

approached by a stranger, was not a fast traveller, but could make a big day at either light or heavy work. He always showed plenty of ambition, and made a good appearance. His constitution was hardy. Old Jerry was brought from near Toronto by Paddy Smith (a carter) to Aurora (then Macbell's Corners), to work at the macadamizing of Yonge street. During the construction of that road, about the year 1845, Jerry was purchased by Samuel Macbell, Esq., now of King Station, from Paddy, for a small sum; and about four years after Macbell sold him to Moses Yoder, who was then residing in the Township of King, to work on his farm. Mr. Yoder, shortly after the purchase, removed to Elgin County, not forgetting to take Old Jerry along. The age of Jerry now is about thirty-one years.

A HORSE OBSERVER.

Another Old Horse.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

Sir,—Having seen an account in the last number of the CANADA FARMER about the oldest horse in the new Dominion, I thought I would write and let you know that there is one as old, if not older, which can be seen on lot No. 18, second concession of the Township of Plympton, County of Lambton. This horse, *Old Charley*, was foaled in the year 1837, or the year of the Rebellion, which will make him thirty-two years of age next spring. This horse has been subjected to the most severe toil. In his younger days he ran many a race in the Township of London and few could beat him on a mile heat. He was afterwards used as a team horse until he was seventeen years of age, since that time he has worked on a farm. It is only three years since he travelled forty miles in half a day, and last spring he travelled twenty five miles in three hours and a half. When *Old Charley* is let loose in a field with other horses, he will play like a colt. He is young in appearance, can hold his own with most young horses, and is sound with the exception of a slight touch of the heaves.

D. M. ROBERTSON.

Wyoming, November 5th, 1868.

Hon. John Carling recently shipped from London to Cornwall, for the Hon. John Sandfield McDonald, a fine ram which took the first prize at the Michigan State fair and two Suffolk pigs first premium of the Western Fair.

VETERAN HORSES—A correspondent of the *Western Rural* says: I have two bright bay horses—a mare and a gelding—which I have owned and worked on a farm and on the road since they were four and five years old respectively. The mare is thirty years old, and the horse thirty-one this spring. I have ploughed two acres per day, two and three days in succession this spring in ten hours; I have ploughed sixteen acres in five days with them when they were young.

SHEEP AT U. S. FAIRS.—The *Oshawa Indicator* says of the Missouri State fair:—The sheep were very largely represented from Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Canada. Mr. Millar was there and won honours with his splendid stock of Cotswolds, Leicesters and Shropshire Downs, but Mr. Toms, as usual, led in his department. In long wool sheep, including Leicesters and Cotswolds, and their crosses, he took first on aged ram, first on yearling ram; this is all he showed in this class. On Southdowns, first on aged ram, first on yearling do., first on aged ewes, first yearling ewes. Sweepstakes—best ram and three ewes, first prize; best ram and ewes, first prize; best three ewes, fat, first; best ewe, fat, first; best fat ewe, two years old, first. Sweepstakes on the best flock of sheep, the Society's grand prize of \$50 and the blue ribbon. At the Indiana State fair, on Southdowns, he received all the first and second prizes; first on Leicester ram. On pigs at St. Louis, first on boar, first on sow.



Window Propagating Tank.

The following description and illustration of an ingenious contrivance for propagating slips and forcing seeds by a simple and economical application of bottom heat, is taken from the *American Journal of Horticulture*.

"Its chief recommendations are cheapness, utility, and the slight cost both of labour and material with which it can be run.

The chimney of an ordinary kerosene lamp is made of tin, double, and water-tight, so as to hold water. The water in this chimney is connected with the water in the tank by means of pipes through which the water flows. One of the pipes is connected to the chimney at the top, and the other at the bottom, the pipes entering the tank in the different divisions, as shown in fig. 2. By means of this arrangement,

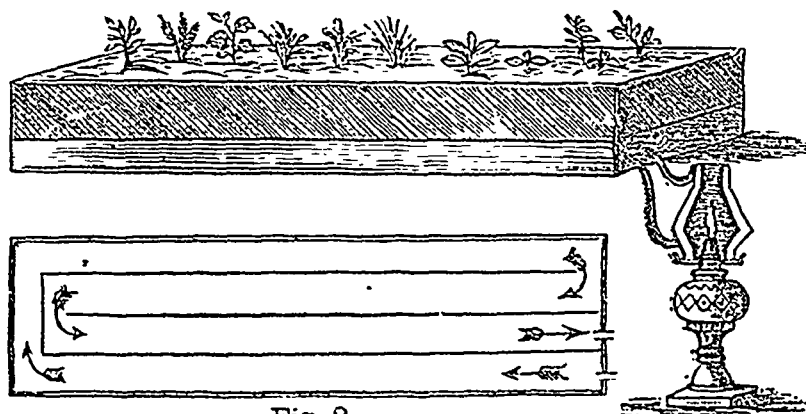


Fig. 2.

