



South Westminster Ploughing Match.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR.—This match took place on the 7th inst. on the farm of Samuel Lewis, Esq., and was as usual a decided success. Although rather behind former years in the amount given in prizes, and in the number of ploughmen, still, when we consider that this match is not connected with any society whatever, and that the whole amount given in prizes was raised by voluntary subscriptions, it certainly does credit to those who were instrumental in getting it up, as it is even this year second to none we have yet seen chronicled. On the day appointed for the match the weather was all that could be desired, and at an early hour teams could be seen coming from all directions towards the "scene of action." The Secretary and Treasurer being on the ground the entries were all made, and at ten o'clock, the hour previously appointed, the teams to the number of twenty-three started forward at the word of command. It was truly a pleasing sight to see so many enterprising young men of our township meeting together to engage in friendly competition for the prizes that were offered, each one guiding his plough with a coolness and precision which showed to the beholder that he was no novice in this manly art. The Judges having been on the ground during the progress of the ploughing, had finished their task (which by the way was no enviable one), shortly after the ploughmen had left the field and awarded prizes as follows :

MEN'S—1ST CLASS.

1st prize, James McMillan (plough used, Gray pattern); 2nd do., Walter Fleming (plough made by Walker); 3rd do., Archd. Macpherson (Gray plough).

MEN'S—2ND CLASS.

1st prize, George Mann (Gray plough); 2nd do., Donald McMillan (Gray plough); 3rd do., James Smith (plough made by Elliot); 4th do., Malcolm McLachlin (Gray plough).

MEN'S—3RD CLASS.

1st prize, Duncan Buchanan (Gray plough); 2nd do., John Forbes (plough made by Elliot); 3rd do., Joseph Legg (Gray plough); 4th do., Henry Dark (Gray plough); 5th do., Alex. Milne (plough made by Elliot); 6th do., F. J. Errington (Gray plough); 7th do., John Dawson (Cobairdy plough).

BOYS'—1ST CLASS.

1st prize, John C. Mann (plough made by Elliot); 2nd do., Wm. McDonald (Cobairdy plough); 3rd do., James McLachlin (Gray plough); 4th do., George Lewis (Gray plough).

BOYS'—2ND CLASS.

1st prize, Wm. Pritchett (Tootman plough); 2nd do., Archd. Macpherson (Gray plough); 3rd do., David Mann (Gray plough).

It is gratifying to see the increasing interest that is taken by the youth of our land in the essential branch of agricultural labour. Only a few years ago and a ploughing match in this section of the country was a rare thing, now instead of ploughing matches being novelties, there is hardly a township in which they have not become fixed institutions, and in some townships, (Westminster for example,) there are two annual matches held. These matches have certainly a very beneficial effect upon the young men of our day. We see boys who could hardly be expected to be able to manage a plough coming to these matches, and doing their work with a skill and precision which show them to be ploughmen of no mean order. Great praise is due to the judges for the impartial manner in which they performed the task allotted to them, and no doubt they will feel amply repaid by the general satisfaction which is expressed at their decision. In looking over the prize list I noticed several handsome donations which deserve to be mentioned. Among them was a pair of Scotch collars, presented by Moore Brothers, St. Thomas, which were handsomely got up, and amply repaid the man who was fortunate enough to win them for his day's labour. A plough was presented by Mr Jas Walker, Westminster, which was also well worth a day's toil. It is to be hoped that those connected with this match, instead of allowing it to decline, will in future take hold with a will, and get up a match next year that will eclipse all their former efforts.

Westminster, Nov 12th, 1866.

OBSERVER.

Turnip Harvesting and Turnip Match.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR.—A few evenings ago I had the pleasure of seeing in operation what I consider the best plan of harvesting the turnip. It is as follows :—The tops are cut off with a sharp hoe, two drills thrown in cutting into one row, then all carted off to the field for cattle. A common plough without the couller is next passed under the drill, neatly cutting off the roots of the turnip, when a common harrow, with every other tooth drawn, is passed a double time over the rows, leaving the whole broadcast over the land. Nothing remains to be done but cart to the pit or cellar.

This season has proved itself too wet for the turnip crop in this section of country; though I have heard of some splendid crops. Gooderham & Worts have just gathered on the above plan, a very fine crop grown on an upland clay loam, the sight of which would have roused the poetic in a Bloomfield. I have satisfaction in enjoining the names of the three gentlemen who carried off the prizes in this county of Peel, and their mode of culture ;—

FIRST PRIZE, ANDREW SMITH, CHINOLACOST.—It was an extra fine field, yielding on an average 480 lbs. to the square rod, or 1,280 bushels per acre. The land was ploughed once last fall, twice in the spring, and had ten loads of manure per acre. The crop was dressed with phosphate of lime and plaster, scuffled twice and hoed two or three times.

SECOND PRIZE, JAMES THOMPSON.—A very fine field, yielding 456 lbs. per sq. rod, or 1,216 bushels per acre. The land was ploughed once last fall, twice in the spring; good rich soil, and had received no manure this season. They were hoed once and scuffled twice.

