

Commendatory Remarks.

We flatter ourselves that no agricultural journal that now exists or has existed in this Dominion is in receipt of so many highly commendatory remarks as are received at this office. Had we kept a record of them they would have filled several sheets of the size of this paper. We have occasionally given some from the ladies, and we will now give a couple from the plain workers of the soil, as their voices should be heard as well as those of political parties; in fact, we appreciate them more, as we know it is from this class that the money must come which pays for all the talent and ability that is devoted to political influences. It is our belief that the honest opinions of the tillers of the soil will be read with as much interest and profit as the opinions of any other class.

SIR,—I think very much of your paper, and consider it the best farmers' paper published. I also take *Moore's Rural New Yorker*, and an occasional copy of the *Canada Farmer*. JAS. B. DOWLING, Easton Corners, Greenville, May 10, '72.

SIR,—I am well pleased with your paper, and can find none other whose merits demand greater applause from the farmers of the Dominion. It abounds with information that every farmer ought to seek after. FROS. WILLISTON, Bay du Vin, N. B., May 1st, 1872.

Seeds.

We hope those gentlemen who will be prepared to supply us with seeds will examine their seeds and, as far as possible, extricate every foreign variety that should not appear with a different kind of grain.

Those having really good, clean fields of the Scott Wheat would oblige us by letting us know about them, as we would prefer seeing the grain in the fields than to see it exhibited in the bags. If Mr. Arnold's or Mr. Forriars Hybrid wheats are superior to others in any sections, we would examine them on receiving information to that effect. We should also like to hear of the best fields of spring wheat, Excelsior Peas, Providence Peas, and the best Oats.

Loan Societies.

These institutions are becoming more popular and beneficial both to those who have money to lend or those who wish to borrow. In our advertising columns will be found an advertisement under the name of the Agricultural Investment Society and Savings Bank. We approve of the name and have known many of the officers for thirty years who would have nothing to do with a disreputable Society. You can place reliance on them. Your money will be safer with them than in your own hands, and if you wish to procure any we do not not but you will find their terms as favorable as can be had in this city.

Crop Prospects.

Since our last remarks on the prospects of the crops, we have travelled over a far greater extent of country than we then had, and find that the winter wheat has been damaged to a much greater extent than we had anticipated. The dry seed time may have been favorable for the spring crops, but it told early against the fall wheats, as the lack of refreshing showers in the early part of the season prevented the fall wheat from rooting out as much as it otherwise would have done. Our yield will be very low this year, that is if the fields that have been re-sown with spring grain are thrown into the balance, and they ought to be to show the real results of our agricultural operations.

We have had beautiful refreshing rains during the past two weeks. The spring crops have been put into the ground in much better order than usual, and thus far bid fair for good results.

Foot and Mouth Disease.

To the Ministers of Agriculture:—

From an exchange paper we notice that there is great cause of fear of the importation of the Foot and Mouth Disease into Australia. Short-horns had been purchased in Europe in which no symptoms of the disease had been noticed until their arrival in Australia, which is rather a long journey. Would it not be well to compel imported stock to remain in a quarantine form for a month before allowing them to be shipped in our cars, or mingled with the stock of this country?

Who could estimate the loss if this disease should take root among us?

Our Opinion.

The City of London, Canada, is about to expend an immense amount of money to supply the city with water from a 70 acre mud hole, three miles distant. The supply will not last as long as the time it will take to complete the works.

CHICAGO citizens are about to act dishonorably with the money sent them for the relief of the sufferers by the fire. There are plenty of needy sufferers, and the money was given for them. They have \$100,000 on hand which they propose expending to spare the future taxation of the rich of the city. They ought to expend it for the purpose for which it was given. We were amongst the first who contributed to the relief fund in this city, and we would not have given one cent for the purpose they propose using the money for. There is a saying that there is "honor among thieves;" let there be honor among professedly honest men, and give the money to the existing sufferers who need every cent of it.

THE British Lion has submitted to the last annoyance of Brother Johnathan. He will spring to action and bite hard. Mind, mind! keep back, Johnny!

