



Vol. I. No. 6.

Toronto, Wednesday, February 15th, 1882.

\$1 per annum, in advance.

### RURAL NOTES.

ENSILAGE appears to be unsafe diet for horses. Several cases in which it has been used with fatal results are reported in the *Country Gentleman*.

POLLED cattle are fast rising in price. A correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker* says that in Scotland they now bring more money than the Shorthorns.

THE directors of the Stratford Horticultural Society have decided to offer prizes for the best kept amateur gardens, at their next exhibition to be held in mid summer.

How kind! It is advertised that the Jersey bull "Polonius," for which, as recently stated in the *RURAL CANADIAN*, \$4,500 were paid, "will be allowed to serve a limited number of approved cows at \$250 each!"

IRRIGATION, as a means of preventing the disastrous effects of such a protracted drought as that of last summer, should be resorted to by all farmers who have the facilities for so doing, as large numbers of them have.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Philadelphia Press* says:—

"Six miles from me lives a rich farmer, made rich by farming, who has a lawn which is so ornamented that people ride miles, I among them, for the pleasure of looking at it. This man has expended a little money not only for his own gratification, but to create 'a thing of beauty' for all of us who pass along the road."

LITTLE FALLS, N. Y., is the largest interior dairy market on this continent, and probably in the world. The whole number of boxes of cheese sold there during 1881 was 289,972, and the sum brought by them was two millions of dollars. Utica, N. Y., is not far behind, the sales there for the same year having been 240,746 boxes.

THE Birdsell Manufacturing Company, of South Bend, Indiana, U. S., advertise as follows:—"To every farmer sending us his name we will send *The Clover Leaf*, an eight-page, forty-eight-column farmer's paper, full of valuable information on the culture and harvesting of clover for seed." We earnestly advise every farmer who reads this offer, to send a postal card, with his address on it, at once.

THE *N. Y. Tribune* says that Mr. H. Roe, Kearney, Neb., commenced planting seeds of forest trees in 1875, and estimates that he has 45,000 soft maples, white ashes, cotton woods, box elders, gray willows, locusts, and black walnuts, of all sizes up to thirty feet high, and as many inches in circumference. "There will certainly be enough to cut out from now to keep two or three families in wood if judiciously done."

This would be a far nicer world to live in if mankind could be persuaded to do business without the aid of lying. The Kentucky Legislature is trying legal suasion in that direction. A bill has been introduced into that body declaring "that any one who, by word of mouth, attempts to deceive his fellow-man, shall be fined not less than \$1, nor more than \$20." If that bill becomes law, and is duly enforced, it will be safe even to trade horses in Kentucky.

It is a matter not sufficiently known, that sheep give material assistance in keeping land free from weeds. Many of the most pernicious weeds which farmers have to contend are generally relished by sheep, in their early or soft state, and ultimately eradicated in this way. It may also be observed that the younger the pastures are when the sheep are put to graze, the more effectual they will be in keeping in subjection and finally killing out the weeds.

THE Holstein breed of cattle illustrated in this number of the *RURAL CANADIAN* is already widely diffused in the United States. Vol. V. of the *Holstein Herd Book* is just published. It contains a large amount of information concerning this breed of cattle, and carries the number of recorded animals to 2,758—bulls, 1,098; cows, 1,720. The book is for sale at cost price, \$1.50, post-paid, and can be had of the Secretary, Mr. Thomas B. Wales, Jr., Iowa City, Iowa.

A MAN in Burlington, New Jersey, has discovered a process by which watermelons can be kept fresh and good all winter. He sold a number to Philadelphia dealers the other day at a high price. American epicures are so fond of this fruit, that there can be little doubt there will be a brisk demand for it "all the year round," if it can be supplied. But looked at in the light of healthfulness, it is doubtful if watermelon-eating is commendable in the winter time. It is risky for some people even in the summer season.

A RECENT editorial in this journal, on Professor Brown's address before the Markham Farmers' Club, contained the statement:—"He makes the startling assertion, that were every farm in Ontario possessed of a properly managed five-acre permanent pasture plot, the gain to the whole country would be \$5,000,000 annually." At the Belleville Dairy meeting, held the other day, the Professor stated that the amount should have been \$11,000,000. We quoted from the *Markham Economist*, and gladly correct the figure, as it makes the statement more than twice as "startling." We hope it will startle many of the farmers of Ontario to do their part toward realizing this immense possible gain.

BECAUSE they wear such thick, warm coats, many suppose that sheep do not need any shelter in winter. This is a great mistake. When the weather is drizzly and cold; when bleak winds blow, when there are long-continued snow-storms; and when the thermometer gets into the zeros, they should be housed. No animal on the farm will do so poorly in close, ill-ventilated quarters as a sheep. But the fact that, in rough weather, their instinct impels them to huddle together on the lee side of a hill, fence, or any friendly protection, proves that they should not be consigned to helpless exposure. An ample shed, tight and snug on the side whence the prevailing winds blow, but open on the warm side, should be provided. Under such a shed, there should be racks commodious enough for every sheep to feed at once, and they ought never to be compelled to buy comfortable shelter at the price of starvation.

At the close of Professor Brown's admirable address on the pasturage question to the dairy-men assembled at Belleville, that shrewd old farmer, Hon. Harris Lewis, of Frankfort, N. Y., made some highly complimentary remarks. Among other things, he said:—

"The lecture and diagrams accompanying it would, if acted upon, be of vastly more value to the Province than all that the maintenance of the Agricultural College and the Experimental Farm would cost in forty years. He thought that the Kentucky blue grass was indigenous to the soil of North America from the 34th parallel to the North Pole. At the same time, there were some soils that were not as well adapted for it, while others were found to produce it in great luxuriance. He did not think timothy a good pasture grass. It had a large bulbous root at the very surface of the ground, which was subject to be ousted by the hoofs of the animals, or scorched by the sun in dry, hot weather. The suggestions of Prof. Brown thoroughly met his approval, and in view of the system of seeding pursued by Canadian farmers, they were particularly well-timed. Prof. Brown had given them not only thoroughly sound theory, but had very lucidly demonstrated how his theory could be put in practice."

THERE need be no difficulty, surely, about teaching agriculture in common or any other schools, now that an enterprising lady has demonstrated that it can be done even in a "Kindergarten." A *New York Tribune* reporter attended an exhibition of one of these institutions, and writes as follows of what he saw:—

"A shallow box, three feet broad and about eight feet long, filled with earth, stood at one side of the room. This represented a field ready for planting spring wheat. In another box green wheat was growing. One of the boys took the part of the farmer, and directed three or four others in the farm work. They ploughed the ground, and harrowed it with miniature implements; then sowed the wheat and harrowed it in. The box with growing wheat was abandoned to the cattle by the young farmer's direction, as it is a hopeless crop from flies, worms, thistles, daisies, and other enemies of wheat. The wheat from the 'wet lot' was then threshed with flails and taken to the mill, where Graham flour and white flour were ground from it. The mill was a coffee-grinder. Then the farmer's wife (one of the little girls) went through the process of bread-making, explaining every step and giving the different ingredients used and their proportions. At intervals little choruses sang songs in praise of farm life."