

particular mixture of grasses, the order is executed in this apartment, without any danger of other seeds getting into the mixture. Other compartments are similarly used for other descriptions of seeds.

We next came to the large front room. Here was all activity and bustle. This is the box department, where those neat little boxes seen at the grocery or country store, filled with small packages of flower and vegetable seeds, are made up. About a dozen young ladies were as busy as bees, some filling the packages, others placing them into the boxes. These, when filled, were secured by male clerks, and removed for shipment. From five to six thousand of these boxes are issued annually from this establishment. The boxes do not all contain the same description of seeds, because what would be suitable for the Maritime Provinces would not answer for the North-West, Messrs. Steele, Bros. & Co.'s business extending all over the Dominion. For turnip seed these gentlemen have long been famous. We noticed large stacks of packages about six inches in length. "Insecticides!" was our remark, pointing toward them. "No, sir, turnip seed," was the reply; "we sell many tons made up in that manner, as well as in bulk." A light corner of the box-room is devoted to testing the vitality of seeds. The apparatus was something like a hotbed frame. The seeds were sown in pots and placed on a long tray, beneath which hot water circulated, the heat being maintained by gas jets, glass lights covering the whole concern. A record of all tests is kept, showing the age of the seed, percentage of vitality, etc. "Where do you get all this seed?" was our inquiry. "Well, we grow a deal by contract, in suitable localities all over the continent, and import a lot from the United States, Great Britain, France and Germany. We also do a large export trade with these countries. Sometimes they are short of a particular seed, and we have a surplus crop. It is always on the change. We also grow all the varieties of seed on our experimental farm, where everything in the vegetable or seed line has a thorough testing." A description of that part of Messrs. Steele's establishment will have to be deferred till the summer, when we hope to pay it a visit.

#### AN HORTICULTURAL INSTITUTE.

The market gardeners of the county of York, having banded themselves together as an association, for mutual protection and improvement, held an Horticultural Institute in Carlton West, a suburb of Toronto, on the 2nd and 3rd of February. Although the weather on the opening day was the most severe we have experienced this winter, the attendance of members was excellent.

Professors Mills and Panton, from the Ontario Agricultural College, at Guelph, were in attendance. The latter gentleman gave great satisfaction to the meeting by furnishing information on most of the subjects under discussion, explaining, in a most lucid manner, the scientific details, so that even the most ignorant could understand; also answering questions promptly, with gratifying results.

As we are at all times as willing to give praise

when it is merited, as we are to condemn errors, we may say that in our opinion the gentlemen from the college will do more to popularize Farmers' Institutes and similar gatherings by taking example from Prof. Panton, giving information, instead of indulging in so much cross-questioning. Agriculturalists attend these meetings for enlightenment; remove the selfish motive, and their interest flags.

Of all the Institutes we have attended, that of the York gardeners was decidedly the most instructive, the information disseminated being of the most practical nature. The idea was expressed that there was plenty of room for more extensive operations in market-gardening. The speakers were anything but selfish, pointing out that for the earlier vegetables Canada depended greatly on the United States, whereas she is quite able, to supply her own demands if the horticulturists would only set about it in the proper manner; and that there was room for plenty more to engage in the business. Facts and figures were given in support of these statements.

Mr. Briggs, of the firm of Steele, Bros. & Co., seedsmen, of Toronto, was present, and gave much valuable information respecting seeds, showing how frequently seeds were sold by various firms under different names; opening the eyes of his hearers on many points. A paper by this gentleman, on "Insects and Insecticides," appears in another part of this journal. Other papers read will also appear in the different departments, in this and subsequent issues.

#### KALAMAZOO COUNTY (MICH.) AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The Executive Committee of the Kalamazoo (Mich.) Agricultural Society have thoroughly examined the Higgin's Eureka Salt, at our last County Fair. In our judgment it is the best salt now in use for preserving butter, the superiority of its manufacture placing it in advance of any other salt.

W. H. COBB, *President.*  
FRANK LITTLE, *Secretary.*  
W. H. McCOURT, *Treasurer.*

Most fanciers are ambitious to have early hatched chickens. It cannot be expected that birds hatched in January or February can surmount the unnatural position in which they are placed. If exposed, they suffer from cold; and if confined in close rooms, the want of fresh air, and of natural green and insect feed, produces poor results. Birds hatched after the cold weather has become a thing of the past will invariably overtake their earlier bred brethren, because, if given dry coops, they will not know what it is to have their growth checked, but will be strong and vigorous right along to maturity. Rheumatism and cramp are the diseases which mostly affect early hatched chickens, caused by their running on the cold, damp earth.

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