

substance does not destroy vegetable life when used chemically pure.

Prof. Taylor says he had destroyed mice, toads, etc., with this material.

CATTLE WEIGHTS AT ISLINGTON SHOW.

The following table shows the comparative daily rate of increase in the classes for steers in the Devon, Hereford, Shorthorn, Sussex, Norfolk or Suffolk Polled, Scotch Highland, Scotch Polled, Welsh, and crossed breeds of cattle at the late Christmas show at Islington, London:—

Classes for Steers not exceeding two years old—			lbs.
Crosses	4 animals average.....		2.27
Shorthorns	6 " "		2.10
Sussex	6 " "		2.07
Herefords	12 " "		2.03
Devons	12 " "		1.70

Classes for Steers not exceeding three years old—			
Shorthorns	4 animals average.....		2.01
Scotch Polled	8 " "		1.93
Crosses	12 " "		1.93
Herefords	10 " "		1.78
Sussex	7 " "		1.78
Norfolk Polled	2 " "		1.50
Devons	10 " "		1.44

Classes for Steers not exceeding four years old—			
Crosses	4 animals average.....		1.75
Shorthorns	9 " "		1.67
Scotch Polled	2 " "		1.64
Herefords	9 " "		1.61
Sussex	5 " "		1.58
Norfolk Polled	8 " "		1.37
Devons	7 " "		1.24

AMERICAN AND CANADIAN APPLES IN ENGLAND.

The New York *Commercial Bulletin* lately published the following statement from Mr. W. N. White, Covent Garden, London, as to the relative qualities and desirableness of American apples for exporting to the English market:—

Baldwins—Free seller; bright colour preferred.
 Cranberry Pippins—Sells fairly well; bright colour preferred.
 Fall Pippins—Bad keeper; no use this season.
 Fallwater—Free seller, and commands good prices in the spring.
 Golden Pippins—Soft, dangerous apple; no use here this season.
 Golden Russets—Free seller, and when clear makes good prices.
 Gravenstein—Soft apple; dangerous.
 Greenings—Free seller; well known.
 Gilliflowers—Poor; should not be sent to England.
 Holland Pippins—Good apple, but soft.
 Jannetings—See remark against Gilliflowers.
 Jonathans—When of good colour command fair prices.
 Kings—Good seller, but should not be sent ripe.
 Lady Apples—Sell well at high prices.
 Lady Pippins—Fairly good; moderate prices.
 Maiden's Blush—Good apple; properly coloured commands high prices.
 Montreal Fameuse—Highly coloured, sells fairly; green, bad seller.
 Newton Pippins—Large, selected fruit commands high prices; small speckled fruit, bad to sell, even at low prices.
 Nonpareils—Nova Scotia and Canadian always command fair prices.
 Nonsuch—Soft, dangerous.
 Phoenix—When clear, sells fairly; very liable to turn black on one side, which spoils the appearance.
 Pomeroy—Small bright sells fairly well; large sort liable to turn pithy.
 Pomme Gris—Sells well, particularly when clear.
 Pound Sweet—Dangerous; no use this season.
 Queen Pippin—Fair seller.
 Rambo—Medium only in price and quality.
 Ribston Pippins—Good seller, but must never be sent ripe; loses its crispness, which is essential.
 Romanite—When small and good colour, commands fair prices.
 Roxbury Russets—Useful apple; medium price.
 Salisbury Pippin—Fair seller, when sound.
 Seeks—Good apple, and when highly coloured sells well.
 Spitzenburgh—Good apple, but quickly decays when ripe.
 Spys—Must be large to sell well.
 Swars—Must be large to sell well.
 Talman Sweet—Medium apple; fair seller when large size.

Twenty-Ounce—Good medium apple.
 Vandeveres—Fair seller.
 Wagons—Good colour, fair prices.
 Woodstock Pippins—Good colour, good prices.

SATISFACTORY TO SHAREHOLDERS.

The annual statement of the Ontario Industrial Loan & Investment Company, in another column, is in every respect a most gratifying exhibit. Never before, so far as we know, has any similar Association shewn so favourable a balance-sheet as the result of the first year's operations. The directors have evidently given the business of the Company very careful attention; but its unusual success is largely due to the untiring exertions and admirable administrative ability of the President and Managing Director, both of whom have been unceasing in their efforts to promote the welfare of the Company. Under such management its future is sure to be increasingly prosperous.

SKETCHES OF CANADIAN WILD BIRDS.

BY WM. L. KELLS, LISTOWEL, ONT.

The first species of the family of *Dentirostres* which I will describe is called

THE SHRIKE, OR BUTCHER-BIRD.