THIRD PRIZE, A. CAMPBELL.—An excellent field, yielding 442 lbs. per square rod, or 1,179 bushels per acre. The land was ploughed once last fall, once in the spring. Eighteen loads of manure were applied per acre. They were well hoed several times and the ground kept perfectly clean.

Nearly four tons per acre is no mean crop; and but shows what Canadian soil will do under skilful treatment. Much is said about the pest of rape in the turnip seed; about a third of some crops is rape; better surely charge the worth of good seed than thus adulterate it. Success to the turnip crop, the hope of Canadian farming, as it is the backbone of British agriculture!

WM. LESLIE.

Meadowvale, Nov. 16th, 1866.

Preservation of Eggs.

56 MARGATE, LEEDS, ENGLAND, }
October 16, 1866. }

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER :

SIR,—I have lately read with some interest a paragraph copied from THE CANADA FARMER, which referred to the holding of a meeting of farmers in New York, some time ago, for the purpose of discussing the subject of the preservation of eggs. I apprehend their object is to import eggs into this and other countries in the best way, and with the least possible expense so far as regards the preservation of them. As this is a subject which I have studied now for some considerable time past (besides having tested it), and as I feel sure I could be of service to them in enabling them to carry out their object, I have ventured to address them through your columns, which I shall feel obliged by your inserting in an early impression of your paper.

You may be aware that not less than 200,000,000 of eggs are annually imported into this country from France and Ireland, for which there is a very ready sale. My method is simple and cheap, costing about one shilling for 8,000 eggs, the time occupied for this quantity being 3 hours or thereabouts. I may also say that there would be no difficulty in preserving the eggs at any time after their collection, and when once preserved and packed in a dry place they would keep for 12 months, and be as sound as when first packed. This, of course, you must be aware is a very great advantage over the eggs imported from Ireland and France, inasmuch as several thousands are generally found to be totally unfit for use by

reason of their being bad. As this subject cannot fail to be of very great importance to the farmers in Canada, and the surrounding districts, I think they would do well to call a meeting for the consideration of this subject. I need scarcely say that I shall be happy to communicate with them upon the method I have already alluded to.

Apologizing for trespassing upon your valuable space,

I am, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

THOMAS STEAD,

Nephew of the late Jno. Tingle, Farmer, Toronto.

P. S.—If any of the late Jno. Tingle's sons are at present residing in Canada or neighbourhood, I shall be happy to correspond with them.

The Salmon-Trout.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

SIR,—Entertaining, as I do, a high appreciation of the value of illustrations, more especially in connection with books or articles on Natural History, and recognizing as I do, the enterprise and the liberality displayed in the issue of THE CANADA FARMER, a publication cheap at the selling price irrespective of engravings, I trust you will not deem me hypercritical if I take exception to the representation of the Salmon-Trout contained in your current number.

Although I regard the fish as too deep for its length, too hog-backed, (like a Grayling,) and with scales too strongly developed, my chief objection is to the spots with which its sides are ornamented—spots resembling those on a "speckled trout." I have killed Salmon-Trout both in Canadian and in Irish waters, and I never saw one with any approach to a spotted or speckled side.

I have seen, in Kerry, a Salmon Trout as deep in proportion to its length as the one portrayed in your Journal, but only one, and the outline of that fish was, as a curiosity, traced by my friend who killed it (Col. Powell, late M.P. for Cardiganshire, an accomplished and experienced fisherman) on the whitewashed walls of the hotel at which we were staying. On the Kerry coast these fish attain a greater weight than do the Salmon, for whereas the latter rarely exceed 9 lbs the former run to 12 lbs or 14 lbs. I have seen Salmon and Salmon-Trout frequently on the same dinner table when the flesh of the latter has invariably presented a more brilliantly pink appearance than that of the former.

Independent of our great inland seas these Trout are found at certain seasons, in considerable numbers in the back lakes of our County, e. g. in Stony Lake where, during, I regret to say, the spawning season, they are taken in great abundance, sometimes by the illegal use of nets. The heaviest I have had experience of weighed 15 lbs., but I have heard of their being killed of a much larger size. I recollect 19 being killed one evening in the course of 3 hours by 2 fishermen. They run, with us, in the spring from the first breaking up of the channel ice for a week or two, and in the Autumn from the first to the middle of October: at the latter season they lie very close to the bottom so that a heavy "sinker must be used: they then bite greedily, and a piece of red flannel alone is found to be an excellent bait. They are never caught where there is a muddy bottom, their usual resort being deep water over pebbles: one of their favourite haunts in Stony Lake is on a granitic flat.

B. A.

Lakefield, Co. of Peterboro, }
November 21, 1866. }

ANOTHER LARGE POTATO YIELD.—"F. W. A." of Quebec, writes: "One of your readers" can beat the large potato yield of "J. M." of Hamilton. He planted one large potato and obtained a produce of forty. I planted one quarter bushel of the Gleason variety, and dug of sound table sized potatoes ten bushels full heaped measure, i. e., a yield of forty for one of the whole quarter bushel, and this with common field culture on a piece of meadow land not rich. A single middling sized potato of the same variety planted in the garden, gave fifty-one sound potatoes, all but two of good table size, nearly all as large as, and some much larger, than the one planted."