant and larger than expected; the late rains having swelled them out immensely. Roots may be good, but cannot possibly be large.

"Flax has been sown to a very large extent in this neighbourhood, one farmer having about thirty acres, and while the straw is almost as heavy as last year, the seed is not as good, and the yield of flax will be much below an average. This is becoming an important crop, and while the wheat is so infested with insect pests, it will be wise for farmers to turn their attention more fully to this branch of operations.

"FAILURE OF WHEAT AFTER TURNIPS.—Will some of your chemical correspondents tell us the reason why wheat almost invariably fails when succeeding root crops, especially turnips?

"L." writes from Hay, Huron Co., Sept. 21, 1864:—"The long drouth came to an end about the middle of August, and rain fell in abundance during the rest of the month, in fact the latter end of the harvest was rather catching, and although it scarcely got the length of injuring the crops of those who had patience and waited, yet a good many farmers, with that exaggeration of fear, so aptly illustrated in a late No. of THE CANADA FARMER, by the lawyer and his potato, hurried in their grain before it was fit. They are now finding a tough thresh; and some of them will find a dull market.

Harvest was well over, generally speaking, in this and adjoining townships, by the end of August; some two weeks earlier than usual. The next move was to the summer fallows, for fall wheat seeding. The ground was rather wet at the start, but by the 7th and 8th of this month, got in fine condition to receive the seed. Here and there, some are still sowing, but by the 14th it was generally over. There has been a

very large quantity sown. For several years past, but little fall wheat has been grown in the Eastern portion of Hay and Stanley, or in Tuckersmith, or Osborne, but tempted by the good crops realized by the few cautious ones who tried a few acres, those two years past, and excited by a different kind of exaggeration than that mentioned above, every one is at it, and he is no farmer at all who has not sowed this year from five to twenty acres. Those who risk nothing but a well manured summer-fallow will likely come out all right; but almost every kind of stubble is being turned over and sown. I am doubtful that some will reap in sorrow.

The threshing machines have been busy, sufficiently at least, to give us data enough to determine the yield of spring wheat, barley and oats. As was expected, the quality is good, but the quantity to the acre small. Spring wheat from 10 to 15, barley from 15 to 30, and oats from 16 to 35 bushels to the acre. Those figures tell of a lightish crop, and as the price is likely to be low, we must make up our minds to study prudence and economy at least one year longer.

The weather, so far through this month, has been splendid. In the enjoyment of the clear, cool sunny days, one almost forgets the rigorous cold and scorching heat of the past. The fields and woods are clothed in verdure of deepest green. The beasts are luxuriating in abundance, and are fast making up for the scanty herbage of the past. It is difficult to recognize the gaunt, excited-looking animal of six weeks ago in the well-fed, sleek, meek-eyed animal of to-day. The passing stranger, judging from the face of Nature, could at present see no premonition of the winter, that will so soon be upon us; but the old resident can already see the soft maple leaf with an altered colour, peeping out here and there from amongst the mass of green foliage. He knows that in a few weeks its mates will be sere and yellow, and that two short months will bring us 'fields and forests bare.'

Hydraulic Power for Stumping and other Machines.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Some back No. of THE CANADA FARMER contained an article from W. S., of Woburn, in which were some pertinent remarks relating to the application of hydraulic power to the extraction of stumps. I purposed then to notice the matter in an article on the subject; however, going from home shortly after, the matter was set aside. But now, on my return, seeing in the No. for 15th August, an article from "Nota Bene," of Sydney, which shows plainly that the hydraulic press is not commonly understood, I am induced to send the following:—

The hydraulic press, which is constructed on the principle that all the particles composing a body of water, when confined, are equally affected by pressure applied to any portion of it, is composed of two tubes of unequal calibre communicating with each other, having each a water tight piston adapted, the interspace being filled with water. If the piston in the smaller tube be forced down, an upward pressure, through the medium of the water, will be exerted upon the larger piston, the whole force of which will be in proportion as the aperture in which the larger piston works, is greater than that in which the smaller piston works. If the smaller piston is half an inch in diameter, and the larger, one foot in diameter, then the pressure on the larger piston will be 576 times greater than that on the smaller one. Thus, let the pressure given to the small piston be one ton, the large piston will be forced up, against any resistance, with a pressure equal to the weight of 576 tons. It would be easy for a single man to give the pressure of a ton by means of a lever. A man would therefore be able, with this engine, to exert a force equal to the weight of near 600 tons. It is evident that the force to be obtained by this principle can only be limited by the strength of the material of which the engine is made. Thus if the pressure of two tons be given to a piston, the diameter of which is only $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch, the force transmitted to the other piston, if three feet in diameter, would be upwards of 40,000 tons, a force far too powerful for any material with which we are acquainted.

