

wheat looks remarkably well, and promises to be an average crop, if present appearances can be taken as a guide. Spring seeding is in a very backward state. Grass has received a decided check, owing to the late cold weather. The season has been unusually late."

The Mount Forest Examiner says in that section, so far as it can learn, "the crop has passed the winter in safety, and now presents a very favourable appearance."

We are glad to learn from the Stratford Beacon that "The fall wheat in this vicinity, looks well and gives promise of an excellent crop, notwithstanding the fears of many that it suffered severely during the winter. Although small portions of it have been winter-killed, still on the whole it wears a healthy aspect; and the fine weather of the last few days has caused it to shoot out luxuriantly."

The Hamilton Signal says:—"It is cheering to learn from farmers in this vicinity, that the fall wheat, generally, in the County of Huron, is in splendid condition after the severe winter frost. White wheat will undoubtedly figure high in the States this fall despite the 20 per cent. duty, and it will be a good thing if our farmers have a large surplus stock."

The Ottawa Times regrets to learn that the fall wheat in Richmond and many other places in central Canada has been fatally injured by the frosts of early winter, before the snow fell. One farmer in Richmond has lost forty-seven acres of wheat and others also suffered heavily from the same frosts.

The following are portions of a letter which appears in the Dumfries Reformer of May 9.—Very naturally, a considerable anxiety is felt among all classes on that very important subject, "The state of the crops." In this immediate neighbourhood fall wheat is the third winter killed. Farmers say one half. The correctness of either of these estimates will depend on the kind of season yet to come. This cold, dry weather is certainly not very favourable to the growth of sickly or delicate plants, just struggling for existence. Clover has suffered still more than wheat, and from this fact I would not advise farmers to be too hasty in pronouncing against "Midge Proof" as being too tender for this climate, as some are doing. Had clover escaped while wheat was destroyed, there might have been some reason for condemning the latter. But while one is no worse, or hardly so bad as the other, we had better not be too hasty in coming to conclusions. Brantford and Paris plains, &c., have suffered fully more than North Dumfries or Waterloo have. But there is one consolation—that mostly all that was sown is "Midge Proof" so that if we escape that pest, we may yet have more wheat in harvest, though not with such splendid prospects now as last year. In all the northern parts of the county of Waterloo the prospects are a little better than in Dumfries while further north and west indications improve very rapidly. In fact, in the whole of the north-western townships, usually included in the comprehensive term "the bush," fall wheat never looked better or gave fairer promise of an abundant harvest, and from the fact of last year's yield being so good, a larger breadth was put in than usual. Indeed, I don't know that there ever was anything like so much sown in the new townships as this year, and high rolling land such as Carrick, Howick, Culross, &c., now yield splendid crops, both in quantity and quality. Where fall wheat is sown in the southern part of the county of Huron, it looks well, but the main dependence is spring wheat, and though the weather has not been very favourable for vegetation, it has been just the thing for sowing and harrowing, so that spring crops have been mostly all got in good order—a most important point gained—and one of the best evidences of good farming.

A NATURAL BAROMETER.—Mr. Wm. McClathy, Postmaster of Katesville, in West Middlesex, sends the following to the Strathroy Home Guard: "As I know that you wish to give every information that would be of use to your numerous readers, I send you some remarks I have made on the changes which have taken place in the atmosphere for forty years past. I first observed in the rows of young Weymouth (or white pine) trees in my nurseries that the last year's growth and all the leaves or spines stand straight upright in dry weather, and on the least change to rain or snow, the branches bend and the leaves fall back and appear in a dying state, even before the snow or rain commences. When a change comes for dry weather, they all recover again and remain so until the next change is going to take place, giving the farmer warning in time for him to prepare for it. The white pine (*P. strobus*) grows in this neighborhood spontaneously. It is easily transplanted, if removed when about a foot high. It soon makes a beautiful tree, and might be called the Farmer's Barometer."

British Cleanings.

Cured meat, for the London market, is being sent from Queensland. The Brisbane Courier announces the first shipment of eighty-nine casks of beef.

