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RURAL NOTES.

THE testimony of the Western New York Farmers' Club is, that the failure of last year's apple crop was owing to cold rains at the blossoming season, followed by immense swarms of aphids.

ONE way of killing off wire worms in the land is to grow two or three successive crops of buckwheat. They can't feed on the roots, and the tops smother the grass. To grow corn, wheat or grass on infected land is only to supply the worms with food upon which they flourish.

If farmers would take the trouble to gather up and cart into their barn yards, sheds or stables, the wealth of leaves in their woods in the fall of each year, they would add largely to the bulk and the richness of their manure heaps. It would only cost the labour, and dry leaves make excellent bedding for stock.

HALF a teaspoonful of table salt dissolved in water is said to be an excellent cure for dyspepsia. It should be taken soon after rising in the morning. If the cure is as effective as it is simple, no one need suffer the terrible consciousness of "being the miserable owner of that diabolical arrangement called a stomach," as Carlyle once expressed it.

BROAD tires have many advantages for farm waggons. They are indispensable for drawing manure on land at any season, and their advantage in road use is that they improve the road bed, helping to fill up the ruts made by narrow-tired vehicles. It is probable that broad-tired waggons will in the future come into more general use for farm purposes. The wonder is that they have been so long neglected.

THE extent of the ravages of the lung plague in the United States is estimated by Professor Low at two millions to three millions of cattle annually. This is a very serious loss, and it shows how necessary it is that vigorous steps should be taken at the outbreak of such plagues to stamp them out utterly. The British Government took the right means in 1866, and though the remedy was costly it had the merit of being effective. It is better that every head of an affected herd should be slaughtered than that the plague should be permitted to establish itself and spread over the whole country.

AGRICULTURE in the present century has changed the wooden mould-board for the steel plough, the sickle for the self-binder, the flail for the separator; it has given to the husbandman labour-saving implements, almost without end. For one farmer who was considered well off a

hundred years ago, there are five hundred well off now—not relatively, perhaps, but enjoying equal comforts. Yet they are not satisfied, for they see many others in better circumstances than themselves. The rest-and-be-thankful farmer seems to be growing scarcer every day, and we think on the whole it is well that it should be so.

IN selecting corn for seed aim for length of ear, length of grain, and medium cob. These combined qualities are somewhat rare, but they are well worth looking for. Short grain from a short ear is the very poorest kind of seed, for it will reproduce its like. Another thing worth remembering in corn-growing is, to plant no more than you can thoroughly cultivate. It is absurd to plant twenty acres when by manuring and proper cultivation ten acres will produce as much. With more than you can keep clean you are sure to have a poor crop of corn and a big crop of weeds. By all means keep down the weeds; they are the bane of the farm.

WE think there is altogether too much salt-pork eaten by the farmers of Ontario. True, they can't hope to have fresh meat every day in the year, for butchers are few and far between in country places. But salt pork twice a day the year round is a monotonous diet. The boys and girls of the farm don't like it, and possibly many of them are tempted to leave the farm to get quit of it. A good fat bullock killed once a year provides an agreeable change, and every farmer should fatten at least one bullock a year for family use. Then there is the poultry yard. It costs very little to keep a hundred or two hundred hens on the farm, and what is more toothsome than a chicken fricasee, roast or broil on the farmer's table? One fowl makes a meal for a large family, and the next meal is running around until needed. Besides, there is the luxury of fresh eggs for eight or ten months of the year, and there is more nourishment in two fresh eggs than in a pound of salt pork.

A FARMER in Central Minnesota has been trying the experiment of sowing seed imported from the Red River valley. His neighbours, on the other hand have been sowing the seed they raised, or that was grown in the neighbourhood. There was no difference in the soils, or in the manner of cultivation; but the farmer who brought his seed from the Red River region found that his crop yielded an average of ten bushels per acre more than his neighbours. This is not a discovery; there is nothing new or startling about it; but all the same it is worthy of remark. Farmers as well as others require to be reminded of important facts. If some system of exchanging seed grain grown at long distances apart was estab-

lished there is no doubt that good results might be obtained. The Grange organization could easily give it practical effect, as the officers of local societies can readily communicate with each other. Exchanges say between Victoria and Kent, or Bruce and Niagara, might prove to be of great value.

EGGS have been such a good price during the past year that farmers are more than ever encouraged to pay attention to their poultry yards. The prices paid at country markets last summer were higher than the best winter prices of twenty years ago. The chief cause of this probably is that within that period, a large export trade has been built up. The trade returns of the past ten years, show a great increase, and there is every prospect of steady growth. It is the side industries of the farm that keep up the current of ready money. The surplus grain is marketed in a few days, and the cash for it comes in the lump. For that reason, perhaps, the farmer thinks that grain is alone deserving of attention. But the weekly receipts for eggs and butter would surprise him if he took the trouble to keep an account book, and foot up items at the end of the year. We say to farmers that they are sure to be well rewarded for attention paid to the poultry yard. And if they invest a few dollars in getting improved breeds they will do still better. The Hamburg hen that lays 200 or 250 eggs a year is a far better property than the "dung hill" that lays only half that number.

THERE is reason to fear that the wheat crop has been injured to some extent by changes in the weather during the past four or five weeks, especially in the western and south-western counties of the Province. The rain and thaw which continued for several days flooded many fields, and everywhere left the snow a compact mass. Suddenly on the heels of the thaw came a spell of intense cold; and instead of the warm, porous covering of the early winter there is now a solid coat of ice over all the fields, shutting out the air and keeping the plants at a low temperature. It is found that under the protection of dry snow wheat will not only remain fresh and green, but will make considerable growth throughout the winter months, it very rarely smothers. A thaw, however, is one of the things to be dreaded, especially when the snow-fall is heavy, as it has been this winter. Farmers will await with some anxiety the opening of spring. The fact that the plant got a poor start in the fall, owing to the long season of drouth, makes the outlook all the more discouraging. It is fortunate, however, that the thaw was not general throughout the Province. In all the northerly counties its effects were scarcely felt.