This bird, though not very numerous, is generally found in most of the settled parts of the old Canadian Provinces and the neighbouring States. It frequents the margins of the woods, low, thick shrubberies, and extensive orchards. Its disposition is shy, and but few of them are ever seen together. Though it sometimes takes up its *habitat* in the surroundings of human dwellings, yet it evidently does not love the presence of man, or the sound of the human voice. Though it is migratory, yet specimens are occasionally seen in the backwoods, when the ground is covered with snow. It is an early spring visitor, and its nest, containing young, has been found in the early part of June. It sometimes utters a shrill cry, imitative of the notes of a small bird in distress, which it probably does in order to attract some weaker species to its vicinity, in order that it may the more easily capture them, and when this stratagem fails, and it is pressed by the demands of hunger, it will dart upon, or pursue a sparrow, or other small bird, with all the ferocity and cruelty of a falcon. At other times, when food is abundant, it may be seen peacefully feeding among the branches of the wild cherry tree, in company with various other species, and at such times it may be heard repeating several low but musical notes. It feeds principally on the larger kinds of insects, small birds, and little animals; and it has the cruel habit of impaling its victims on a thorn or twig, and then pulling them to pieces at leisure and devouring them. From this circumstance it has been called the butcher-bird, while the name of shrike has been conferred upon it from its shrill cry. But though fierce and cruel in its treatment of other birds, no bird can exhibit more affection for its young or solicitude if its nest is in danger. The nest of the shrike is placed among the branches of various kinds of trees, sometimes evergreens, but generally not high from the ground, and is composed of a variety of materials, as brambles, stalks of dry weeds, cotton rags, wool, and fine roots. The number of eggs deposited at a sitting is four or five. These are of a dull white hue, mottled with gray or dull brown. This bird is nine inches in length, the upper parts of the body are of light bluish ash colour, the under parts are white, the wings and tail are black, and there is a dark

band on each side of the head. The bill also is dark, strong, and hooked at the point. There are two species of this genus, but with the exception of some difference in the size of the head and tail, the characteristics of each are similar. The following item from a Barrie paper will illustrate some of the habits and disposition of these unwelcome visitors:—

"The continued cold which has characterized the present winter (1881) has driven to this latitude many birds which usually spend the winter farther north. This is the case with the shrikes or butcher-birds, seldom seen with us, but this winter very abundant. This feathered pirate swoops down upon the English sparrow, bears him away, and puncturing his body with holes by means of his cruel beak, sucks his blood, and the little fellow is dead and the big fellow gorged in no time."

THE MAGPIE.

This bird is not found in Ontario, but is quite numerous in those wild regions that stretch from Manitoba to the Rocky Mountains, and which now form part of the Dominion of Canada. "The trapper's camp in the woods," says a Western traveller, "is always attended by the little blue and white magpie, who, perched on a bough close by, waits for his portion of scraps from the meal. These birds invariably make their appearance soon after the camp is made, and are so tame and bold that they will even steal the meat out of the cooking-pot close by the fire."

THE CANADA JAY.

This bird, though common in Labrador and the regions north of the Ottawa, is seldom seen in the central parts of Ontario except when driven here by unusually cold and stormy weather, and a consequent scarcity of food in the more northern regions where it makes its home. The long, soft and blended texture of its plumage is well calculated to resist the severest cold of the trackless wilds, where it is found throughout the year. Its general colours are a mixture of dull gray, black, brownish and white. When they find it necessary to leave their native haunts, they move in parties of two and three, to flocks of a dozen or twenty, and then approach the barnyards and surroundings of farm-houses, and along the public roads, where they feed upon seeds, crumbs, and berries, or on the grain that they find scattered on the highways or in the droppings of domestic animals, and also on the larvae of insects which they find in the bark of trees. Like the magpie, they are sometimes troublesome to the hunters and the lumberman, by stealing the bait out of the traps and portions of meat from the camp. In those regions where this bird abounds, it builds its nest in fir and other evergreen trees. This structure is formed of bramble and lined with grass, and in it are deposited four or five eggs of a grayish-blue colour. It nests very early in spring, and the young, which are of a dark hue, are able to fly by the middle of May. In most respects its habits are similar to those of the familiar blue jay, a notice of which will be next in order.

A MAN is sometimes found who will ask printers about seven or eight dollars per cord for his wood, and then grumble because their paper is \$1.50 per annum. This is what may be called human nature.

VENNOR writes predicting a recurrence of the "warm wave," with very mild weather, during the week commencing the 5th of February. Very heavy rains and floods in the week following the 19th are predicted for western and southern sections.