The County Cork Agricultural Society has pronounced in favour of holding a cattle show this year, on the 1st August. It is the first Agricultural Society that has had the courage to decide on holding a cattle show this year. A resolution was passed to the effect that no English judges be asked over to this year's show.

RINDERPEST IN CHESHIRE.—The N. B. Agriculturist states that "the number of animals attacked by the cattle plague in Cheshire had attained on April 7 the frightful total of 50,954, or nearly one-fourth the whole number of attacks in England, Wales, and Scotland."

SINGULAR OCCURRENCE.—We learn from an English paper that "a woman went amissing in Gloucestershire about six weeks ago, and the other day her body was found floating in a lake with a water hen's nest built upon her breast. There were seven eggs in it almost hatched."

A REMARKABLE LAMB.—The Bucks Advertiser states that "Mr. Coleman, of Great Brickhill, had a lamb dropped a short time ago, which was found to have seven full-grown legs. It is now seven weeks old, and can walk on any four of these legs with perfect ease, not one of them being shrunk. It is a fine lamb, and sucks well."

INFINITE CREDIT TO THE GOOSE.—The Perthshire Advertiser, is responsible for the following:—"Prodigious.—We have just been shown an egg which, as regards size, is a perfect marvel, and does infinite credit to the goose which laid it. In weight the egg is 12½ ounces, and it measures 9 by 12 inches."

THE LAMBING SEASON IN SCOTLAND.—Good crops of lambs have been the rule the present season. As an example take the following fact supplied by The Farmer (Scottish):—"On a farm in the neighborhood of Dunse, seven score of ewes, out of a flock of eleven score, have each dropped twins during the present lambing season."

HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—ELECTION OF SECRETARY. We learn from the N. B. Agriculturist that "at a meeting of the directors of this society, held in the Rooms, Geo. IV. Bridge, on the 25th ult.—the Duke of Buccleuch, President of the Society, in the chair—Mr. Fletcher Norton Menzies, Trinnie, Aberfeldie, was unanimously elected secretary to the society in room of the late Mr. Macduff of Bonhard."

A MONSTER SALMON. A recent issue of The Farmer (Scottish) contains the following:—"A salmon has just been caught in the Tay of the astonishing weight of sixty-nine pounds and a-half. Its length is 4 feet 8 inches, girth, at greatest thickness, 2 feet 6 inches, circumference of head, 2 feet, across tail, 1 foot. The market value of the fish, at present London prices (3s. 6d. a pound), amounts to £12. 3s. 3d."

CAPTURE OF A GOLDEN EAGLE.—We clip the following item from The Farmer:—"Last week a large golden eagle was captured on the farm of South Fallowton, near Coldingham, the property of David Milne Home, Esq., of Wedderburn. It measured 7 feet 11 inches from tip to tip of wing, and is in fine plumage. He was caught in an ordinary steel vermin trap by Simom Bathgate, gamekeeper to John Jamsay L'Amy, Esq., of Dunkelny."

DISEASED OYSTERS.—The Reader contains the following:—"A report recently published by the natural history section of the Institute of Christiania contains the result of an investigation of a disease amongst the oysters, which, it is stated, renders the flesh highly poisonous. The discovery was made in the course of an inquiry into the cause of several mysterious deaths and cases of severe indisposition, which the medical men were entirely unable to account for."

THE LEAF INSECT.—We learn from the N. B. Agriculturist that "The Garden of Acclimatization in the Bois de Boulogne, at Paris, has just received three specimens of the leaf fly, an orthopterous insect, which derives its name from its resembling the leaf of a guava tree so closely that the most attentive eye can with difficulty perceive the difference. The first live specimen of this singular fly seen in Europe was brought to England some years ago, and was kept alive a long time. The three insects mentioned above which are still in the larva, were presented to the garden by M. Vandal, Director-General of the Post-office, and had been brought to France from the Seychelles Island."

COFFEE AS A DISINFECTANT.—We learn from The Farmer that "Dr. Barbier affirms that ground coffee possesses some remarkable properties as a disinfectant. In several cases where he had to make post-mortem examinations of bodies under very disagreeable circumstances, he found that a handful of coffee strewn over the body and about the room quite overcame any bad odour."

