

is entirely polluted with thistles and wild oats. I intended to summer fallow ten acres of it this summer; but since reading "Publicola's" letter, I have been puzzled what to do with it. I should be glad if he or any other correspondent would tell me what is the best thing I can do with it.

I would just remark that the people of Elma are getting more alarmed about these wild oats than they are about the thistles, and if any of your readers could give me, through the CANADA FARMER, any practicable way of killing these oats, they would be conferring a great favor on the people of Elma.

I would also state that I got one bushel of Mr. Membery's wheat, last spring, and I sowed it on about three-quarters of an acre of new land, where there had been potatoes twice. I ploughed and harrowed it as carefully as I could. It grew well, but did not produce an extra heavy crop. I had one hundred and fifty-one sheaves, and it turned out thirteen bushels of wheat. This is certainly the best wheat I have ever seen. I do not know where it came from, but a storekeeper in Listowel got a barrel of wheat two years ago, and sold it for ten cents a pound. They call it California wheat, but I could see no difference in the wheat.

EDWARD HAMMOND.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—The best method of exterminating the thistle and other weeds is a question respecting which thoroughly practical men have given certainly very opposite opinions, probably in part from experimenting under different circumstances. We cannot presume to speak authoritatively on the subject, but as a general rule we believe that *clean seed and deep and thorough cultivation* will supplant any weed with a more useful crop. We have in our own experience succeeded in nearly eradicating the Canada thistle by summer fallowing, in a field so over-grown with the pest that much of the previous crop had not been harvested. In another year, had we remained on the farm, we believe the field would have been perfectly free. We, however, commenced the plan of smothering out the thistle with clover, thickly sown, as recommended by "Publicola."

### Oil-Cake—Hedges—Winter Wheat.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—In a recent number of the CANADA FARMER you stated that you believed oil-cake is manufactured only in Montreal. I wish to inform you that T. J. Cottle, Esq., has been running his oil mill in Woodstock all winter, manufacturing a fine quality of raw and boiled oil, and, of course, oil-cake as well, which he sells at \$30 per ton. Mr. Cottle has a very neat establishment—which includes a scutching mill. The press is a powerful hydraulic, and all the apparatus very complete.

I have been informed that there is a similar establishment at Berlin, I think, where the cake is sold at \$25 per ton. This surely must be cheaper feed than either oats or peas at present prices.

Your Dunville correspondent, writing in the No. for April 1st, in reference to hedges, evidently is unacquainted with the true buckthorn, when he speaks of it resembling the hawthorn in blossom, only the berry being much larger. It must be the thorn that is common all over the country, and which has been tried as a hedge plant by a great many, and in some instances done well. The buckthorn is hardy and free from enemies—either insects or animals—but it lacks the prickles spoken of by your correspondent, and must rely principally on the strength of its branches for resistance, hence it requires longer time to make a fence than more prickly plants. I have hedges six or seven years old, and which will resist sheep only. Two years more, I think, will make it a tolerable fence. It inclines to thicken on

the top, and all the pruning I can give it will not force the under shoots to strengthen. I planted thirty rods of the "hedge locust" last spring, but can only say of it that the foliage is beautiful in the summer season, and that it is as prickly as the osage orange. It is said that it will make an excellent fence in four years. So it was said of the white willow, but plenty of my neighbors have it three years old, and it is not yet strong enough to stand alone. It would not pay an agent to solicit orders for white willow cuttings here just now.

Any one wishing an ornamental as well as useful hedge, should plant the berberry. It has no faults that I am aware of, unless it is that it causes a blight to rest on grain crops in its immediate vicinity.

The hawthorn does not thrive well here. Mice are particularly fond of it. It is usually black with the bark louse, and does not thicken at the bottom as it does in England.

I have not seen, for many years at least, the winter wheat look as healthy and as little winter-killed as it is this spring. This has been a hard week for it, and may injure it yet.

R.W.S.

Woodstock, April 10th, 1868.

WHITE MELILOT.—Mr. John Manning enquires whether the seed of *Melilotus Alba*, recommended by Mr. Kirkwood, can be procured in Canada, &c. We do not suppose it is kept by Canadian Seedsmen, but they could, no doubt, procure it for Mr. Manning from England, with instructions as to the quantity of seed required per acre.

