

A WORD IN SEASON.—"A Derbyshire Farmer" writes to one of our British exchanges:—"Seasons like the one we are passing through, will teach us many lessons, which ought to be to our future advantage. First, we ought to be more careful in years of plenty, and provide as much as possible for the hour of need. An old haystack ought always to be on the homestead of every farmer. Secondly, we ought to know that no sowing is too great to secure an ample turnip crop. The land intended for the growth of roots next summer, should now again be well manured, and so have a cold bottom, and an early tilth for the coming season. The old mode is as uncertain as the wind, and those who follow it out will have a mis and a hit; it should become obsolete. Cultivate right, and don't believe in the nonsense of the fly taking the plant; insects are the summer's music to the plants."

A BLUE HORSE.—The *Mark Lane Express* says:—"A blue horse has been exhibited at Hertford. The legs are described as being a faint blue, but the great peculiarity of the mare consists in her being totally devoid of hair,—not a particle is visible on body, neck, legs or rump. She was foaled in Africa, and her skin resembles that of an elephant. She is gradually becoming piebald, and losing the faint blue tinge. She is said to be very quiet and playful, resembles the Spanish mule in her action and mode of standing, and requires a great amount of food, probably to compensate for the lack of natural warmth by the absence of hair."

PENNY WISE POLICY.—A late English journal, in justly condemning this kind of policy, says:—"With respect to expenditure, the ideas and practice of the modern farmer are very much changed since the time of his forefathers, by whom frugality was mistaken for economy, and who would consequently, never entertain a proposal to expend a few pounds in the purchase of oil-cake and corn, to make good the deficiency in the root crop, by which the whole rotation was reduced in value to a greater or less extent. The farmer of the present day knows it to be to his interest to keep up the condition of his farm, not only by fattening his usual number of live stock with such roots as the season has left him, with the addition of what artificial food is required, but also, if necessary, by the purchase of condensed manure, to make up for the loss of a portion of his hay and straw crops."

FLAX CULTURE.—On this subject Edmond H. Perry makes the following judicious suggestions in the *Irish Farmers' Gazette*:—"I would earnestly exhort all intending growers of flax (and I hope the number will be great), not to be induced, by the glittering promises held out by the profits of flax growing, to venture beyond their depth in the cultivation of a crop, every stage in whose manipulation requires the utmost care and circumspection,—and pays well for the same; while failure in any of the stages subjects the grower to certain disappointment and loss. If the land is ill-prepared, the crop will grow uneven, or short, or both; and no after treatment can remedy this. If the soil be rich, and the season wet, the crop will lodge and suffer. Should the crop be allowed to stand too long, through want of hands to pull it, no after treatment will give it a fine fibre. Should a violent storm occur, when the flax is on the spread, it will be tossed about in such a manner as no labour on your part, will be able to rectify; and loss will be incurred. In short, flax is "the gambler's crop," and gamblers generally ruin themselves."

In order to fit the land for the reception of the seed, two or more ploughings, and five or six harrowings and rollings, are required; while a good crop requires twelve hands per acre, to pull and bind it in time. I would put it to you, what small farmer's establishment is able to cultivate a large breadth of flax, since this is the case? The strength of hands at your disposal must, therefore, decide what extent of ground you are to sow with flax, and as five or six hands may be assumed to be the strength of the generality of your families, it follows that the extent of land you can do justice to, under flax, is limited to a statute acre. At the same time, I would entreat you not to consider the profits of your flax crop wholly as *realized capital*—to be hoarded up, or lodged in the bank. Rather show your gratitude to the land by buying a little more bone-dust, phospho-guano, or oil-cake. Every pound you so expend, will put another pound in your pockets, if you apply the additional manure to your turnip crop, or your sown grasses, and consume these crops at home."

