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RURAL NOTES.

This year's crop of potatoes is one of the best for many years. The yield is large and the quality is excellent.

The corn crop has sustained some damage from the early frosts, but the bulk of it will no doubt mature in good condition. Large areas of it have been already cut and are secure from further injury. The latter part of the season has been, on the whole, very favourable for the corn.

Discussion of the old question if wheat turns to chess has been revived by a physician of Norfolk county sending to the *Farmers' Advocate* a head of wheat having a spikelet of real chess attached to it and said to have grown upon it. The suggestion has been made that it is only another case of the skilful use of "Spaulding's glue."

If we would improve grain by selection there is no better way than to select the heads, taking only those from the stools that send up the largest number of stalks, and then sow only the largest grains of these, otherwise there is no guarantee that plump grains may not come from short heads, or from plants that send up but a single stalk.

There are many people who like a mess of cabbage to whom the odour of cooking it is anything but savoury. Our own opinion is that it should be classed with the nuisances and so dealt with, but one who has tried the experiment says that a small piece of red pepper in the pot will effectually neutralize the cabbage odour. We give the recipe for what it is worth.

It is claimed that India will have a wheat surplus available for export this year of 50,000,000 bushels, but the statement is doubted in England. In the Australian Colonies, including New Zealand, the area under wheat was 8,672,785 acres and the product 45,000,000 bushels. The surplus is estimated at 22,000,000 bushels, of which about 14,000,000 has already been exported.

OPEN ditches should be thoroughly cleaned out in the fall, otherwise they will fail to serve their purpose in the spring when they are most needed to carry off the surface water. The grass and weeds that grow on their sides should be all removed, so as to leave a free course for the water. The crossing places of cattle should also be looked after, and every obstruction of whatever character carefully removed. A day spent in such work now may be the gaining of two or three days in spring-time.

In a test of butter producing capacity between the famous Jersey cow, Mary Anne of St. Lambert's, owned by Mr. Fuller, of Hamilton, and a Holstein cow owned in Iowa, the latter exceeded the former by a few ounces per week. This year another of Mr. Fuller's cows has been subjected to a very careful test, and it is found that she has exceeded last year's record by about two pounds. Mr. Fuller's herd of Jerseys is doubtless the best on the continent.

THE Provincial, District and Local fairs have kept farmers busy and interested during the past month. As usual those fairs were very successfully managed, and the results have been gratifying. To such members of the British Association as visited them no better evidence could be presented of the position our province has made for itself agriculturally, and glowing accounts will doubtless be carried to the mother country of what has been seen.

To what extent it is possible to increase the average production of crops by high culture and the use of fertilizers, no one can say. The editor of the *Rural New Yorker* has obtained records ranging from 524 to 1,391 bushels of potatoes per acre. The ground was enriched by a mixture of fertilizers only and no manure—the fertilizers including salt, lime, potash salts, ammonia salts, bone flour and in short every element of plant food. The experiments showed, however, that much depends on the variety of seed as well as on the use of manures and high cultivation.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* thus states how he prevented cream from foaming while churning: "I had four gallons of cream, three days old, in earthen jars, put it into a room where the thermometer stood at eighty degrees. The milk when put into the churn was at sixty-five degrees, and the churn at sixty degrees. In fifteen minutes the butter was ready to be taken out of the churn, and as pretty yellow butter as I ever saw. This certainly pays for heating a room and having the milk at the right temperature. It overcomes the trouble of cream foaming in churning and having the butter hard to come.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Ontario Horticulturist* undertakes to show that fruit-growing yields far larger profits per acre than grain-growing, and he takes wheat and strawberries for comparison. To cultivate an acre of wheat will cost, he computes, at the rate of \$28 per acre, and with a product of forty bushels per acre at an average price of \$1 per bushel the profit is \$12. On the other hand, to cultivate an acre of strawberries, he computes, will cost (including plants and

baskets) \$250, and with a product of 6,000 baskets per acre at an average price of eight cents the profit is \$230. Still it is not possible for every farmer to go into strawberry culture, and if it were possible it would not be prudent.

The present tendency in Great Britain is toward decreasing the acreage of wheat and increasing the acreage of pasture and the number of live stock. Thus in 1882 the area under wheat was 3,003,960 acres, while this year it is only 2,676,477, being a decrease of 827,483 acres, or about eleven per cent. On the other hand the number of cattle has increased from 5,807,491 in 1882 to 6,241,127 in 1884, or at the rate of seven and a-half per cent, and the number of sheep has increased from 21,319,768 to 26,037,217, or at the rate of seven per cent. The strong probability now is that the breadth sown with fall wheat will speedily fall, and that more and more of the land will be devoted to grazing purposes.

The saying that "rich food makes rich milk" is only true in a limited sense. The distinguished authority, Sir John B. Lawes, in writing on this subject says: "Fat is increased by rich food, but breed is more potent than food, and no amount of food will produce in a Shorthorn as rich a milk as is produced in a Jersey or in an Ayrshire. The same law prevails both in plants and animals." Of course it is possible to increase the quantity and improve the quality of the milk by judicious feeding, but a cow that naturally gives milk low in the percentage of solids, albumenoids and fat, cannot be made to give rich milk by the process of feeding rich food. The only sure way of getting rich milk is, to select cows of the best dairy qualities and breed them to bulls out of the best dairy strains, and in so doing it is not necessary to disregard beef qualities.

In a report on the pear blight, based on experiments and observations made at the New York Agricultural Experiment Station, Mr. Sturtevant makes the following general statements: "The disease known as pear blight is infectious, and may be transmitted from one tree to another by inoculation. It is not confined to the pear but may attack other pomaceous fruits, as the apple, quince, English hawthorne, and June berry. It is more active, and progresses most rapidly upon young and succulent portions of the tree." He has discovered that under the microscope any bit of diseased tissue shows inconceivable myriads of minute bacteria, and he assumes that there can be no rational doubt of the bacteria being the cause of the disease. The next and most important question is How can the bacteria be destroyed and the vegetable life on which they prey be saved?