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RURAL NOTES.

WE will consider it a favour if our readers in various portions of the country will mail us a postal card with a few lines concerning wheat, fruit and other prospects.

THE *Poultry Journal* advises that frozen eggs be attended to promptly. Then they will be as good to eat as others. The plan suggested is to drop the frozen eggs directly into boiling water and leave it for about ten minutes. When opened it will be found to have a soft yolk, which would not have been the case if it had been thawed out in cold water.

GEORGE IV. wore a stock to hide the scrofulous sores of "King's Evil" about his neck, and so stocks became fashionable regardless of any taint in the blood. An Englishman invented blinders to hide a defect in the eye of a valuable horse, and, as a trade-mark of nobility, the blinder came into fashion. Blinders and stock should be reserved for their original objects. They are good enough to conceal disease or disfigurement, but for any other purpose they are a nuisance.

THE *London Advertiser* says: THE RURAL CANADIAN continues to exhibit marked evidences of enterprise and improvement, the last month's number presenting an unusual number of excellencies. Mr. C. Blackett Robinson, the publisher, has taken over the *Canadian Farmer and Grange Record*, incorporating it with the RURAL CANADIAN, in which the Grange and Apiary Departments will be continued. These new attractions, combined with former practical features, will make THE RURAL CANADIAN one of the most welcome and valuable visitor in the homes of our agriculturists.

THE question of harrowing and rolling wheat in spring, being introduced at a recent meeting of the Rochester, N. Y., Farmers' Club, Daniel E. Rogers, of Scottville, related his experience. He said former results had been such that if he had a good piece of wheat, well seeded to timothy, he would sow clover seed early in the spring without harrowing; if a porous soil or one inclined to heave, he would use the roller. If not previously seeded to timothy, then he would mix all the seed together and sow early in the spring and harrow as soon as the ground was in condition to work with a fine tooth harrow. Mr. Rogers believes he has lost several crops of clover by not harrowing immediately after sowing.

A visit was made to the Agricultural College at Guelph a few days ago by a goodly number of members of the Local Legislature, and prominent in the party was the Lieutenant Governor. We were pleased to see that in the after dinner speeches of members there was exhibited a very friendly feeling towards the College by men of both political parties, and that, in spite of some adverse criticism of the institution which has been made in party newspapers, there was an emphatic recognition of its usefulness. There should be no more politics in the Agricultural College than in the Provincial University, but each party should vie with the other in promoting its efficiency and usefulness.

THERE is a good deal to be said in favour of a short bill introduced in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. Wood of Hastings, referring to the assessment of lands newly purchased from the Crown. Such purchases are made quietly, there is no public or official announcement of them; and an individual may be the owner of a lot for years without paying a cent of local taxes. Either the Commissioner of Crown Lands should publish a list of sales once a year in the Gazette, or the clerk of the municipality in which the lands are situated should be notified of every sale made each year. Speculators in lands have much fewer immunities now than formerly, but they should have none at all.

One of the topics discussed at the Ontario Fruit-Growers' Association was the relative value of apples and roots as food for live stock. According to the opinion of those who favoured apples there is greater nutriment in a bushel of them than in a bushel of sugar beets. But then it must be remembered that it takes eight or ten years to bring an orchard into bearing condition, while a crop of beets can be grown on the same plot of ground every successive year. If apples are so cheap and plentiful that it is a question between feeding them to cattle or hogs and leaving them to rot on the ground, we should say feed them by all means. But with the English market now open to us, in addition to a good home one, it must be a very poor quality of apples that does not pay better by shipping to market than feeding to hogs or cows at home.

THERE are complaints on the part of bee-men that in those parts of the country where Italian and Cyprian bees have been introduced, colonies of native bees cannot be kept with any profit. Bees seem to be possessed of a natural instinct to pillage each other, and the larger and stronger bee from Italy or Cyprus is far more than a match for the Canadian one. We have heard of several instances of farmers having fifteen or twenty colonies pillaged and destroyed by the imported Huns and Vandals of the genus *Apis*, and yet against such manifest wrong there is no redress. Why does not the law at least provide for compensation in a case where pillage is clearly established? In point of equity, what difference is it whether the well-stocked hives of Mr. Brown are robbed by Mr. Robinson himself, or by his colonies of imported Cyprians and Italians?

THE annual meeting of the Eastern Dairy-men's Association this year was a very successful one. The attendance was much larger than at the meeting of the Western Association, and the discussions may truthfully be said to have been livelier and more practical. There is a number of enthusiastic dairymen in the eastern part of the Province, and some of the younger men especially give promise of great usefulness in promoting dairy interests. The influence of such men as Mr. Macpherson in the East and of Mr. Ballantyne in the West has been most valuable in its results, but we think it must be allowed that the former is more likely to have worthy successors than the latter. Our friends in the East are far more dependent on home talent than on that of imported professors to make their meetings successful and profitable, and therein their example is to be commended.

At a recent meeting of the New York State Dairymen's Association, Prof. Alcord of Houghton Farm, gave it as his opinion that the best dairy cows are obtained by crossing the Jersey and the Ayrshire—the former being the sire. In a Canadian dairy of twenty cows visited* by the Professor last summer, he found that ten had given 500 pounds of butter each in a year. We think there can be no doubt that the Jersey and Ayrshire cross is to be commended above all others, for it assures the two things most to be desired in a dairy cow—quantity and quality. Next to these, it would be safe to recommend a cross between a Jersey sire and our native cow. The latter has qualities as a dairy animal that have never been fully appreciated; it is hardy, it feeds well, and is a very good milker. With a strain of warm blood in the breed, liberal feeding and reasonable care, there should be little trouble in developing a first-class dairy cow on every Ontario farm.

IN Denmark, where great attention is given to dairying, the value of every cow in a herd is known by a thorough system of statistics and book-keeping. The exact result of each cow's yield may be ascertained by trial-milking on a certain day of each week in the year, and every dairy farm in Denmark is provided with a book of record. Each cow is allotted a separate column; its age, breed and pedigree are entered, and the yield is carefully noted. In this way it is frequently ascertained that cows of the same herd and breed, subjected to the same treatment and fed on the same diet, give the most curious results—some yielding as high as 600 gallons a year and others only 300. But, again, it not infrequently turns out that the cow giving only 300 gallons a year is as good a butter-yielder as the one giving 600 gallons. The experiments are not considered complete unless the milk of each cow is tested for its butter product, and with such tests it becomes an easy matter for a dairyman to cull out the poor cows from his herd. We want more book keeping and records of results on our Canadian farms.

THE best eggs, an exchange remarks, are the result of a meat diet; and it adds that the high coloured and well flavoured eggs of Kansas during the grasshopper visitation were a marvel to strangers. As to the fondness of fowls for grasshoppers, there can be no question in the mind of any one who has lived a summer in the country with his eyes open; but for all that we should prefer to see the hens that lay the eggs for our table take to some other diet. What man not on the limits of starvation would make a meal of grasshoppers? No, if we were feeding poultry for the home supply we should not allow them to forage for grasshoppers. We should give them plenty of clean and wholesome food, and such food as a human being might eat without curing him of jaundice by a mechanical operation such as is produced by the primitive cure of dosing the patient with the excrements of a goose. We are not surprised that many people cannot endure pork, considering the filthiness of the hog, but even if a hog were given decent food and a cleanly place to live in, we do not doubt that its flesh might be palatable and healthy.