

Since our last issue we have received several letters of enquiry as to the prices, &c., of bone crushers. Will some of our manufacturers take the hint.

**WIND-MILLS.**—Can any of our friends inform C. I. where and at about what price he can purchase a serviceable wind-mill for farm use.

It will be well for those who are trying to raise fast horses to remember that the records of English turf history show that out of thirty colts, from thoroughbred stock on both sides, but one proves extra fast.

Speak to your neighbor who is not taking an agricultural paper, and tell him what you think of *THE CANADA FARMER*. We do not ask you to flatter it, but if it pleases you, you will assist us by communicating it to your neighbors.

Mr. Lochlan Kennedy, of Manitoba, has left with us a very beautiful sample of spring wheat, grown in the neighborhood of Fort Garry, and which took the prize at the show held there last year. The sample is plump and well colored and speaks volumes for the fertility of that section of the country, in which it was produced.

The death is announced, in his 79th year, of Sir John Sinclair, Bart., of Dunheath, which took place at Edinburgh. Sir John has long been a leading proprietor and spirited improver of stock in Caithness. He was for years Convener of the County, and took an active part in public affairs till recently, when advanced years and severe family bereavements induced him to retire.

**EUPHRASIA FARMERS' CLUB.**—We notice in a late issue of the *Meaford Enquirer* the report of a meeting held by a number of our friends in Euphrasia for the purpose of establishing a Farmers' Club. At the preliminary meeting twelve names were enrolled; but we have since learned that the list has been largely augmented, and that the society is fully organized and in capital working trim. Success to them.

**NORTH DUMFRIES FARMERS' CLUB.**—We are happy to learn from an old friend in North Dumfries that the Farmers' Club established in that township some time ago, has been highly successful. The meetings have been well attended, and a number of interesting agricultural topics discussed in a manner that promises well for the future usefulness and prosperity of the club. We shall watch the proceedings of this and all kindred societies with much interest, and be most happy to receive condensed reports of their doings, for insertion in *THE CANADA FARMER*.

#### April in England.

If the weather had been made for the purpose of allowing farmers to overtake their extensive arrears of work, it could hardly have been more favourable than it has been during the greater part of the month. It would have required no very great stretch of the imaginative faculties. Indeed, to conclude from the brilliancy of the sunshine, and the general balminess of the atmosphere, that we were enjoying June instead of April weather. During the past week however, there has been a decided and detrimental change in the weather; the thermometer has fallen considerably, and young blades and blossoms will suffer from the frosty temperature, and the chilling blasts of wind accompanied by snow, and hail, and sleet. The inactivity which has continued for the most part since, and even preceding the opening of the year, in the corn trade, has not been relaxed during April. Importations have been liberal throughout the month, and that fact, coupled with the influence of the warm weather, has caused a depressed and slow trade at prices exhibiting generally a decline upon the quotations of March. In the second week, when much cooler and more reasonable weather prevailed, rates in some few districts recovered the 1s. per qr. decline of the opening week, but this recovery was by no means general, on account of the restrictive tone of trade. For the most part, therefore, the business of the month in the corn markets has been slow, corn being 1s. per qr. cheaper than was the case in the preceding month. Up to last week, when a sudden dullness overtook the trade, business in the cattle markets has been steady, at times approaching briskness, as has been the case in London up to Monday last. The extremely high prices demanded, however, has its inevitable effect of limiting consumption for both beef and mutton, and there is seldom seen that genuine activity which urgent requirements must, under more favourable circumstances as to prices, have occasioned. — *The (London) Farmer*, 28th April.

#### Number of Shingles in a Roof.

J. D. Tate gives to the New York Farmers' Club a rule for estimating the number of shingles required for a roof of any size, one which he thinks every mechanic and farmer should remember. First, find the number of square inches in one side of the roof; cut off the right hand or unit figure, and the result will be the number of shingles required to cover both sides of the roof, laying five inches to the weather. The ridge board provides for the double courses at the bottom. Illustration: Length of roof, 100 feet, width of one side, 30 feet; 100x30x144 equals 432,000. Cutting off the right hand figure we have 43,200 as the number of shingles required.

#### Railroad Ties.

A recent lumberman's circular estimates the number of railroad ties in present use in the United States at 150,000,000. A cut of 200 ties to the acre is above rather than under the average, and it therefore required the product of 750,000 acres of well-timbered land to furnish the supply. Railroad ties last about five years; consequently 30,000 ties are used annually for repairs, taking the timber from 150,000 acres. The manufacture of rolling stock disposes of the entire yield of 350,000 acres, and the full supply of nearly 500,000 acres more every year. It appears that our railroads are stripping the country at the rate of 1,000,000 acres per annum, and their demands are rapidly increasing.

#### Preserving Shingles.

There is a good deal better way of doing this than to paint them. We have seen shingle roofs kept till fifty years old, only by the application of lime. Here is a very effective receipt for preserving shingles. Take a potash kettle or large tub, and put into it one barrel of wood ashes, five pounds of white vitriol, five pounds of alum, and as much salt as will dissolve in the mixture. Make the liquor quite warm, and put as many shingles in it as can be conveniently wetted at once. Stir them up with a fork, and when well soaked, take them out and put in more, renewing the liquor as necessary. Then lay the shingles in the usual manner. After they are laid, take the liquor that is left, put lime enough to make it into whitewash, and apply to the roof with a brush or an old broom. This wash may be renewed from time to time. Salt and lye are excellent preservatives of wood. — *Ohio Farmer*.