OUR sources of wealth are only commencing to be developed. The iron mines near Ottawa are about to yield immense wealth immediately. The silver mines of Thunder Bay are destined to enrich us to an inestimable extent. Timber and lumber are looked into too much as a source of wealth. The protection of timber and encouragement of planting will soon demand the attention of the Legislature.

The Potato Bug.

The last season taught us what we are to contend with in these dreadful visitants. But we much fear that this year and succeeding years the hosts we will have to do battle with will be increased many fold. The bugs of last year—as many of them as we suffered to escape—buried themselves deep in the ground, where they have remained comfortable in their winter quarters, and will be ready to sall forth as soon as the first lead of the potato affords them provender. Let farmers take warning, and from their first appearance destroy them as they come. For every ten you kill very early in the season, you may save yourself the trouble of having to kill a hundred later, or, it may be, a thousand still later in the year. We have as yet suffered but little from the plagues of insects compared with the losses of our neighbours. The damage done in the Northwestern States by the Chinch bug and the Colorado potato bug has been estimated at thirty million dollars per year. The farmers there are beginning to recognise the fact that such destructive insects must be dealt with as vermin and predatory birds and animals. They must be destroyed by regular, systematic efforts. The best agent for the destruction of the potato bug has been found to be paris green. Last year's experience gave us ample confirmation that paris green, mixed with fifteen or twenty times its weight of calcined plaster or of flour, was nearly as effectual as the pure mineral. The mixture, when dusted on the vines by the means of a common dredging-box, kills at a blow the larvæ of the potato bug;

but the old ones—the mature, hard-shelled parents—resist the poison some hours. Great care must be taken in the use of this remedy, as it is a virulent poison—a mineral paint, compounded of copper and arsenic. Those who have but a few rods of potatoes planted in their gardens may keep them comparatively safe by picking or brushing off the bugs morning and evening, and making sure (to use an Irish phrase) to kill them dead; but they who plant on a more extensive scale will find the paris green the best remedy they can use.—ASS'T ED.

VALUE OF THE POTATO CROP.

It is three hundred years since the potato was first brought into general use, and its culture has been only limited by the limits of civilization. Its great importance and its value as a crop may be conceived, when we bear in mind that it is estimated that one hundred and fifty million bushels of potatoes are consumed in the United States for food alone.—ASS'T ED.

POTATOES WITHOUT BUGS.

A writer in the *Western Rural* gives the following mode of planting potatoes: "Prepare the ground as usual—the drier and richer the better. When warm, plant your potatoes the usual depth, as thick as the soil will warrant. I think one, or, at most, two good eyes in a place best; but if the soil is rich, they may be thick enough so that the whole ground may fill with tubers, and cover with straw sufficient to keep down all weeds, say from three to five inches of straw, and your potatoes will need no more care until they are ready for the harvest. Do not plant till the ground is warm, as the mulch keeps out heat. Cover with earth before mulching, or the tubers will be ill flavored.—The 'Colorado beetle,' or 'Yellow-striped potato-bug,' will not touch them, as its larvae are not migratory; and as it cannot penetrate the straw to reach the earth, the instinct to preserve the race, so strong in all insects, bids it shun the straw-covered ground." We do not guarantee the efficacy of this plan; we give our authority, and advise our friends to make trial of it on a small scale.—ASS'T ED.

HORSE-SHOING.

SIR,—I have been taking your paper for the last four years, and I find that no house should be without it. With your permission, I will give you my plan for horse shoeing:—Six nails in a shoe is sufficient, three on the outside and three on the inside and near the toe; the shoe should be put on with a clip at the toe. It will be borne in mind that in travelling the shoe is driven back, and the nails are loosened or bent, but the use of a clip will prevent this; then, by using eight or ten nails in a shoe, they are driven so far back that the springing of the hoof would loosen the nails and break the shell of the foot, otherwise it prevents the hoof from spreading, and causes the heels to contract.

