

Correspondence.

More About the White Willow as a Hedge Plant.

We have received from a correspondent in Ohio, who has had considerable experience and many opportunities for observation in regard to the white willow, a communication, the greater part of which we insert as a contribution toward the discussion of a subject of no little practical importance to the farming community:—

"This willow has been quite extensively cultivated in some portions of Delaware and New Jersey for the past fifty years, for the purpose of powder wood, being considered by far the best for the charcoal used in gunpowder manufacture. Cuttings were planted around the borders of fields, roadways, and also in groves, and the trees have been cut off about seven feet from the ground every three or four years, yielding a fine quantity of round wood, which is saleable at high prices to powder manufacturers. The stumps of the oldest plantings are still invariably sound and vigorous. Their diameters will range from 12 to 20 inches, while with trees never pruned, double or triple this size is attained in the same time. These facts prove that cutting off the tops dwarf the growth without impairing the vitality or healthfulness of the trees. These plantings are on a variety of soils—sandy, loam, clay, marl and muck—on high and low lands. Its growth is stronger generally on the low lands, from their superior richness. There can be no doubt of its successful growth upon all grades of soils, either wet or dry, unless too wet or barren for farming purposes.

"The severest climate in which this willow has been planted in this country, I think, is at St. Paul, Minnesota, by L. M. Ford & Co., nurserymen. They state it to be perfectly hardy in that latitude, enduring the severest winters for the past ten years without the slightest injury. No danger need be apprehended on this score. From the shortness of time since the first planting of this willow for live fence—some 12 years only—no evidence of its permanency can be got except by inference. The fence of Wm L. Smith, spoken of in your paper of September 15th, having never been cut back, is 40 feet high, with trunks to the trees, near the ground, from 8 to 12 inches in diameter, and still prosperous. James Thompson, a farmer in the same county, has a fence 11 years old, planted on ground similar to that of Smith's, that was cut off the fifth spring after planting, about six feet from the ground, and has been trimmed back for cuttings every year since. The effect has been that the average diameter of his trees will not exceed 5 inches, and the increase since the fence was cut off has not been over 1½ inches. Every plant is in a thrifty state. This shows that the willow prospers in the fence-row under severe pruning, and is thereby materially checked in growth. Now, if Smith's fence, with its tremendous growth, flourishes and gives every evidence of durability, may we not reasonably expect that a fence made of the willow headed back to within four or five feet of the ground, thereby dwarfing it and removing the drain on the soil, which is the only cause for fear that in time it might die out, since we know that trimming the willow down to a stump for fifty years does not destroy its life or vigor. Messrs. Subbs and Brink, farmers, also in Lee county, each have about one-half mile of willow fence, now five years old. The fourth spring from planting they cut off their fences four feet from the ground. Their appearance now is perfectly beautiful. The new shoots are from three to five feet in length, all starting out within three inches of the top of the stumps, the bodies being clean from suckers. The labor of pruning will be much less than upon other live fences, as the pruning is all done on the top of the fence, while with other hedges the sides also require pruning. Cutting off the trees at the height desirable to form the fence should not be done until sufficient growth is made to turn stock, which will occur the third or fourth year, if properly cared for. The experiments already made establish in favour of the white willow: cheapness; hardness; susceptibility of being dwarfed by pruning without injury; adaptation to any good farming soil; quickness in forming a fence; never sprouting from the root; and but slightly interfering with the cultivation of the soil adjacent from the vertical direction of the roots, it is also highly ornamental in appearance. These qualities entitle it to a fair trial, with a reasonable expectation that it will prove much more valuable than other live fencing heretofore in use, especially in northern latitudes.

"Parties experimenting with it should secure fresh, vigorous cuttings, plant early in the spring,

prepare the fence-bed by deep ploughing and harrowing, plant cuttings of the same size together, at a distance of six or seven inches apart, in a line and keep the weeds down and stock away from them, especially the first year. Thus treated, scarcely a cutting will fail, and good growth will follow."

Changing Seed.

On this subject "R. W. S." of East Zorra, writes as follows:—"The plan adopted by the Board of Agriculture, of distributing imported seed grain in small packages, to test its qualities, is not a good one. A better plan would be to rent or purchase a farm for experimental purposes, or, failing this, give it in larger bulk to reliable farmers. It is well known that all insects attack the outsides of fields, sometimes taking nearly all, while the centre is untouched. A package of the 'Red Essex' variety was placed in my hands for experiment last fall, weighing 1½ lbs., which I carefully filled, but it being necessarily sown separately, it was all outside and no centre, consequently half of it was taken by the midge before being cut, and a good part of the remainder by the weevil since. It has a good square head, and under favourable circumstances, I have no doubt, would be very prolific. We greatly need change in spring wheat. The Flie wheat has run its course and must be abandoned. It is on account of the general failure of this variety that our farmers are crowding in every bit of pea land, and, in some instances, spring wheat and oat land, no matter what its quality, into fall wheat this autumn. The midge need not fear starvation next year."

ANSWERS TO ENIGMAS.—Several correspondents have favoured us with correct replies to the enigmas which appeared in our last. "No. 1, FIVE WHEAT; No. 2, POTATOES." Requests have also reached us for more and harder enigmas.

