

The Government of the Province of Quebec, during the session 1888, passed an act for the establishment of a Station of Experimental Agriculture at St. Hyacinthe. The Station is now in working order, and it has sent us its first annual report. It has a chemical laboratory for the purpose of scientific analysis, and experiments of much value to the farmers have been made.

The Station is under the management of the Collège de St. Hyacinthe, and Mons. C. P. Choquette is the chemical director. A garden for experimenting with seeds, etc., is attached, and the report states that over one hundred important experiments have already been undertaken. Of the subjects suggested to him by the Provincial Government, Mr. Choquette has given his particular attention to four namely, ensilage, chemical foods, wood ashes, and milk. Altogether, the report is full of interest, as an indication that the Province of Quebec is on the alert to follow in the path of its sister Provinces in stirring up the farmers to investigation of scientific methods.



MANITOU, MANITOBA.

DEAR YOUNG CANADIAN,—Please send me a copy of your children's paper, and tell me if there are any good Canadian poultry papers.

Yours truly,

H. B., Junr.

The "Canadian Poultry Review," a monthly, published in Toronto; "The Live-Stock and Farm Journal," a monthly, published in Hamilton, O.; "The Maritime Farmer," a weekly, published in Fredericton, N. B.; "The Alberta Live-Stock Herald," published in Macleod, N.W.T., should give you what you want. Any of the addresses I have given will reach the publishers.—

ED. P. B.

AMHERST, N. S.

DEAR YOUNG CANADIAN,—I am waiting for your promise about the Banjo, and the prices. You said you would tell us.

H. S.

MY DEAR H. S.,—I had by no means forgotten about your banjo enquiries, but these things take a little time, and occasionally I am disappointed in getting my information when I expect it.

There are many kinds of banjos, of which the chief are—"The Student," "The Amateur," "The Ideal," "The Standard," "The Professional," "The Elite." Each of these names carries in it, to a certain extent, an explanation of the instrument. The "Student" and the "Amateur" are of course intended for beginners; the "Ideal" and the "Standard" are for the advanced players; the "Professional" is for the top of the tree; and the "Elite" is for the airy-fairy musicians who want to look well as well as sound well.

There was once a Prince, and not very long ago either, who was being instructed in the violin by a celebrated professor. After some years of patient labour the Prince naturally thought that he should receive some praise from his master. On venturing to approach the subject one day, the master replied that His Royal Highness was improving very much; that he divided his students into three classes—those who could not play at all, those who could play badly, and those who could play well. The Prince pulled himself up a little to prepare for the high compliment which was evidently in store for him. The master assumed a most respectful air, bowed, and said—"I find that your Highness has succeeded in rising out of the class that cannot play at all, into the class that can play badly."

But this, of course, was of the violin, the king of instruments, that takes a life-time and presents a life-time of difficulties. The banjo you will easily learn, and few instruments could be better suited to our exquisite summer weather.

There is one point, however, on which I should advise you to show some care—namely, in the choice of the size. There is neither comfort nor pleasure in handling one that is too large for your arm. Here is a good plan for you to tell:—Take any banjo you can get a hold of. Place the second finger of the left hand on the third string at the second fret, the first finger on the second string at the first fret, then reach the little finger down on the first string to the fourth fret, or as far as you can comfortably, and measure the distance from the first fret to the point of the little finger. This is the measurement by which you can secure a banjo of the right size for you. If you send it to me, I will see that you get what you want.

The prices are as follows:—The "Student," from \$10 to \$12.50, according to inlaying; the "Amateur," \$15; "Ideal," \$20 to \$22.50; "Standard," \$25; "Professional," \$35; "Elite," \$50. These are all finished in handsome grained woods, ebony finger boards, and inlaid most beautifully.—ED. P. B.

OTTAWA.

DEAR YOUNG CANADIAN,—We like our first number of our own Paper very much, indeed, and I send you this little sketch of General Wolfe, which I have done in my best style in accordance with the invitation given to your readers in the January Calendar. I am just twelve years old, and I am not sure if I should address this to the Post Bag or not.

Can I write a sketch from the February Calendar if I want to?

Your young friend,

B. B.

MY DEAR B. B.,—I am so pleased to receive your letter, and the sketch of the brave General Wolfe. I will hand it over to the Editor, who has a pile of sketches to read and decide upon. You were quite right, however, to send it to me first, and I hope you will write on the February Calendar. The topics are such as should interest all our young readers, and make them know a great deal about their country. So soon as they know, you will see how proud they will be of Canada.

Your sincere friend,

ED. P. B.

"OUR CANADIAN FLAG."

If the young gentleman who writes to me from Guelph, O., about our flag will send me his name, I will be happy to insert his letter and reply to it.—ED. P. B.