

with the investment, considering the system of rapid separation of the cream from the milk as the best of all recent improvements in the manufacture of butter. He considers that under favorable circumstances, a gain of 25 per cent. may be made by its use, that the butter is cleaner and better made from the cream by this process than by the old process, and that the advantage of having new and sweet milk to be used for cheese-making, for sale or for other use, is a very great desideratum. So well pleased is Mr. Sprague with the process and working of the De Laval Creamer that he expects to get another one before the end of the season.

Ameliasburg has some natural advantages which peculiarly adapt it to dairying, having good pasture land surrounding a remarkable lake, named after the person who first discovered it, Roblin Lake. It covers about four hundred acres, and is in many places so deep that an eighty-foot line has not touched the bottom. The water is cold, and so clear that one can see ten feet deep into it. It has no known inlet, but is fed from some underground source supposed to come from Lake Superior, or some other of the large and more northerly lakes, as the water in these lakes stand between 100 and 200 feet above Lake Ontario, although it is only distant from the latter about fifteen miles. This pond was formerly well stocked with bass and trout; but some of the inhabitants thought to increase the sport, and put in a pair of young pike, and in a few years the pike destroyed all the other fish. Now the inhabitants are trying by every means to destroy the pike; they catch them by the ton, but there are no signs of diminution. The pike taken from this lake are of a much darker color and finer quality than those taken in Lake Ontario. Must not this water be of very great importance in making the finest of butter? Water is of different quality, and the purest is necessary to produce the best quality of dairy products.

While passing through the township we noticed that the crops are generally looking well—better than in the west—although some of the land is rather light. The most marked difference was to be seen in the fruit prospect. The apple trees were all overlaid, and the small fruits were most promising, as the frost had not injured the fruit in the county, the surrounding water retarding the early growth and modifying the atmosphere. We understand that the apples grown near the water have a much finer appearance than those grown near the centre of the county, or further away from the water.

**TURPENTINE AND INSECTS.**—Turpentine has so strong an odor that it will prevent depredations of most insects, and on a small scale is one of the best applications that can be made. It is said that a corn-cob dipped in turpentine will keep cucumber and squash bugs from the hill to which it is applied. If hung in plum trees it will prevent attacks of the curculio.

Mr. W. J. Fowler suggests the need of knowledge of insects in warring against them, else you may destroy the friendly ones, since they are not all enemies.

#### Hints on Flower Gardens.

Canadians are as a rule a flower-loving people, and to a large extent, appreciators of the beautiful in nature. In their efforts in laying out for themselves gardens, however, it must be admitted that in that kind which affords a constant succession of beauty, both in blossom and leaf, they have thus far failed, there being but few gardens in the country which have come in any way near the Canadian's ideal standard of excellency.

The cause of failure is attributable we believe, not to a lack of means nor the want of suitable plants, but rather to a lack of knowledge of the principles or ground work underlying the truly beautiful. There is such a thing as harmony of colors, which may be said to be produced by so arranging colors complementary to each other in such a manner that the one color helps to set off its neighbor to the best advantage. We see this harmony of colors in the rainbow, in the pansy blossom, in the wings of butterflies, in autumn leaves, in all those combinations of colors where arrangement underlies the superstructure. Want of arrangement and want of proper selection in the plants are the two most prolific sources of failure. However elegant or artistic the design of the garden, that design becomes valueless when badly planted so as to conceal its merits, or filled with a selection of plants, which, from their coarse or ragged habits of growth, or their remaining in bloom but a short time, give the whole a confused and meagre effect. If it is the object in a flower garden to afford a continual display of beautiful colors and delicious odors, we conceive that all plants should be neglected except such as combine almost perpetual bloom with neat and agreeable habits of growth. From our roses we might select Bourbons, Perpetuals, Bengals, etc., which offer an abundance of blossoms and fine fresh foliage; and from our annuals we might select Portulacas, Verbenas, Petunias, Mignonette, and the like, which are always in bloom and fresh and pretty in habit.

What painters would call "breadth of effect" may be produced by doing away with the too common practice of intermingling species and varieties of all colors and habits of growth, and substituting a grouping or massing of colors and particular species of plants. Masses of crimson and white, of yellow and purple, and the other colors and shades brought boldly into contrast, or disposed so as to form an agreeable harmony, make a much more forcible and pleasing impression than can ever be produced by a confused mixture of shades and colors nowhere distinct enough to give a decided effect to the whole.

We can see no reason why from our thousand varied hues we may not be able, by a judicious selection of plants, and with a knowledge of the principles of complementary arrangement, reproduce in the flower garden, rainbows, enlarged pansy blossoms, butterfly wings, &c., &c., which afford us an unlimited supply of excellent models for our imitation. We would also note that whereas too much bare soil too commonly meets the eye in the average flower bed, resort may be had to the but recently improved plan of using a well kept, close cut turf to cover the heretofore bare and unsightly soil. Keeping the gravelled walks well filled with fine gravel also adds to the beauty and attractiveness of the garden, and should not be neglected, a trench being no object of beauty nor "a joy forever."

#### Special Contributors.

##### A Chatty Letter from the States.

[FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.]

One of the features of the western cattle and land trade which is attracting a good deal of attention just now, is the absorption of vast tracts of Government land by huge capitalists and especially those from abroad who take everything from and bring nothing to the country. This matter is briefly referred to by the Mark Lane Express as follows:—

"Considering the wholesale appropriation of American land by British capitalists that has been going on lately, it is quite time that something should be done to stop it, otherwise all the evils of our land and tenant system will soon be rampant in that country."

The extent to which valuable lands have been taken by the railroads, and by large syndicates, is not generally realized, and in the name of the small farmer and stock raiser, it is high time that something were done to put a stop to this shameful monopoly of the best and most available lands.

The whole tendency of the western stock raising business is to concentration, and the small concerns are being pushed to one side.

There has of late been a scarcity in the far western country of young stock cattle, and many thousand cattle from the States have been taken to the Territories. Some of these cattle have stood the colder climate fairly, but the great bulk of them have suffered much, and losses have been very heavy. On the plains, as a rule, no pretensions to feeding are made, and if cattle are not good "rustlers," that is, are not able to hunt around and dig the grass out from under the snow, travel long distances for water, etc., they fare poorly. It is the practice of nearly all ranchmen to put up a little hay in stacks to feed to saddle horses, a few fine animals, etc., during the winter. The native herds do not expect anything of the kind, and travel off to find their own food; but when the young cattle from the States which have been used to being called up to the hay stack and fed—when they see these tempting stores of provisions and know nothing about rustling for their living, they are very apt to congregate around these fenced straw and hay stacks and starve rather than go off through the storm. The reports from the range country where these young cattle have been tried, are rather conflicting this spring. Of course, each owner generally tries to make his losses during the winter appear as light as possible. With regard to the young States cattle, it is an amusing fact that hardly a single ranchman can be found who has lost any of these cattle, but nearly all of them have neighbors who have suffered severely.

There is a good deal of risk in acclimating young cattle taken from the older States to the west and southwest, and owners are rather chary about trying it again this year so freely as they did last.

In these days when wool is so very abundant and cheap as to make farmers complain seriously, it is easy to find forcible illustrations of the value of combining mutton raising with wool-growing. Those farmers who are able to shear their sheep and send good fat carcasses