when in operation, the water in the tank is kept in constant circulation, according to well-known principles, warming the bed of earth placed over the water, giving to cuttings and seeds placed in the bed of earth, what is known as bottom heat. Cuttings of roses, shrubs, grapes, and, in fact, of almost any of the trees or plants found in door-yards or lawns, may be started into growth with it.

The cost of constructing one for an ordinary sized window will not exceed five dollars, and may be used many seasons."

Horticulture in Quebec.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

Sir,—I have been so busy that I have not had time to write, as I intended, an account of the Flower Show of the city of Quebec. I am afraid it is a great many days after the fair to give any interest to an account of the show of the Quebec Horticultural Society. The great strength of the Society is in the subscriptions of resident gentry, which give the Society a narrow basis. It is not the fault of these gentlemen that the Society is apparently exclusive, for there is no bar to any one paying two dollars to become a member. But they don't. It is not taken up so generally by amateurs and non-professionals as it should be. The consequence of this is, that a great deal of the show consists in the display of such things as a gentleman's establishment can send to exhibitions; green-house plants, oranges, lemons, peaches, plums of choice sorts, and grapes, show in force. The grapes of J. Le Moine, Esq., Spencer Grange, were most excellent, as were many others.

The black *Hamburgh*, as large as walnuts, and the delicious *Sweet-water*, are the favourites. The above-named gentleman has produced quantities of that size. There is an old lady in the midst of Quebec who makes the growth of grapes in the open air her hobby. And admirably she succeeds. In her yard you may see vines (black *Hamburgh*) growing in flour barrels cut in two. They have, at the date of this letter, as many as forty bunches of grapes on them, most of which will ripen. When the snow comes she will put them in a cellar till the spring. Mrs. Farquhar (for this is our friend's name) has done, in my opinion, a great good in showing that grapes can be grown in our severe climate in the open air; and I should like to see a prize offered by this Society for such results as these, because, in such a hard country as this, anything that will tend to make life more enjoyable is not only a thing to be simply desired, but earnestly sought after. We are too apt to give the go-by to any idea that our acres of ground can be rendered more productive.

The show of vegetables was very good, comprising first-rate potatoes, good carrots, parsnips, beets, onions, &c. There was a curiosity in the way of cucumbers. Some ingenious man grew some enormous cucumbers, of such great length and irregular shape as to make them represent the name of this Province. I doubt the utility of this sort of thing.

Some beautiful honey was shown by Mr. Joseph Paxton.

There are some prizes for amateurs, but amateurs do not yet take sufficient interest in these things. Perhaps they will by-and-by.

The season has been stretched out to a favourable length. Winter has not yet set in, though it is now snowing.

Potatoes cheap; hay dear; cattle cheap.

PHIALA.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—Some inquiries appended to the above communication will be noticed in our next. A plant specimen referred to did not arrive.

Saving Trees Girdled by Mice.

At the February meeting of the Northern Ill. Horticultural Society, D. B. Weir, of Lacon, read a paper "On Saving Girdled Fruit Trees." He said he had over a hundred trees, seven years planted, completely girdled by mice. There had been for some time a heavy snow on the ground; and mice being plenty and in a starving condition, with nothing else to eat, they ate all the bark from the trees so far as they could reach; some of them for a foot up and down all around; and portions of the sap wood in some places half an inch deep. As soon as the damage was discovered, which was on the first thawing days, he banked the snow around the trees, and as soon as the soil thawed he banked that a foot high about the trunks.

This was all the attention they received; and to-day they have all the damaged parts covered by almost as thick a coating of bark as the uninjured portion of the trees. When the girdling is done high up on the trees, banking with soil will be impracticable. If the wounded parts are too high to reach by banking, clay may be bound on with a bandage. The sooner the surface is protected after injury the better. The death of the tree is caused by the seasoning of the sap-wood.