

THE RURAL CANADIAN.

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RURAL NOTES.

The Kittatinny blackberry seems to be the leading favourite now. It is hardy, productive, solid, ripens in clusters, with great uniformity and is rapidly picked for the market.

The potato crop in Ontario has suffered from rot in some localities, notably on the Lake Huron coast, and in the neighbourhood of Toronto. In the United States, the crop is reported to be in a better condition than for any year since 1875.

Nearly all the best Jersey cattle bred in America are registered in the American Jersey Cattle Club Register. This herd-book has been remarkably exclusive, and a record in it means an assumed relationship to the very best Jerseys in existence.

Dr. Sturtevant, of the New York State Experiment Station, thinks that tobacco smoke is the surest remedy for the aphid. It is certainly a much safer remedy than Paris Green, which kills leaves as well as insects, if not very carefully and sparingly applied.

Every one knows that it pays to feed a milch cow well, but every one don't know how to regulate feed in order to obtain the best results. A good rule is to feed a cow up to the point at which she begins to get fat, and to stop there. What the dairyman wants is not fat but butter.

Kind treatment, clean and well-aired stables, and using each animal as if but one were kept, will surely tell in the quantity and quality of milk given by a herd of cows. Vicious ones should be got rid of, and the comfort of the herd carefully attended to. By such means dairying will pay.

Mr. S. C. Patterson, who is a good authority on the subject, says the Shropshire is the best sheep for the Canadian farmer, whether bred for mutton or bred for wool. Mr. John Dryden is of the same opinion. The Shropshires were certainly the favourites at the Toronto and Provincial fairs this year.

It is stated by the London *Live Stock Journal* that English capital to the extent of £8,000,000 (\$40,000,000) is now invested in cattle on the American continent, the bulk of it being in Texas. Canadians may well wonder why their country is shunned by the British capitalist. Probably for the same reason that it is shunned by the British tourist.

The yield of corn in the United States is computed by the Agricultural Department at 1,600,000,000 bushels, but a considerable portion of it has been hurt by frost, and is unfit for market.

The best of the season grew two hundred miles west of the Missouri River, in the heart of the great desert. The yield of wheat is estimated at 400,000,000 to 420,000,000 bushels, or about 90,000,000 bushels less than last year's crop.

It will require a succession of disasters to floor the farmer who makes the rearing of live stock the leading feature of his business. The rain and the frost may despoil his grain crops; but with cattle to graze the rich pastures and to eat up the injured grain, there is a measure of safety against loss. Besides, there is no surer way of keeping up the fertility of the soil than by maintaining a herd of cattle on the farm.

The Legislature of New York has passed an Act which imposes a penalty of \$50 (recoverable by the party damaged) for the sale of grass seed containing the seed of ox-eyed daisy, rag-weed, quack-grass, or Canada thistles. We have a somewhat similar law in Ontario, but it only extends to seeds of the last named pest. The whole law relating to noxious weeds requires revision; we have very troublesome weeds in the Province now that were unknown when the thistle Act was passed.

The first thing to be aimed at in getting together a herd for the dairy is to secure good milkers—cows that can make a good record in both quantity and quality. For this purpose each animal should be tested separately, and disposed of if it does not reach a satisfactory standard; once done thoroughly it will do for the lifetime of the herd. To neglect this work is to imperil the enterprise; for several cows of a low standard are a constant drain on profits. It costs as much to keep a poor cow as a good one.

Farmers do not often keep bulls more than two or three years, because they become dangerous as they grow old. But these immature males cannot get the best stock. The higher priced pedigreed animals have better care, are kept so long as they are serviceable, and in this, one cause of their superiority consists. There is a general impression that bulls of the Jersey breeds are apt to become vicious early, and it is suggested that this is because they are petted too much while young.

One of the greatest secrets of poultry keeping is colonization. Numerous divisions increase the chance for success, and in case of illness of any kind there is less risk of serious loss. Another of the secrets is to get the pullets laying in the fall, as soon as the old birds stop. To this end they should be put on a liberal diet of animal food—lean meat, the refuse of the butcher's shop, will answer the purpose admirably, but fat

and putrid meat should be rejected as worse than useless. Some recommend mixing the meat with crushed green bones.

Fall ploughing is not always most satisfactory when finished early. With warm weather the grasses are likely to spring up, especially couch or quack grass, when sod is turned down. With later ploughing the ground goes fresh into winter quarters, and is in better condition for working in the spring. If, however, the season is wet—which it is apt to be late in the year—the soil is likely to pack hard and to receive little or no benefit from winter frost. Everything depends on the weather and the condition of the soil, but these being favourable the work may be continued with advantage until arrested by winter.

Great care ought to be taken in selecting seed corn for next season. The injury done by frost has been so general that there is risk of getting seed with its vitality destroyed. Many farmers, too, aim to grow some one of the large varieties, and as these mature late they are more likely this year to have suffered from the early frost. It would be safer, perhaps, to grow the smaller-eared varieties, as in ripening earlier they are a more certain crop. But what is of the greatest importance just now is to procure a supply of sound seed for next year. The vitality should be tested, and if found satisfactory, stored away in a dry and reasonably warm place. Size, early maturity, number of ears on a stalk, length of kernel, etc., should be carefully considered; but, in view of the effects of the September frost, it would be sheer folly to plant seed corn next spring without knowing whether it is alive or dead.

In a test between a famous Jersey cow, owned by Mr. V. E. Fuller, of Hamilton, and a Holstein cow owned by T. B. Wales, of Iowa, for the largest yield of butter for thirty consecutive days, the latter won by one pound and fourteen ounces. The unsalted produce, as verified by affidavits, was ninety-nine pounds six and one-half ounces for the Holstein, and ninety-seven pounds eight and one-half ounces for the Jersey. The terms of the test, however, did not call for a record of the weight of milk and feed, and in this respect it was not satisfactory. Mr. Fuller's cow, under a test of ninety-three consecutive days, has yielded two hundred and ninety-six pounds six ounces of unsalted butter, or a daily average of three pounds three ounces. This record, we believe, has never been equalled. In the thirty-one days of August, the month following her test with the Holstein cow, she yielded ninety-eight pounds four and one-half ounces. Her feed consisted of pasture, cut clover, and twelve quarts of ground oats daily.