TARPAULIN FOR STACKS.—Can any of our readers reply to the following enquiry by a "Subscriber" from Goderich? "Will you inform me, through the medium of your paper, as to where tarpaulin stack cloths are manufactured, and also the name and address of the manufacturers. In the part of England where I lived, the covering used for large haystacks, during the building, was universally the large sail of a vessel. Would, therefore, thick sail-cloth be as advantageous as regards cost and durability?"

## The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, CANADA, MAY 15, 1868.

### The Season.

We are glad to be able to put it on record, that the favourable indications referred to in our article on "The Month," in last issue, still continue, and that, so far, the prospects of the Canadian farmer for the present year are such as to render all grumbling and misgiving utterly inexcusable. Rarely has there been in this country so unvarying and protracted a term of fine weather. Hence spring work has been pushed along with unusual celerity, and a large breadth of land put into crop. The weather has verged somewhat to the extreme of dryness, yet on the whole the seed has been well got in, and the fields that are up, have a very healthy look. Fall wheat never promised better; indeed we hear of very few cases of winter killing, and the only matter of regret is that the experience of the past few years has dictated caution and moderation in reference to this crop until it has come to be grown but sparingly. With so auspicious a season, it is a pity the area of land thus occupied is not multiplied a hundred-fold. Meadows look well, but would be no worse of more rain. With pleasant weather for work, the air has continued somewhat chilly, so as to retard the fruit buds. This, however, is no misfortune, as late blossoms are more likely to ripen than early ones.

### Book Notices.

THE CANADA SHORT HORN HERD BOOK.—This goodly volume of 507 pages will supply a want long felt by Canadian stock-breeders. In 1854 a manuscript register of Shorn Horn Cattle was established by the Board of Agriculture, which has been of much service. Something more permanent and more generally accessible was needed, however, and is now furnished in the work under notice, which has been arranged and compiled after the model of the English and American Short Horn Herd Books, and is, we hope, only the first of a long series of similar publications, in which the noblesse of Canadian cattle will have their origin and histories perpetuated.

The rule on which pedigrees have been admitted into the volume, is the same as that adopted in connection with the English Herd Book, viz.: four crosses by Herd Book bulls. Every rule is liable to exception, and there are a few duly noticed, in the Canada as in the English Herd Book. It may be of service to some of our readers, if we quote from the preface the following table giving the amount of pure blood shown by any certain number of crosses.

"Suppose the original dam to be an animal without any Short Horn blood, and that she and her female descendants are bred to thorough-bred Short Horn bulls, the result of the successive crosses in the amount of pure blood obtained, will then be as follows:

1st cross gives 50 per cent pure blood.
2nd " 75 " "
3rd " 87.50 " "
4th " 93.75 " "
5th " 96.87 " "
6th " 98.43 " "
7th " 99.21 " "
8th " 99.60 " "
9th " 99.80 " "
10th " 99.90 " "
11th " 99.95 " "
12th " 99.97½ " "

"The result of the fourth cross thus shows 6.25 per cent., or 1-16th of the old blood of the original dam remaining, while the seventh cross exhibits about 1-100th, and the tenth about 1-1000th of the old blood."

Considering how easy it now is for farmers to get hold of females with a dash of Short Horn blood in them to begin with, it will be seen, from the above table, that there is very little excuse for breeding native cattle, and nothing but want of the spirit of improvement to prevent every farm-yard from having superior animals and a constantly advancing herd in it.

The Canada Herd Book is embellished with a number of lithographic portraits of distinguished Short Horn cattle, "the Duke of Northumberland," perhaps the best bull of the breed, take him for all in all, leading the way, and eighteen other noted bulls and cows following,—among them, of course, the Hon. D. Christie's justly celebrated Athelstaneford females.

Of course it cannot be expected that we should go into a critical examination of such a volume. It would require a large amount of research to do that. We need only say of it further, that it bears marks of careful labour, and must have cost the compiler, Mr. Hugh Thomson, a large amount of painstaking and wearisome attention; that the typographical execution is very creditable to the firm (W. C. Chewett & Co.) by whom it was printed, and that our copy at least is well bound and lettered, so as to be quite ornamental on the book-shelf. We notice that the list of subscribers at the close of the volume is not very numerous, but we doubt not, that now the volume is out, it will command a wide sale. Every intelligent, progressive farmer in the land should have a copy.

AMERICAN CATTLE: THEIR HISTORY, BREEDING AND MANAGEMENT.—This is a book of some 500 pages, from the pen of Lewis F. Allen, of Black Rock, near Buffalo, N.Y., late President of the New York Agri-