

great landlords ought to reduce their rents by one-half, and the tenants pay the men at the rate of three pence per hour.

The fine rains we have had lately are working a wonderful change for the better on our crops.

Yours, &c., C. J.

Editor of Farmers' Advocate.

Sir,—As a subscriber to your valuable paper, I have thought that a short communication from my locality might prove interesting to many of your numerous readers. Now, to be brief, the subject to be taken up is the

HYBRIDIZATION OR CROSS-IMPREGNATION OF FRUITS AND WHEAT.

I have just returned home from a visit to Elmwood, the residence of Wm. H. Read, Esq., near St. Catharines and Port Dalhousie, where I saw his famous new seedling strawberries, namely, Victoria Russel, Crown, Uncle John, and the Hero of Canada; these, Mr. Editor, are probably the largest four varieties of strawberries on the American Continent, really they look more like tomatoes than strawberries, and the flavor is excellent, partaking of that of the pine apple. They were produced as follows:—Russell's Prolific for female, Myatt's British Queen for male; this crop produced the Victoria Russel. Again, Shaker for female, Myatt's British Queen for male—result, Read's Crown and Hero of Canada. Marguarite female, Jucunda male—result, Uncle John, a long, large, showy fruit, like all the above, measuring from five to nine inches in circumference.

Then, passing along, I was shown some very fine gooseberries, the result of a cross between the White Smith and a wild native sort of our own country. I noticed that two of the varieties were large and clean, robust and healthy; Mr. Read informed me that they had never shown the slightest inclination to mildew, and were now three years old and fruiting.

Here we came up to the raspberries in rows, about one hundred yards long, allow me the term—perfect banks or walls of fruit; indeed, something to see now in its present state of bearing and just beginning to ripen. This must prove of great value as a splendid and profitable market variety, being firm, bearing carriage well, and the canes large and well set with side branches, very prolific and altogether hardy; it was produced between the Fastolf, an English variety, and a native of our own forest woodland.

Now we are in front of a row of black currants, which were produced from a cross between the Black English and the Black Naples, and are called Read's Mammoth. This is unmistakably one of the greatest black currants; the wood, foliage and fruit are all of a size, far above that of others or the old sorts; size of fruit quite equal to the common cherry.

We now enter the vineyard, which looks very luxuriant and neat, having just been cultivated and hoed out, and the vines tied up; all is clear where the eye shoots far in the distance past thousands of clusters, which are every now and then to be seen as the wind turns up the dark green foliage, and here the idea comes in, is not this our land, "the land of promise." A little further on stands the new hybrid seedling grapes, twenty-five varieties in number; these have been selected annually from crosses between the best hardy American varieties, and the famous Muscat family. These vines prove hardy, having passed through the last trying winter unprotected without the loss of a bud. Some of the sorts ripen before the Hartford or Delaware, and retain from the Muscat parent its beautiful and surpassing flavor, and when placed before the Fruit Growers' Association last autumn, held at Toronto, received a great amount of laudation, &c. These varieties promise well, having so many good qualities; they are now bearing large crops, and will be worth seeing in the coming autumn, in their time of ripening.

We now find ourselves by the side of fifty-four varieties of hybrid fall wheat, swaying and bending under its proud load of well developed grain of both White, Flint and Amber varieties. These new wheats present to view many different characteristics. In straw tall, medium and dwarf are to be seen. In ears varying from four to eight inches in length. In some varieties the heads are long and loose, in others very close and compact; some taper to the top, while the ears of one variety are very much enlarged at the top; some, again, are equal both at bottom and top. In one variety the panicles are awned, while in another, grown from the same parents, they are awnless. In some the glumes appear much swollen, standing out horizontally, so much so as to expose the grain bare to view: this is an indication of good plump wheat, full of flour. Some varieties are now ripe and fit to harvest to-day, July 10th, and others nearly so, while another variety is quite green and sappy. Some kinds again are subject to be injured by the midge and the rust, when others alongside will escape both, coming out plump and clean.

Yours, very respectfully,

GREGORY.

Port Dalhousie, July 10th, 1873.

[We thank you and every other gentleman that kindly sends us useful information. We are pleased to hear of Mr. Read's varieties of grain and fruit. If we can make it convenient we will call and examine Mr. Read's grounds. We shall always be pleased to hear the results of these useful experiments.—Ed. F. A.]

Seed Wheat.

