

**TO INCREASE THE QUANTITY OF BUTTER IN CHURNING.**—“Ellis McMichael,” of Waterford, supplies the following information “for the benefit of our dairy-women”: “Pour the cream into the churn, and churn until it is broken, then add butter six or eight months old, equal to the amount you think the cream will produce. The quantity will be increased one third, not including the amount added.”

**FARM BOOK-KEEPING.**—The system of “Farm Accounts” submitted by an “Old Country Man,” does not reach our estimate of a simple, thorough, and practical method. We will have something to say on the subject before long, when we may very possibly borrow an idea from our correspondent’s communication.

**A CORRECTION.**—“R. E. B.,” of Asphodel, writes as follows:—“In one of the first numbers of THE CANADA FARMER, it is inadvertently stated that Rice Lake is ‘back of Peterboro.’ Rice Lake is about twelve miles from Lake Ontario, at Cobourg, and therefore tolerably close to the front—at all events much more so than Peterboro.”

**THOMAS’S PATENT BEE-HIVE.**—“John Crichton,” of Valley Field, C. E., writes us a long letter in which he states: “Having carefully read the communications which, from time to time, have appeared in your journal in reference to the self-protecting bee-hives of Messrs. J. H. Thomas & Bros., of Brooklyn, I was induced to purchase one of them, in the early part of June last. I am very much pleased with it in every way, and am anxious to recommend it to every bee-keeper in Canada.”

**A GOOD WORD FOR CROWS.**—“Merrimac,” writes from Hope, as follows:—“In your issue of July 15th, there appears a communication in favour of sparing the crows. That they are the farmers’ best friend was clearly demonstrated, at least to my own satisfaction a few days since. On rising one morning last week and looking towards my orchard, I discovered four or five crows in a favourite cherry tree. Seizing a gun I sallied forth to wreak vengeance on the black rascals. On drawing near to the tree, however, I discovered to my astonishment that the crows were really doing me a kindness, for instead of feasting on the cherries, they were making a glorious meal off the slugs, with which the tree was covered. Ashamed and crest fallen, I immediately executed a ‘masterly retreat’ to the house, a ‘wiser if not a better man.’”

**PRICE OF FLAX SEED.**—“J. N.,” of North Bruce, writes as follows:—“Will you be kind enough to inform me through THE FARMER, what the current price of flax-seed was last spring. I got a small quantity from a neighbour to sow, and he charged me at the rate of (\$3) six dollars per bushel for it. The ground upon which the seed was sown, is rich clean ground, in fine tilth. The crop is now fully two-thirds weeds. If flax-seed can be sold at the rate of six dollars per bushel, I think it will prove to be the most profitable crop a farmer can cultivate.”

**ANS.**—Our correspondent has evidently been imposed on by “a neighbour.” The price of the ordinary quality of flax-seed in the spring, was \$1.50 per bushel; while fine clean samples, suitable for sewing, brought \$2.00. If your “neighbour” knowingly supplied you with seed of which more than half was weeds, and at the same time charged you at the exorbitant rate of six dollars a bushel, we do not envy you your proximity to him.

**AN EXPLANATION.**—“Jno. Hamilton,” of Dereham, writes as follows:—“In articles on agricultural questions in Canadian newspapers, surprise is frequently expressed that our farmers do not raise more corn (Indian) than they do. I think I can give you a reason for it, and it is this: Not over one in ten of our farmers, knows or cares how to cure it. Being a miller, I speak with considerable knowledge of the subject, and I think the above estimate is not far from being correct. There cannot be a more healthy and nutritious or appetizing dish placed on the table, than good fresh Indian meal, whether as bread or ‘mush.’ I find, however, that if I save all my toll in one box, and grind it into meal, it is scarcely ‘fit for the hogs,’ as the saying goes; and of course no one will buy stuff that, when put upon his table, only

creates nausea. Yet the farmers blame the market, when it is themselves that destroy the market by the inferior grain they bring to it. There are large quantities of corn shipped annually from the West, to supply our market, at prices which would amply reward the farmer to raise it in Canada. In fact, our own corn is preferred by customers, but we can scarcely get a bushel fit for grinding purposes.”

**CROPS AROUND HOPE.**—“Merrimac” reports on this subject as follows:—“Hay is about all secured in very good condition, and was an extraordinary good crop. Fall wheat is about ready for the reaper. I have not heard of any complaint of either the ‘midge,’ ‘weevil,’ or ‘rust’ in this neighbourhood. On the contrary it will be far above an average yield. Barley promises well, and the early sown is fit to reap. Spring wheat will be fully an average crop—the straw is short, but it is well headed. Peas and oats may be expected to yield exceedingly well. Corn and potatoes look well. Turnips are growing finely; those sown before the 20th of June were almost all destroyed by the fly, but those sown after that date have grown amazingly. There has been a large breadth of turnips sown this season, nearly double the quantity ever sown before in one year in this township. This is a pleasing indication of the progress our rural friends are making in the right direction. It is evidently a sign of wisdom on the part of the farmers, to lay in an abundant supply of succulent food for their stock, during our long and severe winter. Flax is grown in this district to a very limited extent, and raised for the seed alone, as there is no market for the fibre in this vicinity.”

