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### RURAL NOTES.

**SUCCESSFUL** farmers are those who consult the requirements of the markets. The taste of the buyer has to be consulted by the seller.

THE results of experiments at agricultural stations and model farms are valuable, but the recorded experiences of others seem mainly to stimulate the good farmer to experiment and investigation for himself, on his own land.

THE annual value of the hay crop of the United States is said to be \$250,000,000. The value of Ontario's crop, reckoned at \$10 per ton, is about \$40,000,000, and this is nearly one-half the annual yield of all the gold mines in the world.

As a general rule skim milk can be more profitably fed to pigs and poultry than to any other live stock of the farm. It abounds in albumen, from which the white of the egg is formed, and therefore is the proper kind of diet to produce eggs.

Now is the time to give ewes with lamb a daily supply of roots and the best hay. If they have this, with plenty of exercise, they will not need grain until the lambs are two months old. Great care should be taken not to expose the lambs to storms or cold winds.

WHERE grass seed was sown last fall the field should be harrowed and rolled as soon as the ground is hard enough to admit of it. This is the best way of treating grass which has been heaved by winter frost, and it also puts all small stones out of the way of harm to the scythe or mower knife next summer.

THE sun, the wind, the rain and the frost are ever carrying on Nature's great chemical work of making food for plants by pulverizing the soil and decomposing the vegetable and mineral matter in it. To pulverize the soil is consequently the great object in ploughing, cultivating or harrowing it, and if the land be not dry when worked the working of it is vain.

IN some German vineyards the experiment has been tried of soaking the stakes used for trellises in sulphate of copper, to prevent rotting, and it has been found that wherever these stakes were used the vines were free from mildew throughout the season. If this remedy is found to be effective, it will be one of vast importance to vineyardists, it certainly deserves to be tried.

THE prevalence of the pear blight has given the tree peddler a new chance for his operations. He is abroad with varieties of the Chinese and Japanese pear, which he claims to be blight-proof and which he offers at \$1 to \$2 per tree. Set the dog on him at sight. There is not a Chinese or Japanese pear tree worth cultivating, except as a curiosity, or for ornament.

ANIMAL manure is to be valued by the food consumed, much more than by the nature of the animal itself. Straw fed manure, for instance, is poorer than straw; but manure which is the product of clover, hay, roots, grain or oil-cake is

worth almost as much as the food itself is in money. There is neither economy nor profit in feeding cheap stuff to the cattle. It is a loss to the cattle and a loss to the farm.

REFERRING to the New York State Experiment Station at Geneva, which was established in 1882, Governor Hill said in his message to the State Congress that it is rapidly developing its utility and acquiring the confidence of those practical farmers who have heretofore doubted its usefulness, and that it bids fair to greatly improve and benefit the whole farming interests of the State.

BEN. PERLEY POORE says the Baldwin apple had its origin in Wilmington, near Boston, more than a century ago, on the farm of a man named Butters; hence for a time it was known as the Butters apple, and as the fruit was much relished by the woodpecker it was also called the Woodpecker apple. Afterwards, it was cultivated by Col. Baldwin, of Woburn, and by that gentleman's sons it was brought into general notice as the Baldwin apple.

BETWEEN two and three thousand self-binding reapers were sold to the farmers of this Province last year, and about twice as many will be made for the coming harvest. This large increase in the demand enables manufacturers to produce the machines at a much lower price than they could afford to do three or four years ago. It is not merely that there is increased competition among makers, but in the building of a large number there is opportunity for greater economy in the work.

No ploughing should be attempted where the ground is so wet that it turns over in compact masses. Quicker germination, a more rapid growth and a larger crop are obtained by waiting until the land is dry enough to crumble when turned up by the plough. If a field is intended for some early crop, and is not dry enough to admit of timely working, it is better to reserve it for a later crop; then you know that such a field is in need of underdraining, and by this improvement you may make it workable at as early a period as the driest piece of land on the farm.

IT is sometimes said that the interests of farmers receive more encouragement and fostering aid from our Provincial Legislature than those of any other interest. Considering their importance, we do not think they do by any means. The property of farmers pays the bulk of the country's taxes and is the chief source of our productive wealth; besides, the farmers as a class add the least to the criminal and charitable expenses of the localities where they reside, and while there are many schools and colleges in the country for the training of men for business or professional life there is only one which gives special instruction in farming.

APPLE trees should be planted about two rods apart, and at this distance forty trees can be planted to the acre, each having an area of 1,024 square feet. At the very moderate yield of three barrels per tree this would give one hundred and

twenty barrels per acre, and it is a sorry state of the market now-a-days when sound and carefully packed apples of good varieties do not fetch a dollar a barrel. With the present and probable future demand for Ontario grown apples in the English markets, the man who makes a wise selection of varieties, and who cultivates his trees skillfully cannot fail to make a profitable investment of his capital and labour.

INVESTIGATIONS conducted at the Houghton Experimentation Farm show that yellows in peaches is caused by a fungus parasitic plant of the same class as those which produce disease in animals. The germs of this fungus live and grow in the sap, disordering and devitalizing it as they do the blood of animals. The result of the experiments made seems to indicate that the best kind of treatment is the use of potash fertilizers, which, it is claimed, will not only prevent the disease, but will cure it when not too far advanced. Peach growers are advised to make liberal use of lime and potash—the best form of these fertilizers being superphosphate of lime or fine bone, and muriate or sulphate of potash.

IN a letter to the *Toronto Mail*, Mr. Vallancey E. Fuller, of Hamilton, offers some good practical suggestions to butter-makers who would make butter at a profit. (1) Test the cows of the herd from time to time by churning the milk of each cow separately, (2) Keep one day of every week a record of the milk yield of each cow and the quantity of butter made from it; (3) having ascertained which cows are non-paying, sell them off the farm, and breed the best ones to a pure bred bull of stock, well established as butter-makers. The common cows of this country, Mr. Fuller says, require on an average twenty-five pounds of milk to produce one pound of butter; but by grading up the stock to half or three-quarters pure blood, the farmer can raise a herd of dairy cows which will give an average of a pound of butter to every sixteen pounds of milk, without any reduction in the quantity of milk yielded or increase in the cost of breeding.

WE are sorry that we cannot congratulate Mr. Carnegie on the spirit in which he criticized the Agricultural College. Mr. Carnegie is personally a very worthy and estimable gentleman; but he makes a mistake in carrying party politics too far in the discussion of some matters that deserve to be treated as above and apart from any political considerations. It may be that in some matters of detail, the management of the Model Farm is susceptible of improvement, but the criticism of any such matter should be made in a way to show that the critic honestly desires the improvement of the institution. The Agricultural College deserves and should receive the encouragement of both political parties; and as neither party can overlook any faults in its working without incurring the censure of the farmers of the Province, so neither party can attack it unjustly, and hope to escape the same censure. As a clear-headed and thoroughly conscientious business man, we have no doubt that the Commissioner of Agriculture will keep a watchful eye over the business affairs of the College, and that expenditures will be kept within reasonable bounds.