

as onerous as it is now, although it is already had enough. Although my present object is to draw the attention of your readers to the necessity of planting hedges, I think it will not be improper to remark that the Imperial Government ought to show a good example to the citizens of Quebec and Montreal, by substituting coal for wood, as fuel. With these observations I beg to introduce to you readers an extract from a speech of Mr. McNab, of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, who made a tour in Canada some three years ago :

"He was agreeably surprised to see such a variety of native haw-thorns, being convinced of their fitness for forming hedges, so very much wanted in this country, and which many of the inhabitants expressed a great desire to have, instead of the unsightly snake fences which at present separate the fields. But apparently they never thought that the indigenous thorns would answer for this purpose, as they talked of importing haws and white-thorns from Britain. Mr. McNab gave instructions to those individuals with whom he had an opportunity of conversing upon the subject, so that they may raise thorns for themselves, as an abundant supply of seeds may be annually procured at no great distance from each settlement. As these instructions may be interesting to others, we here repeat them:—The fruit should be gathered about the end of October, care being taken to keep the seeds of the luxuriant growing sorts separate from those of the dwarfier kinds. A pit should be prepared about 1½ feet deep, into which the fruit is to be put with a mixture of earth or sand. It should be turned several times during the season, and if dry, a little water may be added; 1 or 2 ins. of soil being a sufficient covering to insure the decomposition of the pulp. During the following October a piece of good ground should be prepared, and the seed sown as it is taken from the pit, pretty thick in drills about 1 ft. distant from each other, or in beds 3 ft. wide. In the succeeding spring the plants will begin to appear; at which time, and throughout the season, they must be kept clear of weeds. If properly attended to the seedlings will attain a height of from 7 ins. to 12 ins. the first year. The following spring the strongest plants may be either transplanted into drills, or placed where they are intended to remain as a permanent fence. The smaller ones should be left in the seed-drills or in beds for another year, when they may be treated in the same manner. In forming a live fence, the ground ought to be prepared as soon as the snow disappears, by making a trench about 2 ft. broad, and a spade in depth. Along the centre of this trench the young plants

should be put about 6 or 8 inches apart, and afterwards well watered and firmly trodden in. Care should be taken to protect the young plants from cattle, and to keep them clear of weeds. The second year after planting, the thorns should be headed down to within 6 or 10 inches of the ground, and each year afterwards switched up on both sides to a certain ridge, so as to produce the shape generally termed sow-backed; hedges trained in this form, being less liable to be destroyed by snow resting upon them than when cut flat at the top." If the method here recommended be properly attended to, Mr. McNab has not the least hesitation in saying that an excellent hedge of native thorns may be acquired five or six years after planting. At several places he saw the indigenous thorns employed as a fence; at least, they had been planted with that intention, and had attained a considerable height, but from want of proper attention to pruning and weeding, they were so slender that easy access might be obtained between each stem. From such instances of mismanagement, an erroneous opinion seems generally to prevail that hedges will not succeed in America. 'But,' he very properly remarked, 'if newly-planted hedges in Britain were equally neglected, there can be no doubt that they would soon degenerate, and become no better than those which I observed in the United States and Canada.'

*To the Editor of the AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL.*

SIR,—Should any of your readers be able to give me satisfactory answers to the following questions, (and I rather think there are some,) he or they would render a great service to the country, and perhaps afford me an opportunity of addressing you on several subjects therewith connected:—

1. What is the average yield in the District of Montreal, or throughout Lower Canada, of wheat, oats, pease, Indian corn, horse-beans, buck-wheat, barley and rye?
2. What ought to be—were an improved system of cultivation adopted—the average yield of these crops?
3. What quantity of land is there in tillage in the District of Montreal, or in Lower Canada?
4. What is the value of wheat, &c.—the produce of Lower Canada—which is exported?

Answers to these questions ought to be made without the least exaggeration.

AGRICOLA.