#### A Seductive Rat Trap.

A man in Pennsylvania has invented a rat trap that is made to operate upon the selfish passion of the poor rat and lead him into trouble. *The Mechanic and Farmer*, in a description of the trap, says that a mirror is set in the back of the device beyond the bait, and as his ratship is out on a foraging expedition, he spies the bait, and at the same time believes his own image in the mirror to be another rat making for it on the opposite side. This is too much for rat nature to stand and be cool over, so he rushes for the bait. But alas! The noble rat has fallen; for a sharp, two-tined steel fork has come down upon his luckless head and has penetrated through skin and skull, and in the brain where one short moment before rankled avarice, now rankles two of death's arrows. But this is not all. The gullet, down which was expected a sweet morsel to pass, is now pierced and bleeding, for another spear has entered it from below. — *Farmers' Union*.

#### Hog Trade of the West.

The whole number of Hogs packed in the West, for the winter seasons of 1849-50 to 1871-72 inclusive, as compiled by the Cincinnati Price Current, is shown by the following table:

Years.	No. of Hogs.
1849-50	1,682,250
1850-51	1,731,977
1851-52	1,182,846
1852-53	2,291,110
1853-54	2,351,779
1854-55	2,121,404
1855-56	2,480,702
1856-57	1,818,468
1857-58	2,210,768
1858-59	2,220,000
1859-60	2,250,000
1860-61	2,113,702
1861-62	2,286,666
1862-63	2,020,625
1863-64	2,261,106
1864-65	2,521,770
1865-66	1,750,000
1866-67	2,490,791
1867-68	2,781,084
1868-69	2,439,573
1869-70	2,653,312
1870-71	3,038,251
1871-72	9,966,419

#### The Art of good Farming.

Most farmers will admit that there are crops to be harvested at such a stage of their existence as to take but little from the soil. Grain if cut in the milk is excellent for feeding while green, especially to milch cows, and exhausts the soil but little. Grain when cut in blossom and cured well, makes hay of the first quality and is, we believe, less exhaustive to the soil than when allowed to come to maturity. The art of good farming lies, first, in growing as much unexhaustive produce as possible, and second, in converting such product into manure for the increasing of the fertility of the soil, and this conversion must be in a manner that shall bring the most profit; this can be done only in feeding live stock. By following this system faithfully the farmer, his farm, and his stock, all thrive together, rendering him a three-fold profit. We believe that any good grass farm, the soil of which has not been robbed of its fertility, if the grass be cut while in blossom, and the after-growth never disturbed, but allowed to rot, will continue to grow larger crops of grass so long as the above practice is continued. We would never in practice allow a hoof upon our meadows, believing it in the highest degree injurious to succeeding crops. — *Vermont Farmer*.

#### Chalk for Fuel.

Among the later theories for economising in fuel without sacrifice of comfort is the substitution of chalk for coal. Not wholly, however, but for the greater part. A gentleman who has made a thorough test of the matter declares himself satisfied beyond doubt of the superiority in heat-giving properties of chalk over coal. The idea is an old one, but we have never heard of any practical attempt being made to turn it to account before. With those who have ever noticed the great specific heat of chalk or the large amount of carbonic acid contained in it, and the convertibility of that acid into carbonic oxide by means of heat; or with those who have merely noticed either the vast amount of heat which, generated by a comparatively small amount of fuel, is radiated from a limekiln; or again, the effect in smelting ore of a few hundred pounds weight of limestone or chalk, it has long been a matter of strong persuasion that the time must come when chalk, and perhaps limestone, shall be made subservient to the increase of heat and the diminution in the consumption of coal. Our late fire presented hundreds of instances of the intensity of the heat of limestone, and the length of time it was retained even by small fragments. With regard to the experiments referred to, it is asserted that by using chalk and coal in about equal proportions, the chalk being placed at the back of the grate and the coal in front, a saving of at least 75 per cent. was effected in cost, with a more intense heat and cheerful blaze than would have been obtainable from coal alone. — *Boston (U.S.) Globe*.

#### Lincoln Great Horse Fair.

This great Lincolnshire horse fair was recently held in the town of Lincoln. There was, as usual, a large attendance. The supply of horses was numerically below the average, but the show produced a superior collection of horses. There was a lively demand for every class of useful animals, and a large number of horses were sold by private sale and public auction. Horses, young and of good promise, suitable to breaking to private carriage purposes, 65gs. to 85gs., and ditto of good fashion, and seasoned down to harness, 100gs. and upwards; and well-matched pairs of young carriage horses, greys, bays, or chestnuts, realized from 240gs. to 300gs.; horses suitable for omnibus, vans, machine work, &c. were in active request at from 40gs. to 60gs.; and cart horses, of high class, suitable for London brewers and merchants, 45gs. to 65gs.; riding horses, of good stamp, 50gs. to 70gs.; and ditto of grand action, for park riding, &c. 110gs. to 150gs.; aged hunters 60gs. to 80gs., and ditto of good pedigree and reputation in the hunting-field, 150gs. to 250gs.; and young Irish horses, of good blood 75gs. to 130gs.; saddle colts of handsome contour, and up to heavy weight, 45gs. to 70gs.; cover hacks of good breed, and galloways, 40gs. to 50gs.; harness colts 30gs. to 40gs., and good roadsters and trotters, of known celebrity, 30gs. to 90gs.; and aged horses 25gs. to 30gs.; horses adapted for the artillery and military purposes were in active competition, and realized high prices; and for some days prior to the fair "commissioners" were travelling this county, and buying up horses on the road en route to this fair. London horse dealers were large buyers, and many strings of horses were purchased for foreign exportation. During the fair Messrs Tattersall sold the stud of horses, the property of the late Mr. Welfitt.