DAMP WALLS.—The Builder gives the following remedy for damp walls:—"Three-quarters of a pound of mottled soap to one gallon of water. This composition to be laid over the brickwork steadily and carefully with a large flat brush, so as not to form a froth or lather on the surface. The wash to remain twenty-four hours, to become dry. Mix half a pound of alum with four gallons of water; leave it to stand for twenty-hours, and then apply it in the same manner over the coating of soap. Let this be done in dry weather."

TAX ON DOGS.—The following item is from The Farmer (Scottish) of the 14th March:—

"In the House of Commons, last Friday night, Mr. Ellice, in calling attention to the neglect of the authorities in enforcing the tax upon dogs, said that, as almost every cottage in the sheep districts of Scotland possessed one or more, the result was that nearly ten per cent. of the flocks were destroyed annually by them. He believed farmers would willingly pay a tax upon their sheep dogs if Government would undertake to levy a similar tax upon all other dogs throughout the kingdom."

GOATS AT A PREMIUM.—A recent issue of The Farmer, (Scottish,) has the following:—"Goats have recently risen into greater importance than usual, in consequence of the cattle plague, which has destroyed so many dairy cows, and increased the price of cow's milk. A regular export trade in goats is now carried on from Waterford and other Irish ports, and a sale of those imported animals was recently held at Aldridge's St Martin's Lane, London. The yard was crowded by private gentlemen and milk consumers, and the greatest eagerness and competition prevailed to secure a milch goat. The goats were lean, but in healthy condition, and they realized the extraordinarily high rates of from four to eight guineas, many of the goats producing nearly the value of a Welsh milking cow."

THE SCHOOL-MASTER ABROAD.—The Farmer (Scottish) says:—"The following written instructions for registering a dog were received last week by the clerk of Sessions, Coleraine district:—"A Black tarryhere mott dog named Sancho after his mother, his feythers name being unknown, as he is blind of an I he is not of half use 2 me and I think that you should only charge mo half price 1s 3d which if you dont do it at that figgar his days are No. and he will come 2 a wathery grave or dance upon nothing."

GRASS SEED TO THE ACRE.—A speaker before the Kelso Farmers' Club recommended the following quantity of seed per acre, for a medium soil:

"To lie one year in grass—¾ bushel annual rye grass, ¾ bushel Italian rye-grass, 4lbs. English red clover, 2 lbs. Eng. alsike clover, 2 lbs. white clover, 4lbs. English red clover; and for cutting I would recommend ¾ bushel annual rye-grass, ¾ bushel Italian rye-grass, 8lbs. English red clover, 2 lbs. English alsike clover: and where the land is clover sick, 2 or 3lbs. of yellow may be added as a safeguard, in the event of the red clover giving way, but it makes a coarse hay when allowed to stand and ripen. The following mixture I propose for two years, with the understanding that it is to be used principally for pasturage—¾ bushel perennial rye-grass, ¾ bushel Italian rye-grass, 2lbs. English red clover, 2 lbs. English cow-grass, 2lbs. English alsike clover, 4lbs. English white clover, and 4 lbs. English yellow clover. English red and cow-grass being so much allied, I have included these in equal quantities."

RINDERPEST IN THE HUMAN SPECIES, AND ITS CURE.—There is a story going in North Staffordshire says the Macclesfield Courier, that a farmer in the direction of Leek, who had lost some cows, was fully persuaded that he had himself been attacked with the epidemic. Forthwith he consulted his own medical man, who tried to laugh him out of the notion, but to no purpose. The farmer then went off to an old well-known practitioner, who, being a bit of a wag, and seeing how matters were, entered minutely into the details of the case, expressed his concurrence with the patient's views, and told him he could cure him. He then wrote a prescription, sealed it up, and told the farmer to go to a certain druggist in the next pottery town. The farmer lost no time in going with the prescription, but was somewhat startled when the druggist shewed him the formula, which ran thus:—"This man has got the cattle plague; take him into the back yard and shoot him according to Act of Parliament." There is no need of saying that this was a "perfect cure."