

## Getting up Cattle for Show.

The Ayrshire Agricultural Association is setting its face against the getting up of cattle for exhibition. That there are some practices used which are fraudulent is admitted on all hands, but there are others against which no reasonable objection could be urged, and it might be difficult to draw the line between the allowable and the dishonest. The English Farmer is somewhat severe upon Ayrshire for its sudden access of virtue, and retorts, "you began it," in this style.—It is notorious that the most flagrant deceivers in stock exhibitors have been Ayrshire men. Not many years ago, we were present at an exhibition where a cow's tail was so admirably sown that the most expert "drawer" in a woollen manufactory could not have improved upon it; and the turned up horns so beautifully adjusted and tapered that nature alone could be thought of as the artificer. Alas! for the late Duke of Athole, who was a great fancier of this fine milk producing breed—the Dowager Duchess still is—when he got her safely into the byre at Dunkeld he found that the bushy tail was a movable appendage, and that the horns had been set on to order. Behind the scenes, unobserved, we have seen on Show mornings crueller things than this practised upon Ayrshires. Did they not look rotund enough; were their sides too flat? Pailfuls of water poured down their throats were not looking to insure well-sprung ribs. Did they not fill so well out as a perfect type ought to at particular points? A convenient straw was found to convey air under incisions in the skin; and those who inflated the parts apparently did it with the delectation of one sipping a sherry cobbler. Was the udder not well distended? The milk was kept in to the verge of bursting; to the harrowing agony of the cow. And it is this Ayrshire which now, like little Jack Horner, having got its plum, sits in its corner chuckling. "What a good boy am I!" It says in effect: we took notice of this first. Of course we did because it was not known in other places until it was imported from the land of Burns. It is good work, however, Ayrshire is doing now, but it would have been better had it never needed to be performed.

## Our Lowly Evergreens.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER:—Under the above heading I purpose noticing, very briefly, those small terrestrial phanerogamous plants indigenous in the vicinity of Toronto, whose leaves survive the winter, and are in full vitality during the succeeding summer. I will give the scientific name and also the common names in general use. I will specify at least one locality near Toronto, and give the general distribution throughout the County of York.

First in botanical order, and among the first in general distribution, comes *Copis Trifolia*, L. Goldthread, Yellow Root, with its shining trilobed, trifoliate leaves, small, stellate, white flowers and gold-colored roots. The roots are used rather extensively in medicine as a mild astringent, and are known to backwoods mothers as a remedy for apthous sore mouth in babies. Toronto, St. James' Cemetery; common in the country in pine and hemlock woods, open cedar swamps.

*Sarracena purpurea*, L. Side Saddle flower, Pitcher Plant, the Hunter's Cup. The *Sarracena* can scarcely be called an evergreen, in this latitude; but, as it often survives the winter, when a little protected, and as often, even in exposed situations, the lower part of the cups remains unharmed, I have included it in this list. It is every way a remarkable plant, especially interesting now as one of the plants said to be carnivorous. Careful observation seems to indicate that the outside of the cup is physiologically leaf; the inside, physiologically, root. The leaf is neither folded nor rolled in its immature state; is neither incised nor subtended by tract or stipule; the petiole of the cup splits a little below the wing, and, out of this split, the new cup appears as a lance-linear, brownish-colored leaf, gradually developing into the mature form. When Toronto was "only a few shanties," the *Sarracena* was common in the small marshy bays where now is the Esplanade. It is still found around Grenadier Pond, Humber Flats; abundant in marshes, township of Whitechurch, on watershed between Lakes Simcoe and Ontario.

*Cornus Canadensis*, L. Ground Dogwood. The woody, subterranean stem of this plant sends up herbaceous petioles, 4 to 10 inches long, each topped with a whorl of

3 to 6 pointed oval leaves, often striped and blotched with brownish-red; the flowers are included in a large, white, four-leaved involucre, on a short peduncle above the leaves. Toronto, St. James' Cemetery; common in pine and hemlock woods, sometimes in open, sandy fields, throughout the County.

*Limonium boreale*, L. Twin flower. A very graceful little trailing plant, with oval, somewhat hairy, dull greyish green leaves. From the axils of the leaves spring bushlike, like peduncles, each bearing two small but very beautiful night-purple flowers. This plant does well in cultivation as a covering for rock work, and for hanging baskets. Toronto, St. James' Cemetery; general throughout the County in pine and hemlock woods, open cedar swamps.

*Mitchella repens*, L. Partridge berry. Pigeon berry. What Canadian does not know this beautiful little trailing plant? Who, in early spring, has not admired its coral red berries, its beautifully veined, fresh green leaves, unsathed by frost and snow? And he who will observe more closely, later in the season, will be rewarded by the attractive fragrance of its delicate, white, ten-lobed flower. *Mitchella* does well in cultivation in shade; used as a domestic medicine. Toronto, St. James' Cemetery; abundant in woods throughout the County.

*Vaccinium oxococcus*, L. Small cranberry. A slender, creeping bog-plant, with small leaves, large fruit, usually speckled red and white; yields fruit sparingly, sometimes used as a cure for cancer; efficacy doubtful. This cranberry is especially suitable for hanging baskets. Marsh, Ashbridge Bay; Big Marsh, 5th con. Whitechurch.

*Vaccinium macrocarpon*, Ait. Cranberry. Stems sometimes five feet long, often densely matted; yields fruit very abundantly; the cranberry of commerce. Easily cultivated in situations where the bed can be flooded, and very profitable. Found in damp places on glebe land, 2½ miles east of Toronto, north of Danforth Road. In 1870 a square rod of this patch yielded one-half bushel of fruit. Now nearly all ploughed over. Of rare occurrence in the County.

