

to be pursued in warm, well ventilated stables to advantage. Talking with Joseph B. Walker about the relation of external influences to animal growth in winter, he remarked that in Switzerland he saw cows frequently blanketed; thus radiation of heat was very largely reduced in amount. With such practice carding might be a healthful process.—*J. W. Sanborn, in "American Cultivator."* (1)

IMPRISONMENT FOR GIVING A FRAUDULENT CERTIFICATE OF THE AGE OF A BULL.

At the late assizes held at Warwick, "a gentleman farmer," named Hopkins, was sentenced to three months imprisonment with hard labour for fraud, in having furnished to the Committee of the Birmingham Christmas Cattle Show a false pedigree concerning a (2) bull exhibited by him, by means of which he obtained a first prize of £20. *Veterinarian.*

THE CANADIAN PROVISION PACKING CO., QUEBEC. — We take pleasure in calling the attention of our readers to the advertisement under the above heading. We have tried the various preparations of this Company, and have found them really excellent, even after keeping some of the packages over two years in the house. Nothing could be more convenient to those who reside in the country, travellers, &c. A little boiling water will enable any one to serve in few minutes the best dinner that can be wished for. All these preparations are made by one of the ablest *cordons bleus* of France.

BOOKS RECEIVED. — "The National Quarterly Review." (\$4 a year, or \$1 single number), in-8 vo, 240 pages. A highly interesting publication, embracing general literature, reviews, and economy, expositions of Science, History, Philosophy, and Biography; Problems, &c., &c.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Melbourne, 26 March, 1880.

Dear Sir,

Next in benefit to Agricultural Societies, and in a great measure springing from them, are to be placed Agricultural Journals. While their beneficial effects have been almost unlimited, they have injured no one, and, now that their utility has been fully tested by experience, that farmer is guilty of an unpardonable inattention to his true interests who neglects to provide himself with a well conducted journal of this kind. I am sensible there is a prejudice against what is termed book farming. With some men it is enough to condemn any proposition, or discredit any statement, that it comes from a book or a journal. And what is this book farming, about which such unreasonable notions prevail?

A few cultivators of the earth agree to communicate to each other the results of their experience in farming, — raising cattle, — sheep and pigs, — the best modes of preparing and using manure, their experiments with artificial manures, — the most profitable crops, and the best modes of raising them, — the best breeds, and the best system of fattening animals, and all things of general interest relating to the occupation of a farmer. These results are committed to writing, go through the press, and become a book.

He who chooses to follow the results of enlightened experience, as there detailed, is guilty of book farming. A gentleman who has money, inclination and leisure, following nature as a guide, commences a series of agricultural experiments which result in doubling the means of existence from a given quantity of land, or in other words, makes two blades of grass, or two bushels of wheat grow where but one grew before. Such a man is a benefactor to his country — although few see it — but, if actuated by a regard for the general good, and anxious that all should partake with him in the benefit, he sends a history of his proceeding to a journal,

(1) The curry-comb is used in England to clean the brush, and ought never to touch horse or cow. — A. R. J. F.

(2) The Bull "Grand Patriot 2nd." Mr Allsop had to get rid of half his young stock in consequence of this piece of rascality; but Hopkins, although a farmer, cannot be a "gentleman" in any way. A. R. J. F.

that others may avoid his errors, it is denounced as book farming. No matter how important, or how valuable the published accounts may be, if they add one half to the productiveness of the farm, there are many who scout them as unworthy of notice. If, however, we were required to point out the men who had done the most to advance the agricultural interests of the country, who have introduced the most valuable breeds of cattle, the most successful methods of raising crops and improving the soil, we should be obliged to fix on those who are emphatically book farmers, men who were bred to other pursuits, but who have relinquished them for the safe, honorable, and, in their case, successful cultivation of the soil.

Farmers should not think themselves so far advanced towards perfection in their pursuits as to be beyond the teachings of recorded experience.

The theoretical farmer who with time, and money, and nature, for his guide, submits his ideas to the test of experiment, may obtain results astonishing to himself, and which, when laid before the public, demand its lasting gratitude. To books then we must continue to look for practical instruction in the most approved modes of agriculture.

A journal is a reservoir in which is accumulated the experience of ages, and the practice of thousands, and to it the young farmer may profitably go for information on a multitude of topics, respecting which the inexperienced and uninformed must necessarily be ignorant. To all then who aspire to the honorable title of an intelligent tiller of the soil, we say, take some standard agricultural work.

To every present subscriber to The Journal we say, not only continue your subscription to your Agricultural Society, but endeavour to promote its circulation among your neighbours, and become a contributor to its columns of the results of your farming experience, your success, and your failures. Preserve the numbers carefully, and see, when each volume closes, they are well bound. Read carefully, compare thoroughly, reduce your knowledge to practice, and you will be singularly unfortunate indeed, if you do not find yourself remunerated tenfold. *AYLMER.*

A Western Hay-Gatherer.

It must not be supposed, that, in the great wheat growing regions of the North West, grain only is produced. The fact is, that those vast prairies are magnificent grassy meadows, which in places yield as much as four or five tons of hay per acre. It is here where the "Blue-joint" (*Calamagrostis Canadensis*), so well known in the broad "beaver meadows," and river-flats of the Northern and Western States and Territories, flourishes so luxuriantly; and this grass, when cut in good season, is found to be equal to the best of our cultivated grasses for hay. A large quantity of this hay is cut every year, and put up for the purpose of supplying the numerous teams employed on the enormous wheat farms which are now worked in the localities referred to. Cheapness of operation is a marked necessity in doing business in a large way, and the hay cut upon those broad prairies, is put up for about one dollar per ton. The method of working is as follows:

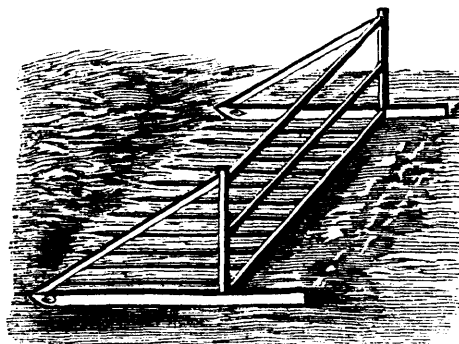


FIG. 1.—A Hay-Gatherer.

The implement used, is a long frame, which is drawn upon runners, as shown at figure 1, and is made of a principal bed-piece, or sill, to which the run-

follows: The grass is cut by mowing machines, and, as it rarely rains, the cutting goes on steadily until sufficient has been laid down. A rake is then employed to gather, and carry it to the stacks. The implement used, is a long