Sometimes the bearing is on the side, then there should be a clip at the side, but I always use the nails as near the toe as possible. If the horse over reaches, put the shoe on half an inch back from the toe, leaving the hoof; this will stop the clicking noise. If the bearing is more on one side, the shoe should be crooked so as to leave the bearing more even; there are more horses injured by shoeing than in any other way. We should be guided in this somewhat by nature; the foot, before shoeing, is low and broad at the heel, so that the frog rests upon the ground; I always should be kept so by allowing the heel to grow down; it raises the frog from the ground; the heel will then contract and the foot may become diseased. Some persons are afraid of bruising the frog; this cannot be done before the frog is cut. It is a spongy substance, and cannot be injured by a bruise, but after the frog has been cut it becomes a horny substance, something like a horn, and by stepping upon any hard substance, it presses to the quick and causes the horse to flinch; then again, the blacksmith will pare the foot and set

the shoe within half an inch of the toe; the shoe then sets upon the inside of the rim of the hoof, which bruises the foot the next time the horse is shod. It looks as if bloodshot; this manner of shoeing does great injury to the foot; the hoof should be paired as low as it will bear; the pressure then comes alike upon the whole rim of the hoof. The shoe should be leveled on the inside; by so doing, when the foot presses on the shoe it springs out instead of in; this will keep the heel broad. The foot never should be rasped above the nail; if so, it will become brittle and break. If persons would adhere to this principle of shoeing, there would be less crippled horses. A FRIEND.

TRIAL OF SEEDS.

SIR,—The half bushel of Norway Oats I received from you two years ago yielded 49 bush. I have sowed them on just half an acre of land this year, and I have sold hundreds of bushels of seed to my neighbors, many of whom had seen the oats growing and had aided in threshing them. The peck of Early Rose potatoes yielded 28 bushels. I wish you every success in your undertaking; I have profited more from the seeds procured from you than from any other source. The wheat has also given me the greatest satisfaction. DAVID WALKER, Derwent, May, 1872.

Movements in Thoroughbred Stock.

At no time has there been such an active trade going on in high class stock as at the present time. Several of our leading breeders have gone to England in quest of choice animals to import this season for the improvement of our stock. Among those who have gone, we note Robt. Miller (son of Geo. Miller), Markham; D. Reesor, jr., Markham; Simon Beattie, R. Gibson, Wm. Long, M. H. Cochran, Jas. Russell, Wm. Thomson and others. A recent letter from Simon Beattie states that between the rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease stocks in Britain have been so seriously reduced that what remain command very high prices, and that great difficulty is experienced in obtaining stock. He has already shipped some 25 head of Ayrshire, several Short-horns, 60 sheep, several heavy draught stallions, for himself and M. H. Cochran. He gives a very favorable account of the prospects of crops in Britain this season, the spring having opened early and proved unusually favorable to the agriculturalist. This is quite in contrast with Canada, where with a late spring the newly sown grain crops are suffering severely for want of enough rain.

The demand created for fine stock in Canada, principally through the efforts of American breeders to improve the blood of the cattle and sheep on the plains of the Great West especially Kansas and Colorado, is telling favorably on our breeders, and inducing them to pay more attention to breeding pure-blooded stock. Mr. Wm. M. Miller (son of John Miller), of Bringham, returned from Colorado last week, where he went with ten head of young Short-horn bulls from P. Kering, which he quickly disposed of at handsome prices, eight of them going to Salt Lake City, Utah. He intends returning with 20 or 30 more young bulls, and says the demand for Short-horn bulls and Cotswold and Leicester rams is almost unlimited, and prices given exceedingly satisfactory. Mr. Lumsden, of Toronto, takes several head of Short-horns from the herd of F. W. Stone, of Guelph, to Manitoba, where they will form the nucleus of a herd to supply fine cattle for grazing the almost illimitable plains of that fine and well watered province of our Dominion. Some large sales of short horns by auction come off in June, notable among these being the entire herd of J. M. Bell, of Athol, who has decided to retire from agricultural pursuits, and whose herd of Short-horns is of very high and even quality throughout. Col. W. S. King, of Minnesota, also has a large sale, June 19 at which it is expected some of the highest figures ever paid for stock will be realized.—Ext.

The growing crops in England give good promise, and the weather has been fair and favorable. Though the spring has been late and cold, and there are prophet of aures in winter crops, we have good prospects for the agricultural interests of Canada.

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