## The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, AUGUST 1, 1865.

### The Harvest.

The accounts received from our correspondents, and the local notices culled from our exchanges, induce us to think that in our anxiety not to over-colour the harvest prospects, we have hardly done them justice in recent editorials respecting the season and crops. The midge visitation has been limited in extent, and we are inclined to think, less devastating where it has prevailed, than was feared. Grain crops of all kinds are bountiful, and the root crops promise well. In some localities, want of rain has been felt somewhat severely, but the recent showers have been pretty general, and abundant. A tour through portions of the counties of Wellington, Waterloo, Brant, Oxford and Middlesex, just taken, has greatly raised our estimate of the harvest, and furnished proof that, so far as these localities are concerned, the present will be a year of plenty. We believe that this is the state of things generally throughout the province. Some few exceptions there are doubtless, but the season of 1865 marks a turn in the wheel of our agricultural fortunes, and we hope, heralds a succession of good harvests that will fill all hearts with contentment and thanksgiving, and bring our land more than a return of past prosperity.

### The Coming Provincial Fair.

We have received a copy of the Prize List for the Twentieth Annual Exhibition of the Upper Canada Agricultural Association, to be held in London during the week, commencing Monday, 18th September; and shall note a few of the points of most interest to intending exhibitors and the public generally. The usual liberality is shown in the amount of prizes offered for competition; reaching in the aggregate \$12,000, which exceeds, we believe, the amount offered by any similar institution in the world, with the single exception of the Royal Agricultural Society of England. Entries of stock intended for exhibition must be made on or before Saturday,

August 12th, five weeks preceding the Show. Grain, field roots, and other farm products, agricultural implements, machinery, and manufactures, must be entered by Saturday, August 26th. Entries of horticultural products, ladies’ work, the fine arts, &c., may be made up to Saturday, September 9th. All agricultural and horticultural products must be the growth of the present year. Manufactured articles, or works of art which have been awarded prizes at more than one Provincial Exhibition, cannot receive prizes, but may be awarded diplomas. All articles for exhibition must be on the ground on Monday, September 18th, except live stock, which must be there not later than nine o’clock on the morning of Tuesday, the 19th. We are glad to see that the Directors have guarded the Society this year against a long-standing source of imposition and fraud. There are now no permanent admission tickets to be issued. Members subscribing a dollar will be furnished with four separate tickets, one to be given up at the gate on each admission. If a member goes in to the ground more than four times, he will have to procure a single ticket for each additional admission, in the same manner as non-members. The former practice of issuing badges or tickets at a dollar, available for the show week, has been attended every year by extensive impositions and frauds. One of these tickets or badges has done duty not only for the purchaser thereof, for whom alone it was of course intended, but also for a number of others, without any payment whatever. We have heard of people doing this mean and dishonest thing, not so much for the sake of saving a paltry quarter of a dollar, as for the very questionable gratification of performing what they consider a clever trick. There is good reason for believing that the Society’s funds have suffered every year, more or less extensively, by such nefarious proceedings, and every true friend of the Association will rejoice that an effectual stop is about being put to them. As the Society mainly depends on the proceeds of admission for the payment of its premiums and other expenses, that source of income should be sedulously guarded against imposition. The judges will commence their duties on Tuesday, the 19th, and visitors will be admitted to the grounds only. The Exhibition building will be open to visitors on Wednesday morning. The ploughing match will take place in the neighbourhood of London, on Tuesday. In the men’s class, the first prize will be a clover machine, offered by the late Mr. Joseph Hall, of Oshawa, and valued at \$300; and besides this there will be other six prizes of an aggregate value of nearly \$250. In the boys’ class, the first prize will be \$100, subscribed by the citizens of London and the farmers of Middlesex, and there will be other six prizes of an aggregate value of about \$120. The Canada Company will give, as in many former years, a prize of \$100 for the best 25 bushels of fall wheat, the produce of Canada West, being the growth of the year 1865; also, a prize of \$24 for the best 112 lbs. flax, scutched. The Prince of Wales prize of \$60 will be given for the best bull, of any age or breed.

Everything promises well for a most successful exhibition. We deem it hardly worth while to make an exception to this general remark, on account of the little local squabbling there has been between city and country, as to apportioning the burden of raising the necessary local funds; for, when it comes to the pinch, we cannot believe that either the City of London or the County of Middlesex will be found wanting in its duty. The season has been eminently favourable for a splendid show of live stock, and for an exhibition of the finest samples of cereals, roots, and agricultural productions generally. The Exhibition of last year followed a season of drouth, which parched up the pastures, stunted the grain, bore hard upon the fruit, and prevented the roots from attaining their proper growth. But it was a creditable Exhibition after all, in spite of unfavourable circumstances. This year, however, we have