LARGE POTATOES.—"A. J." writes: "I have raised some potatoes this year, and if any of the farmers can beat them I would like them to let it be known. I had one that weighed 2 lb. 12 oz., and several that went 2 lbs., and can show over ten bushels that would weigh 1 lb. and a-half."

RECIPE FOR THE CURE OF MURRAIN.—"R. O. Griffith," of Cayuga, contributes the following recipe for the cure of Murrain in cattle.—"1 wine-glassfull of spirits of turpentine, 3 wine-glassfulls of castor oil (if this is not at hand, the same portion of sweet oil), carefully mixed in one quart of oatmeal gruel, while milk warm, and given to the animal when cold. The dose may be safely repeated three or four times at an interval of two days between each dose."

The Canada Farmer.

TORONTO, UPPER CANADA, OCT. 15, 1864.

Change of Location.

THE CANADA FARMER office is now removed to the new and spacious GLOBE BUILDINGS, Nos. 26 and 28 King Street East. Circumstances connected with this change of quarters have somewhat delayed the issue of the present number; but with the new and complete arrangements about to be made, we will henceforth be able to supply all our subscribers with greater punctuality than was practicable in the inconvenient premises which have just been vacated.

New York State Fair.

THE Twenty-fourth Annual Exhibition of the New York State Agricultural Society was held near the city of Rochester, Sept. 20-24. The Show Ground is a couple of miles from the city, and on the way thither you pass the celebrated nursery of Elwanger & Barry, comprising 600 acres of land; Mount Hope Cemetery, a lovely and well-kept burial-place; several other nurseries; and many beautiful private residences. The suburbs of Rochester, at least in the direction of the Exhibition, are charming, indeed.

Arrived on the ground, we were not a little surprised at the immense concourse of people in attendance. Our first impressions on this point were ma-

terially heightened when we attempted to worm our way through the halls devoted to fruit, flowers, dairy produce, articles of domestic manufacture, &c. Progress was well nigh impossible, and as to getting a view of the articles displayed, it was almost out of the question. The exhibition of people in holiday garb, and in the best of spirits, was worth going far to see.

Officers of the Society, and others whom we met, assured us that the Show was not equal to many of its predecessors. It was a busy time, labour was scarce, and not only were many absent at the war, but the draft was going on in the city, while the Fair was in progress in the suburbs. Considering these unfavourable circumstances, the Exhibition was highly creditable, and may be deemed a success. The receipts were large, amounting in the aggregate to \$15,500.

In the cattle department the display was not extensive, though it embraced some choice specimens. Mr. Thorne, of Thorndale, Dutchess County, did not show any. Mr. Sheldon, of Geneva, had ten or twelve specimens of Short Horns from his renowned herd, and some Alderneys, but did not enter the lists as a competitor. Hon. Ezra Cornell showed some fine animals, and carried off most of the prizes. J. McCall, of Lyons, Messrs. Wadsworth, of Geneva, E. Griffin, of Dutchess Co., and Mr. Jackson, of Seneca Co., had some good Short Horns. The Devons put in a very meagre appearance, both as to number and quality. At this we were surprised, having somehow got the idea that the Devons were looking up among our republican neighbours. E. Corning, Jr., of Albany, was "alone in his glory" as an exhibitor of Herefords. Very few Ayrshires were shown, but the little Alderneys were well represented, by specimens from the herds of Messrs. Sheldon, Moore, Dinsmore, and Corning. These choice milkers deserve more attention in Canada than they are at present receiving. They are diminutive in size, and give no great lacteal yield, but their milk does not need to be set for cream, it attains that state before it flows from the teat. Gentlemen who have villa residences near towns and cities should keep these living cream-pots, if they would have their tea and coffee well rounded off, and their strawberries furnished with a delicious accompaniment.

The sheep show was meagre as to long-woolled varieties, but full to repletion in one class of short-woolled kinds, viz., the Merinoes. Almost the only Leicesters on the ground were shown by a Canadian Mr. Jeffery. Mr. E. Gazeley, of Dutchess Co., had some good Cotswolds, and it gratified one's national vanity to find that the best of them were bred in this country: we need hardly say by whom, for the name of Mr. Stone will at once suggest itself to our readers. One of Mr. Gazeley's rams weighs 414 lbs. and sheared 18 lbs. of wool. Our American neighbours are too indifferent to long-woolled sheep, but such specimens of them as the above will open their eyes to their capabilities and merits. There was a fair exhibition of South Downs, the most conspicuous among them being those of Mr. Geo. W. Brown, of Dutchess Co., who recently purchased Mr. Thorne's entire flock, as it regards the Merinoes exhibited, their name is legion, and their value incalculable, in the view of their owners at least. Unheard of prices were asked and given; while Mr. Hammond, the Merino patriarch of Vermont, actually refused \$10,000 for his ram "Gold Drop!"

Presuming our readers would like to see a portrait of this high-priced animal, we have made arrangements to have an engraving of him taken from life specially for THE CANADA FARMER. The Vermont sheep men have certainly made wonderful improvements in the Merinoes, and can show you a beautiful creature clothed to the very hoofs with wool almost as fine as that of Thibet, but when it comes to offering and refusing such a price as the above for the contents of a single live sheepskin, we must regard the symptoms of "wool on the brain" as positively