Having examined many fields and heard many reports of the different varieties of wheat, we have come to the conclusion to send out no other variety than the Scott wheat the coming fall. There will be other varieties that can be procured, of whiter color and quite as plump, perhaps plumper; they are of the Diehl, Treadwell, Soule, or other old varieties, and can be procured by those wishing for them in almost every section. But the wheat that has thriven with us the best is the Scott wheat, and from observations and reports we think it, on the whole, the safest and most profitable wheat to raise. It is much harder than the whiter varieties and is of good quality. Less loss will be sustained from winter killing, and an average increase of bushels per acre will be obtained. This grain stands up well.

It is our intention to send out no other variety, unless we find something better than we have found to suit our requirements. We shall be able to supply this wheat about the middle of this month.

The Government Agricultural Farm.

This cut is intended to represent the present position of affairs. The Hon. A. McKellar gave a certain gentleman of St. Catharines a letter to Mr. Stone, of Guelph, requesting or ordering Mr. Stone to give up possession of the house and farm to him. We understand that the furniture and fixings were on board the cars, but on presenting the letter from Mr. McKellar, Mr. Stone sent the man flying back to Guelph bag and baggage, and would not admit him into the house.

We believe Stone acted right, as the Government had not paid for the farm as they had agreed to do, and various things appear to be working scum. The sooner the farmers unite their strength, and, as Stone did, kick the whole concern higher than a kite, the better it will be for them, the less taxes they will have to pay, and the more private enterprise will flourish. Still, it was conducted by farmers who have shown themselves of public service, and would be willing to invest their capital in it, then we might expect some good to come from it. The present plan appears to be to make a great show, expend a lot of money, give places and favors to political aids or private friends, but as for the interests of the farmers, that is not in the foundation of the plan, nor will it be except in words at political gatherings.

The Organ at Home.

NEW MUSIC BOOK FOR REED ORGANS AND MELODEONS.

Published by O. Ditson & Co., New York. A capital selection of dance music, voluntaries, sacred music and portions of the most celebrated operas. It is sold at \$2.50, and can be obtained from Mr. W. L. Carrie, of London, Ont.

We think the selection an excellent one, and would advise our readers to obtain a copy.

To persons desirous of having illustrations of stock, machinery, implements or scenery, we have now made such arrangements that we can have them executed by our special artist in a much better manner than has been done heretofore. See specimen in this issue of the Horticultural Grounds at Toronto.

Orange, Judd & Co. send us some very nice chromos—"Mischief Brewing," the prize which is given with the *American Agriculturist*, and the "Strawberry Girl," which is given with *Hearth and Home*.—The designs are both good and the work well executed.

The Prospect of the Markets.

WHEAT.

The *Michigan Farmer*, in a carefully written report of the crops, says:—"Even with a full crop, which we have not, is there any prospect in whatever direction, that indicates that wheat should be very high in price during the coming season, and especially in the fall." Of Detroit market it says:—"Receipts have not been at all heavy, and there is a grand stand-still awaiting the development of the crop, much of which has been out, but very little has yet been ready for market. Much of the wheat throughout the State is yet quite soft, and, with the rains which we have had, it ought to stand for a time before being threshed out. The berry is unquestionably large and full, but we have yet to see more than one or two fields in a hundred that will give a large yield. In all places where we had an opportunity of handling the grain in the field we found the grain as handsome as we ever saw."

The prices in America must be ruled by the European demand, hence the prospects are that our farmers will get remunerative prices. The dispatches from Liverpool have caused a general advance in the price of wheat in New York and Chicago, and the holders of grain are very firm in their demand for higher prices. From the reports from Europe there have been indications for some time that there will be a deficient supply of breadstuffs.

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

Markets are reported dull. Detroit prices range from 10½ to 12 cents, the latter only for a choice article. The New York market shows a tendency to decline. The Liverpool market has shown a marked change, the quotations for American cheese showing a decline of nearly \$1.50 per 112 lbs. Prices at the English cheese markets are said to have declined. At the Frome cheese fair the range of prices for the best dairies of Cheddar



cheese was from 66s. to 79s. per 112 lbs. In the London market American cheese was quoted at 56s. to 68s.

The liberal supply of butter at the United States markets indicates that the supply is likely to be large and keep down prices. In Detroit only choice fancy brings over 20c., while the general price is 16c. to 18c. In New York, Western butter, when of good color and fresh, brings 20c., but butter of an inferior quality is a drug in the market. The exporters to England look for solid, even-colored lots, but cannot expect a prime article at their price, 17 cents. The highest quotation for butter in New York is for fancy pails, which bring 28c. to 30c. Western reserve and Michigan, good to prime, are quoted at 20c. to 32c.