(To be continued.)

W. BRODIE.

## TORONTO.

AND SO THE ENGLISH FARMERS HAVE GOT their "Agricultural Holdings Act," and much good it promises to do them! The principle it establishes is, that a landlord and tenant may, if so they choose, enter into an agreement whereby the tenant cannot be ejected without compensation for such unexhausted improvements as he may have earned out with the knowledge and consent of his landlord. This could have been done equally as well without as with the Act—in fact, the Act is a humbug, and the English farmers are well aware of it. But it will answer one purpose very well—and that is, to stave off, for a year or two, legislation upon a subject that must, sooner or later, become the leading question in Great Britain, viz., the whole system of land tenure.

WE LEARN FROM THE *BOREAS* *Independent* that there is great prospect of the Rice grass of the inland lakes being utilized in the manufacture of paper. The grass, from experiments at Lindsay is proved to furnish a remarkably fine sample of paper without any foreign admixture. The only drawback hitherto has been the expense of cutting, which has had to be performed by hand and which cost \$20 a ton. It is now proposed to employ steam machinery for cutting the grass, and by this means the cost can probably be reduced one half, in which case it is beyond all doubt that these lakes will become the centre of a very large manufacturing industry. Steam cutters for the grass have already been tried at Lake Erie, and failed, not because they were unfit for the work, but because at the season the grass was only to cut the level of the lake had fallen to such an extent as to render the rice beds little more than mud banks over which navigation was impossible. This difficulty does not exist in these inland lakes, the Government having placed the whole of the waters under supervision, and appropriated a sufficient sum of money to build new dams and repair old ones. An agent is now in Europe with good prospect of raising capital to commence work on a large scale.

OUR OPINION ABOUT THE HULLLESS OATS is already known to our readers. In corroboration of our assertions,

we reproduce a few sentences from a gentleman residing at West Macdon, N.Y., who says, in the *Rural New Yorker*.—I don't propose to say much about the "Hullless" oats. Mr. Boutelle doubtless was familiar with the great Ramsdell oat humber, which succeeded so well for one or two seasons, and then, with its great popularity, piles of money and rich proprietors' (it) "stepped down and out," and will be wise enough not to pursue the subject to the little end, as did the proprietors of the Norways. I had cultivated the Hullless oats as a curiosity long before Mr. Boutelle found that one grain. I have also distributed it as a premium for subscriptions to the *Rural New Yorker*, but never in a larger quantity than one ounce, and never recommended it as a field crop. It ripens unevenly, and, therefore, must of necessity waste much in harvesting. That a bushel of Hullless oats ("skinless," I call them,) is worth as much as three bushels of ordinary oats cannot be doubted. A gentleman in Canada sent me a sample of these oats and wished me to sell for him; said there were 3,000 bushels of them among a few farmers, and 2,000 bushels were sold at \$5 per bushel.

PAPER BARRELS for the transportation of flour are now made on a large scale in the United States. The barrels are made of successive layers of paper board cemented together, and subjected to enormous pressure. The sheet thus formed is then shaped in the form of a perpendicular cylinder, and united by a "dovetail joint," backed by a sheet of the same material as the cylinder, and nailed with double pointed wrought iron tacks. It is also furnished with iron and paper hoops. The heads are of wood, neatly turned and flanged, so as to constitute both a cover and a head. The paper from which the barrel is made is manufactured from wheat straw. The paper is not treated chemically in making the barrel, and is as clean and sweet as the original straw, the waterproof and color being entirely harmless, and upon the outer surface of the barrel. The advantages claimed over wooden barrels are that, being a perfect cylinder, and without the central bulge of the wooden barrel, there is a saving of 15 per cent in stowage; that they are enormously strong, having withstood a pressure of 4,000 lbs. from the inside; that they do not contract odors; that they are impervious to dust, vermin and insects; that they can be shipped each part separate and put together where wanted thus saving room; and that they are handled more easily than wooden barrels as they always roll straight.

AN AMERICAN BARRELLER to the case of Alderman Mechi who only took to farming after he had realized a fortune in trade, is given by the Hon. Geo. Geddes in the *New York Tribune*.—William Chamberlain, of Dutchess Co., N.Y., was formerly an importing merchant in New York. The time came when he could indulge his love of country life on the farm, and still carry on his mercantile business. The first sixteen years of his youth had been spent on a Vermont farm, and he had doubtless learned many things that were of use to him when he came to own one. However this may have been, he took an old, worn-out farm, and not only brought back its pristine fertility, but made it profitable in the direct returns, and he has introduced, in large numbers of—by far the best variety of very fine woolled sheep that has ever been imported. I know of no more successful practical farming than I have seen on his place. Once I was much pleased, while visiting Mr. Chamberlain, to be present when one of the native-born and life-long farmers of the neighborhood came to this gentleman farmer for advice as to what he should do with his own worn out farm, on which he had lived and cut hay, and sold it to the city of New York, until the crop had fallen to a very low yield, and just then the price was very low. This man, to the manner born, had seen his own farm growing poorer and poorer, and he had seen this New York merchant turn barrenness into fertility, and he, like a wise man, choked down his pride and came for advice, introducing himself, and stating his case, and listened with intense care to the advice which Mr. Chamberlain took pleasure in giving. The sum of this whole matter is: The most successful farmers of the vicinity are the best advisers of any new beginner in farming as to the best general management of his farm, and there are none of us that ever know so much about farming that we cannot learn a little by comparing notes with our neighbors.