POULTRY.—"A Practical Farmer" writes the *Mark Lane Express* on this subject as follows:—"There is no description of farm stock that has kept pace with the improvements effected in poultry rearing. The supplies of poultry, are now independent of the farm-yard. They are bred and kept by all classes of the community, anywhere and everywhere, where it is possible to erect a porch, or stow a coop. For

myself, I shall not rest satisfied till every cottager or working mechanic in the kingdom is enabled, and has means competent, to provide for a small stock of poultry, and sufficient inducement to obtain and manage them. Wherever there is room for a small shed, or covered house, be it in the little back yard, on the top of division-walls, by the side of the house-walls, or even in eaves on the cottage roof, or below the eaves, or, as I have said, anywhere and everywhere, where a few feet space can be secured, there some of our breeds of poultry will thrive and prosper."

SOWING AND COVERING OF GRASS SEED.—From experiments conducted by Messrs Drummond & Sons, Stirling, a fact is proved which has only been suspected by some farmers, that in many cases a considerable portion of the seeds of the grasses and clovers are lost, owing to the manner of sowing and covering them. Germination of such small seeds is often wholly prevented, owing to the depth of the covering of earth; and when the seeds do germinate the weak shoots do not reach the surface, and thus they are not established in the soil. The most favourable depth is proved to be a quarter of an inch for timothy, grass, and clover seeds generally. The proportion, per cent., of the former, which vegetates successfully, at this depth, is shown to be 85; while at half an inch it is 79, and at one inch, only 57 per cent. At the period for sowing grass seeds, farmers would do well to heed carefully the results of these interesting experiments.

THE IRISH EGG TRADE.—At the annual *soiree* of the butter and egg merchants of Glasgow, Mr. Patrick Meehan, who occupied the chair, mentioned the following particulars regarding the import of eggs from Ireland into Glasgow.

"That the butter and egg trade is becoming of considerable importance there can be no question. I will only refer to one item in it. Both Derry companies have run six steamers weekly, carrying each an average of 100 boxes of eggs; and I think we may safely allow 100 boxes from Cork, Dublin, and Belfast,—in all 700 boxes per week, or 36,400 per year. The average price per box is £8, so that the annual value of the eggs imported into this city alone is little short of £300,000."

An Excellent Book.

TODD'S YOUNG FARMER'S MANUAL AND WORK-SHOP. (New Edition). The most valuable and practical work before the public, as a guide to the various Farm Operations, including the mechanical part of agriculture, farm implements, edge tools and how to put them in order, fencing, gates, building, &c., &c. By S. Edwards Todd, a practical farmer. Thoroughly illustrated with engravings. 12mo, 439 pp. price \$1.50.

We clip the above from a Book Circular lately issued by Orango Judd of New York, the enterprising proprietor of the *American Agriculturist*, who has purchased the stereotype plates and copyrights of nearly all the agricultural works published by C. M. Saxton, and has commenced a new publishing house for the issue of books, chiefly on rural economy. A copy of Todd's Manual of the first edition fell into our hands some time ago, and on examination, we found it to be a book of no ordinary value. Its author is a thoroughly practical man, and understands farming operations from beginning to end. He has also the faculty of writing in a very clear, and lively style. We have been much indebted to this work for suggestions in the series of articles on clearing up new land, which have lately appeared in these columns. The illustrations on page 66 were copied from the Manual as were three in the article on fencing in our last issue. We are glad to see that a new edition of this useful book is just issued by Mr. Judd, and we commend it very heartily to our readers. \$1 in Canadian money will pay for it, and next to subscribing to the CANADA FARMER we know of no better way of investing that sum. We are pleased to find that Mr. Todd has recently become Editor of the *American Agriculturist*. It is a position for which he is well fitted. We understand that the Manual is to be followed shortly by two other volumes on soils and their management; how to make farming pay; details of general farm management; how to raise wheat and other grains, &c. The whole will form a valuable *trade mecum* for the farmer.

Agricultural Intelligence.

Provincial Exhibition.

MEETING OF THE BOARD.

(Condensed from the London Prototype and Free Press, March 31st.)