WOOL.

Lower grades of wool will not, it is thought, meet improved prices, as the clip this season is large, and the market is already pretty well supplied. The case is different as regards long, fine wool. There is little surplus on hand of the goods for which such wool is required, and for such goods there is a constantly increasing demand. The Michigan wool raisers have realized from 36c. to 40c. per lb., while some lots have sold at two and even three cents higher. All that seek an early market have, we are told, sold all their clip, while others still hold in hand a considerable quantity. At the late general sales of colonial wool in England prices advanced since the opening from three to four cents. Manufacturers and dealers are purchasing the staple with confidence in the maintenance of prices.

HOPS.

"Although prices of the in-coming crop bid fair to open high, there appears to be a

general disposition on the part of dealers and holders to close out their present stock and start business in September on a clean market. Our London advices concerning the coming crops are more discouraging, and present appearances indicate high prices there the coming season. Prices continue steady at 35c. to 40c. for Western hops in the New York market."



FEEDING CHICKENS.

Corn, wheat screenings and occasionally coarse meal, scalded and mixed with hot water, make up their food. I never give them corn meal mixed with cold water; I don't believe in it, in fact I think that it is one source of their sickness and diseases. All their food is better for them cooked, but cooking of corn and wheat implies trouble. So it does, but it pays to do it, and does anything pay without trouble? However, let me say, whether you feed on raw corn or no, never feed on raw corn meal.

Now, when I feed, my plan is to walk all over the yard, about half an acre, and scatter the food right and left (two grains never fall in the same spot) and immediately you see the whole army scatter themselves as skirmishers, and the yard presents, for an hour or two, somewhat the appearance of an upturned ant hill. I never give them as much as they can eat, so they always leave off hungry. By my system of scattering the food, old and young, weak and strong, small and large, all get their chance and share, all are kept so actively and busily employed that the very process of feeding stirs them about, and keeps them from being too lazy to move about.

Clean water (you see I emphasize the clean part) they must have, free to all. Drinking foul water kills more chickens than a net of ten of us raise. Occasionally in summer I drop a lump of lime into the water; I also make them Cayenne pills whenever I notice them drooping, or their discharges show symptoms of diarrhoea. Gapes come from drinking foul water, living in dirty quarters and want of good food properly given.

The best cure for this and all other diseases chicken fle-h is heir to, is prevention—in this case, an ounce of prevention being worth a good many pounds of cure. Give them good, wholesome food, healthy, clean quarters, pay due regard to their comfort, and, my word for it, they will make you rejoice in the profitable gratitude they return you; you will be but little troubled with cholera and gapes, or any other pest, except the miserable chicken thief, and the best cure for him is a spring gun properly arranged to dose him when he makes his marauding attempt.—*Cor. Country Gent.*

EGGS BY THE POUND.

There seems to be no good reason why eggs should not be sold by the pound, the same as other animal products; we are therefore not surprised to learn that the matter has been brought to the attention of the Legislature of Massachusetts, and it has been enacted that eggs shall be sold in that State, hereafter, by the pound.

It is alleged by the parties interested that there has been within the last few years an increase in the proportion of small eggs produced and imported into the State; and considering that the present size did not fairly represent a dozen, they sought legislative protection in the matter.

At a time when eggs were worth but eight or ten cents a dozen, it made little difference whether a dozen eggs weighed a pound or a pound and a half, and as selling by count was the most convenient, it was most readily adopted; but at the present time, when, in the city markets, eggs range in price from thirty to sixty cents a dozen, even going to a dollar occasionally, it is of some importance to those of moderate means who are compelled to purchase at all times, that they do not lose twenty per cent. in weight by having small eggs doled out to them. It is a matter of surprise that eggs should still be sold by count, while potatoes, apples and, in fact, many articles less valuable and just as easily counted, are sold by their weight.

Aside from rendering justice to both producer and consumer, it will have the effect of increasing the production of this healthful and nutritious article of diet, encouraging the rearing of the best breeds of fowls which really lay the greatest weight of eggs, both by their great number and large size.—*L. S. Journal.*

At a recent sale of Leicester sheep from the flocks of Lord Polwarth, an English breeder, one ram brought \$850, with one exception the highest price ever paid for a Leicester sheep. The average of the sale was \$185.

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