I feel fully satisfied of my ability to furnish the plan of a machine that would work efficiently in the extraction of stumps, on the above principle, such as "W. S." of Woburn then pointed out, which might justly supplant the many awkward, inconvenient, and inefficient modes of extracting them. Further, I am sanguine that I shall yet be able to apply this powerful agency to machinery in general.

T. A. Q. M.
Romney, August, 1864.

Poetry.

The Ploughman.

BY OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES.

CLEAR the brown path to meet his couler's gleam,
Lo' on he comes, behind his smoking team,
With toll's bright dewdrops on his sunburnt brow,
The lord of earth, the hero of the plough!
First in the field, before the reddening sun,
Last in the shadows when the day is done,
Line after line, along the burning sod,
Marks the broad acres where his feet have trod,
Still, where he treads, the stubborn clods divide,
The smooth, fresh furrow opens deep and wide;
Matted and dense the tangled turf upheaves,
Mellow and dark the ridgy corn-field cleaves.
Up the steep hillside, where the laboring team
Slants the long track that scores the level plain;
Thro' the moist valley, clogged with oozing clay,
The patient convoy breaks its destined way.
At every turn the loosening chains resound,
The swinging ploughshare circles glistening round,
Till the wide field one billow' waste appears,
And wearied hands unbind the panting steers.
These are the hands whose sturdy labor brings
The peasants' food, the golden pomp of kings;
This is the page, whose letters shall be seen,
Changed by the sun to words of living green,
This is the scholar, whose immortal pen
Spells the first lesson taught to hungry men.
These are the lines that heaven commanded Toil
Shows on his deed—the charter of the soil.

Agricultural Enigmas.

NUMBER I.

I am composed of nine letters.

1. My 1, 4, 7, 9—You must keep warm and dry to preserve your health.
2. My 5, 2, 3, 7—Is what every farmer should have.
3. My 7, 8, 9—I hope you will always be able to do heartily.
4. My 9, 6, 2, 4, 1—Is one who is unfit to be trusted.
5. My 3, 8, 9—Is how a farmer wishes to see his cattle.
6. My 9, 4, 8—Is an agricultural product of warm climes.

My whole is a kind of grain.

NUMBER II.

I am contained in eight letters.

1. My 8, 6, 4, 1—Is a valuable article of a cleansing quality.
 2. My 2, 4, 5, 8—Is excellent feed for horses, &c.
 3. My 3, 7, 4—Is a stimulating drink, universally used.
 4. My 1, 7, 4, 8—Is a grain, excellent for fattening swine.
 5. My 4, 1, 7—Is an animal of the monkey tribe.
- My whole is a useful root, described by a certain author as the "Crutch of Life."
Rugby, August, 1864. J. S. JOHNSTON.

Markets.

Toronto Markets.

"CANADA FARMER" Office, Oct. 1, 1864.
Flour Improving, superfine and fancy \$4 25 per barrel, extra \$4 40 to \$4 75.
Fall Wheat dull at 88c to 92c per bushel; the latter for few sam-
ples.
Spring Wheat held at 78c to 82c per bushel.
Barley active at 82c to 86c per bushel.
Oats unsteady at 55c to 40c for Canadian.
Pease 55c to 62c per bushel.
Rye 66c per bushel.
Hay in good supply and demand at \$12 per ton for best.
Straw active at \$7 to \$8 per ton.
Provisions—Butter—Fresh, wholesale, per lb., 13c to 15c; retail per lb., 18c to 23c.
Eggs—Wholesale, per dozen, 10c to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; retail, per dozen, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 15c.
Hams—Wholesale, per lb., 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ c, retail, per lb., 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
Pork—Wholesale, per lb., 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 9c; retail, per lb., 10c.
Cheese—Wholesale, per lb., 10c to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; retail, per lb., 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 14c.
Lard—Wholesale, 11c per lb.; retail, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
Beef—Market well supplied; inferior—none offering, second quality, \$4 to \$4 50; extra, \$4 50 to \$5.
Sheep scarce; \$4 to \$4 50 by the car load.
Lamb each \$2 to \$2 25 for good.
Calves—Each \$3 to \$4.
Hides (green) per 100 lbs., \$4 to \$5.
Calfskins per lb., 18c to 20c.
Sheepskins 75c.
Lambskins 75c.
Coal \$7 to \$8 per ton.
Wood \$4 to \$4 75 per cord.
Salt \$1 25 to \$1 50 per bbl.
Water Lime \$1 to \$1 50 per bbl.
Potatoes—New plentiful at 50c to \$1.
Cool Oil at 30c to 40c for Canada; 45c to 55c and 60c for Pen-
sylvania.