A meeting of the Provincial Board of Agriculture was held at the Tecumseh House, in this city, yesterday. Present—the Hon. Mr. Christie, Brantford, Vice-President, in the chair; Hon. George Alexander, Woodstock; Hon. A. A. Burnham, Cobourg; Hon. H. Ruttan, Cobourg; Dr. Richmond, Gananoquo; R. L. Denison, Toronto; J. C. Rykert, St. Catharines, President of the Agricultural Association; Dr. Beatty, Cobourg, President of the Board of Arts; and Mr. H. C. Thomson, Secretary of the Board. James Johnson, Esq., ex-President of the Agricultural Association, was present during a great part of the meeting. After preliminary business, a communication was read from the Bureau of Agriculture, announcing the result of the annual election to the Board for the current year, as follows:—Wm. Ferguson, Esq., M. P. P., Dr. Richmond, the Hon David Christie, M. L. C., and the Hon. A. A. Burnham, M. L. C.

It was then moved by the Hon. Mr. Alexander, that E. W. Thomson, Esq., be President of the Board for the ensuing year.—Carried.

On a similar motion it was resolved that the Hon. David Christie be Vice-President.

The Secretary stated that Mr. John A. Donaldson, emigrant agent, had a communication to lay before the Board, with reference to the culture of flax.

On motion, Mr. Donaldson appeared before the Board, and gave some interesting facts relative to the prospects of the flax crop during the coming season, and the inducements for its culture. He also presented before the Board a number of specimens of spun and manufactured flax, showing the progress making in the manufacture of that staple. The specimens were from the mills of Messrs. Perine, Doon Mills, and consisted of a piece of bleached linen—a credit to the producers—several pieces of unbleached coarse linen of different textures, a bag, a rope, twine, with a ball of shoemakers' hemp. Mr. Donaldson, in the course of his remarks, stated that a short time since a meeting was held at Streetsville, at the suggestion of Messrs. Gooderham & Worts, of Toronto, at which about 400 persons attended. The firm offered various propositions to the farmers to induce them to cultivate flax; and he found those present ready to fall in with the offers of these gentlemen to supply 2,000 bushels of grain, to be sown during the coming season. The success of that meeting induced Messrs. Gooderham & Worts to call other meetings, which they have accordingly done, to be held shortly at Merrivale and Brampton. The demand for seed where the crop has been grown, Mr. Donaldson added, is such that it is now all secured for the coming season, and Messrs. Gooderham & Worts had authorized him to offer \$1.50 per bushel for any quantity he could obtain. Mr. Donaldson then submitted the various specimens of prepared flax in his possession, and all were highly approved of, both in respect to quality and texture. All the articles were made by the Messrs. Perine Brothers, of Doon. The bag submitted, Mr. Donaldson stated, was equal to two or three of the cotton bags now in use, and it was the intention of that firm to apply the seamless principle to their manufacture, and to enter into that branch of the business extensively. Those shown were supplied at the rate of thirty-five cents each. The bale of cottonized flax shown had the advantage of avoiding the process of pulling, which was the objection farmers mainly had to the culture of flax, on account of expense. By this process it could be mown and threshed like hay, and when cut sufficiently near the root, he was of opinion that no loss resulted, as the valuable fibre did not grow from the root, a space of about an inch being merely a brittle substance. The sample was as white and pure as the best cotton batting. The rope, Mr. Donaldson stated, was well made and equal to any purpose for which such are used. Two specimens of shoe thread were also shown by Mr. Donaldson from the same establishment. He stated that the manufacture of such a small article might not be considered a matter of importance, but he had made inquiry and found that one firm in Ireland alone, Messrs. Barbour, of Belfast, sent ten tons of shire thread per week to New York. How much besides came to Canada he was not informed, and he had no fear, looking at this fact, but that we had surely a demand for all we could manufacture. The same firm had now started a branch establishment at Paterson, New Jersey, in order to supply the American trade. Every facility, therefore, existed among us for the investment of capital in this branch of industry, and we should endeavour in every way to lay the advantages we possess in growing flax before the public.