



Vol. I. No. 24.

Toronto, November 15th, 1882.

\$1 per annum, in advance.

RURAL NOTES.

The *Morning Post* (London Eng) strongly recommends farmers to keep their live stock insured. There is even more necessity for it in this country of numerous fires and violent thunder storms.

The Essex hogs closely resemble the Suffolks, only the former are black, and the latter white; both have small, fine heads, ears small and erect; fine bones short legs, thin hair, but usually long and fine; both breeds mature early, and both make an excellent quality of meat.

The advantages of breeding from Polled rams are briefly summed up by a Missouri flock-master after nine years' trial of the plan. The animals fight less, "are never fly-blown around the horns," are more conveniently sheared, and, what is of greater importance, "keep easier and grow larger."

The loss on the Cochrane cattle ranche last winter is estimated at five per cent. and the increase in number this season at forty per cent. The Company has the beef contract for the Blackfeet, Surcoes, and Stonies Indians at eight cents a pound. The Indians get the hides, heads and other refuse of the animals besides.

The third annual convention of the North American Bee-keepers' Association was held at Cincinnati, October 3 to 5. D. A. Jones, of Ontario, Canada, was elected president for the coming year, and A. I. Root, of Medina, Ohio, secretary. The convention chose Toronto, Canada, as the place of next meeting.

The neighbouring village of Beeton, hitherto noted only for the production of honey, is all agog over the prospect of discovering coal oil, the indications of which are said to be many. At the present prices of oil, a flowing well in Beeton would add sweets to the sweet. What could be more delightful than a land flowing with oil and honey?

An old farmer, speaking of the strange character of the weather we are now having, stated a few days ago that such mild weather he never saw in November. "Why, the other day," he continued, "I was going through a field near my house in which I had growed corn, and there I found a hen sitting on fourteen eggs. She evidently seemed as comfortable as though it were September."

A. B. ALLEN tells the *Rural New Yorker* that leaving only three or four canes to grow and bear fruit from raspberries, blackberries, currants, and gooseberries, may do very well in clay, or quite

rich loam, but it does not answer at all for a poor, sandy, or fine, gravelly soil, except in the case of blackberries, and even these had best be left with half a dozen canes to grow together. With raspberries, eight to twelve canes to grow up together were found to do well and bear abundantly.

There are many farmers who have extra good butter cows and do not know it. They have poor pastures in summer, and no shelter and indifferent feed in the winter. In the house they have no convenience for making butter; the milk is set where there are no arrangements for keeping it cool in the summer, and in the living room, exposed to the odours of the kitchen in winter; and neither the quantity nor the quality or any index of what a cow can do is kept.

ESTIMATES of the harvests of the world for 1882, just issued by M. Etienne, an eminent French crop statistician, show that the yield of grain for the northern hemisphere generally has been the most abundant known since these reports were first collected. All over the world there has been better than an average harvest, with no deficiency reported either in Europe or America, and cheapness and abundance of food will be the fortunate lot of the poor for the next year.

LEACHED ashes are good for almost any crop, but should be applied with other fertilizers that contain vegetable substances, like barn manure. Thus applied on most of soils, and for nearly all crops, 25 cents a bushel would be cheaper than commercial fertilizers. Fifty bushels of ashes applied to an acre of land, in connection with two cords of good stable manure, would produce better results for most crops than 150 bushels applied without other fertilizers, or five cords of stable manure applied with no other fertilizer with it.

A CELEBRATED French Agriculturist, especially noted for his success in fattening sheep, when urged to divulge his secret, replied: "Secret! I have none; it is only a question of fare. Induce the animals to eat abundantly by a large, choice variety, and good preparation of food; that is all there is to it." Too often we don't give stock all they will naturally eat. The secret of the Frenchman's success ought to be a valuable hint to our Canadian farmers to give all stock a choice variety of feed to obtain the best results.

X A WILLARD, the noted dairy writer, died very suddenly of neuralgia of the heart at Little Falls, N. Y., on Oct. 26. He was a voluminous writer of agricultural topics and the most eminent authority on matters pertaining to the dairy, in the United States. He was the author of "Practical Dairy Husbandry," "The Practical Butter

Book," and other works. We have too few first class writers in agriculture to be able to lose any one of them, the death of Prof. Willard will be regretted by a large circle of friends and acquaintances in Canada, as well as in the United States.

Every farmer should keep a book in which to paste agricultural scraps. Every one in reading a paper will see a number of things he will wish to remember. He will perhaps see suggestions the value of which he will desire to test, or hints which he will want to be governed by on future occasions, and yet, after reading the paper he will throw it down and will probably never see it again. In such a case all the valuable articles will be lost. To prevent such a loss, every reader should clip from the papers such articles as he desires to preserve and remember, and paste them in a scrap book. Such a book at the end of a year or two will be very interesting and valuable.

CHINA leads civilized countries in finding a use for its ants. Prof. Riley, of the Agricultural Bureau, Washington, has received from Han Chow an account of a curious use made of ants in that part of China. It seems that in many parts of the province of Canton, the orange trees are injured by certain worms, and to rid themselves of these pests, the inhabitants import ants from neighbouring hills. The hill people, throughout the summer and winter, find the nests of two species of ants, red and yellow, suspended from the branches of various trees. The trees are colonized by placing the ants on their upper branches, and bamboo rods are stretched between the different trees, so as to give the ants easy access to the whole orchard. This remedy has been in constant use at least since 1640, and probably dates from a much earlier period.

At the beginning of every winter we are treated to a series of dissertations, showing on how small a sum people can live. Dr. Dio Lewis was the prophet of this modern gospel of cheapness. It is now many years ago that he found that a full-grown human being can live, so far as food is concerned, for eight cents a day, and as for drink, Nature supplies water gratis. This diet of economy was composed chiefly of beans and bread. Lately Dr. Lewis has surprised himself with the discovery that tents are better than houses to live in during the summer, if not all the year, and that the closer we lay to the bosom of Mother Earth the hardier and healthier we shall be. As a tent and bed of leaves cost next to nothing, Dr. Lewis would seem to have solved the problem of living so far as cheapness is concerned. In fact a person can become a pretty respectable barbarian for less than it costs to keep a civilized dog.