

WATERING PLANTS.—A writer in an exchange says:—"Plants set against walls and piazzas frequently suffer from want of water, at this season, when even ground near them is quite wet. Draw away the soil from each plant so as to form a basin; fill in with a bucketful of water, allowing it time to soak gradually away, and when the surface has dried a little, draw in loosely the soil over it, and it will do without water for some weeks. This applies to all plants wanting water through the season. If water is merely poured on the surface, it is made more compact by the weight of water, and the harder the soil becomes the easier it dries; and the result is, the more water you give the more is wanted."

MEADOWS.—To have your meadows produce large crops of the best grass, topdress the field or meadow after mowing, with twelve to fifteen loads of well composted barn manure per acre, and give it an extra seeding of the grasses you wish to raise. You will find by attending to this top-dressing not only how to keep up the full yield of grasses, but have a larger yield and better quality of grasses.

Why are candle-makers the worst and most hopeless of people.

THE CROPS AND PROSPECTS.

The season up to the present time—July 23—has been remarkably cool and unusually wet. The crops of wheat, oats, peas, barley, and potatoes, promise to exceed any previous crop raised in Canada. Fruit is a bountiful crop. Some places the apples are but a partial crop, at others very good. Corn and vines of all kinds have not done as well as usual.

Prospects are such, that a decline in prices must be expected. Our subscribers will do well to thresh their grain, whether wheat, peas, or oats, as soon as possible, after they are in the barn, or even in the field, even if you have to pay harvest wages to get it done, and hire teams to take it to market; as the old crops are closely used up, and by delaying a few days, others may have taken the advantage of present prices, and you may have to be satisfied with lower prices.

Those that have Alsike Clover, would do well to let it stand for seed, as the demand is likely to be good for it in the spring. The Americans took all we could supply last year, and are already applying for more.

POSTAGE.

Why should we be taxed for near \$200,000 a year for agriculture, and postage be charged on agricultural papers to help make it up?

See the difference! G. A. Deitz advertises to send four pounds of seed wheat to any part of the United States for \$1, post paid; which in their money would be worth 60cts. To send four pounds of wheat five miles per mail in Canada, will cost 64 cents in gold. It is more than the wheat and postage together. We have written to the Board of Agriculture but as yet to no purpose. Mr. Buckland, the secretary, writes us that he knows of nothing wrong about it, and has heard no complaints; and, besides, he adds, it does not belong to the Agricultural Department. Well, if the seeds do not belong to the Agri-

cultural Department as it now is, we think we should have some change and not let stuffed birds be the leading features. It is of much importance to the country that every facility that can be given to the dissemination of seeds and information about them, should be attended to, and no department has been less cared for.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

ALSIKE CLOVER.

SIR:—I have to-day sent you a sample of my Alsike Clover, which I think is hard to beat; the length is over five feet. There was a large breadth of ground seeded to Alsike clover last year, but the summer being very dry it did not get a large growth by fall. A number of farmers that had sowed it, was fearful that it would not stand the winter, but it came out first rate in every case that I have heard of and will produce a very heavy crop of hay and seed; and I would advise farmers to let it ripen its seed and thresh it, for it then makes good hay and they will get a number of bushels of seed to the acre, which I think will demand a good price next spring.

The crops in general are looking well in this section. Haying is progressing slowly on account of bad weather. Barley and Fall wheat which are both a fine crop, will very soon be ready to cut.

H. M. THOMAS,

Brooklin, July 22nd.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

INSURANCE.

SIR:—In the columns of your paper, I see an advertisement of the Agricultural Mutual Assurance Association. Please give me your opinion about it.

A SUBSCRIBER.

It is perfectly safe. Terms are moderate, and all losses except from incendiarism on the part of insurers have been punctually paid. A very large accumulated capital is at their disposal. We have been insured in it since its commencement, and know of no better company for farmers to insure in. The managers are reliable men and are working for the good of the company and the country.

—Ed.

The Weather and the Crops in England.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

We are now entering upon the most critical part of the season, in regard to the growing crops and the prospects of the result. One thing is certain, that we shall not have so early a harvest as we had in 1868, and it is

not very probable it will prove so productive. It will undoubtedly turn out a fair average one, even if everything as far as the future weather be concerned should prove favorable. The wheat is in ear and presents to the observer a very gratifying appearance, but on closer inspection will show that the cold, wet weather of May, was anything but conducive to the healthy progress of that or any other grain, which will now require an accession of warm, sunny weather (such as we now have) to restore to the wheat crop a luscious and healthy appearance. As to the present we are beginning to feel the effect of the extra consumption consequent on the early harvest last year, coupled with the previous exhaustion of the stock of wheat in bulk. This has had a tendency on the part of some speculators to raise the present prices a little, no doubt, thinking that the unfavorable weather would support them; but the alteration to bright sunshine has caused them by this time to find out that they have burnt their fingers pretty sharply by their impetuosity. Everything at that period conspired to press upon the growers the necessity of bringing their produce to market, as soon as, or even before it was housed, for so mature and dry was its condition that much was threshed in the field and delivered at once. The fine price, the fineness of the quality, the active demand, coupled with a good yield, all conduced to render it desirable to sell out to as large an extent as possible. The result proves that the growers were right in their calculations for the price of wheat, and with it that of other grain has now for many weeks been tending downwards. Although the deliveries of English grain have fallen off, and the stocks still in the hands of the farmers are reduced at least to the average amount of the season, if not below this, such a case is easily to be accounted for by the extraordinary circumstances under which the new crop was so early begun upon, and continuously pressed upon the market from the first. At any rate, the present holders of wheat have no reason to hasten its delivery, for under any ordinary circumstances there can be no fear of prices declining just then this side of harvest; but I fear that after that time, owing to the prospects of splendid crops in Europe, we shall see a decline equal to what it has ruled here previous to the year 1866; and I conjecture that there will be little required from your side of the Atlantic, so that your farmers must share in the low prices, and must not think that it is policy always to have high prices. Prices now are fairly remunerative here, for both the grower and consumer.

London, England, July 7th, 1869.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

SIR:—I am highly pleased with the appearance