

treat for the purchase of 1,000 tons of beets, deliverable next fall, at \$4 per ton. The *Trade Review* is very confident as to Mr. Red path's success. We sincerely hope that his anticipations may be fulfilled. An acre of land, properly tilled, will yield from 12 to 15 tons of the sugar beet, and though there is considerable hand labour involved in the culture of root crops, yet by the use of the seed-drill and the horse hoe, it may be greatly lessened, so as to have it, at the above price, much more profitable than ordinary grain crops. Though, like our correspondent "Denizen," we have had many doubts as to the practicability and profitability of making sugar in Canada, from the beet, we shall be only too glad if actual experiment proves that it can be done.

New Cheese Factories.

We learn from various exchanges that quite a number of new Cheese Factories are about to be established this spring; amongst others, there is one in course of erection in Augusta, by Mr. Samuel Throop, on his farm at Charlesville. The *Stratford Beacon* states that a company under the name of "The Thames Road Cheese Factory," is gathering material for the erection of an extensive factory on the farm of Mr. Andrew Malcolm, in the Township of Hibbert. It is thought that the milk of three hundred cows can be procured at the commencement, enabling the firm to make a successful start. The *Prescott Telegraph* mentions that several farmers in the adjacent counties are entering on this business, and from the *Cornwall Freeholder* we learn that Mr. Duncan Macdonald, of Gray's Creek, is making extensive preparations for the manufacture of cheese, on a large scale, during the coming summer. The *Napanee Express* also gives the report of a meeting held at Newburgh, on Saturday, Jan. 26th, to take into consideration the propriety of erecting a Cheese Factory in that part of the country. It was resolved that a joint stock company be formed to erect buildings, &c., and that a list be opened to receive the names of persons willing to take stock in the same. The following gentlemen were appointed directors for the present year; C. H. Miller, Robert Madden, P. Miller, J. B. Aylsworth, and J. D. Ham. Before the close of the meeting several of the shares were taken up.

Poultry Association.

A MEETING of the Poultry Association was held in their rooms in the Agricultural Hall, Toronto, on Thursday, Feb. 14th, at which there was a large attendance of members and much interest taken. Several new members were proposed. There was also on exhibition during the evening a number of fowls of the Cochon China and Game breeds, also a number of Pouter and Carrier pigeons and a pair of Sebright bantams. A very interesting paper on the general management of fowls was read by the Hon. Secretary, Lt.-Col. Hassard, which we give in full elsewhere. The thanks of the meeting were conveyed to Col. Hassard for his valuable paper. A resolution was passed to the effect that all members not paying their subscriptions by the first of April next, be struck off the roll of the association. An exhibition of fowl will be held under the auspices of the association on the 10th and 11th days of April next, in the Agricultural Hall, corner of Yonge and Queen Streets, at which an entrance fee of 50 cents will be charged to non-members of the society. The admission fee to the Exhibition show to be 10 cents. A communication was read from the society of the Ipswich (England) Poultry Club, offering to supply fowl to members of the association. Several members agreed to avail themselves of the opportunity.

SEEDS RECEIVED.—We have to acknowledge the receipt of a package of garden seeds from Mr. James J. H. Gregory, of Marblehead, Mass. Among them are the Marblehead Cabbage, the Hubbard and Turban Squashes, the Tilden Tomato, extra early varieties of the bean, pea, celery and sweet corn, &c. We shall have pleasure in testing the seeds, and do not

doubt, from Mr. Gregory's long experience and high reputation as a seedsman, that they will all prove "A No. 1."

SIMMERS' CULTIVATORS' GUIDE FOR 1867.—Judging from the annually enlarged and improved pictorial appearance of his catalogue, Mr. Simmers' motto as a seedsman is "Excelsior." We also infer that his business is enlarging, from the variety and extent of the seed stock advertised by him. All descriptions of Garden, Agricultural and Flower Seeds may be had from this well-known dealer. Farmers, in getting your grass and turnip seed, your cabbage and onion seed, invest a little in flowers; they will fringe your homes with beauty, yield you a simple but fresh pleasure all through the summer season, and gratify your wives and daughters beyond measure. This Catalogue not only give lists and prices of the seeds kept on sale, but contains brief directions for their culture. It is sent to all intending purchasers on receipt of a prepaid letter, containing with address two cents in postage stamps. As seeds can be sent by mail at one cent per ounce to any post office in Canada, distance need be no hindrance to obtaining a supply. Address, J. A. Simmers, Toronto.

CHAS. DAWBARN & CO.'S ANNUAL DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE.—This firm deals in seeds of all sorts, and also keeps on hand a variety of useful agricultural and horticultural implements, all of which are enumerated with their prices in this Catalogue. The title-page is backed by a letter from Hon. David Christie, commending very highly the seeds obtained by him from this firm last year. Mr. C. writes, "They all turned out well, especially the turnips." The Grey Stones grown by Mr. C. took the first prize at the Provincial Exhibition. They were sown June 14, and pulled September 24. One of them weighed 14 lbs., and thirteen of them filled a flour barrel. For copies of Catalogue address Chas. Dawbarn & Co., Toronto.

INFORMATION WANTED ABOUT CHEESE FACTORIES.—We have received, from various quarters, enquiries respecting the best kind of buildings and apparatus for cheese factories, and also their cost and mode of management. We would refer our correspondents for full particulars on these heads to articles on the subject in the CANADA FARMER, for August 1st and 15th, 1866, (Vol. III.), which numbers we can supply to order. Having so recently given the desired information, we do not think it necessary to repeat it here. It is, in our view, highly desirable that any parties who contemplate the manufacturing of cheese on this method should visit some of the establishments already in operation in this country or in the United States, where they will be able to learn, far better than from any written description, the practical working of the system. Reliable persons to superintend such a concern would, perhaps, be best procured from some of the districts in New York, where these factories have already been for some time established.

Agricultural Intelligence.

A Fortnight in Simcoe.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR, I spent the last week of the old year, and the first week of the new, in the large and interesting county of Simcoe. Notwithstanding some occasional rough weather which was unfavourable for holding public meetings in several places, I had good opportunities of a great deal of pleasant intercourse with the farmers and others, who take an interest in promoting agricultural pursuits.

At Bradford we had a meeting in the Town Hall, a new and capacious building, that is highly creditable to this rising village; Dr. Morton the respected and energetic President of the South Simcoe Society,

occupied the chair. The principal subject that came up for conversational discussion after the lecture was flax culture, which was only introduced into this section of the country during the past year. About 700,000 lbs. of flax were grown the past season, generally of good quality; some indeed, that I saw, was excellent, three feet long, fibre fine, with abundance of seed, which in some cases was a little too ripe before the plant was pulled, thereby producing a coarser fibre: a result obtained in other instances by too thin sowing. A beautiful sheaf of flax was procured by Mr. Donaldson, for the Paris Exhibition, grown in this vicinity from Canadian seed, which several persons at the meeting seemed to prefer to the imported Riga seed; though it was admitted that the latter produced taller plants. In Ireland, and from what I have hitherto learnt in this country, Russian seed is generally considered to produce a longer and finer fibre than any other, and commands a higher price. A scutching mill has just been got into operation in this village by a joint stock company, with encouraging prospects. The price paid for flax straw with seed on, varies from \$11 to \$14 per ton, according to quality; and the yield has been most abundant; the average is said to have exceeded two tons an acre. In other parts of the county flax has, as yet, been only very partially tried.

I have regretted to observe in some parts of the Province, an increasing scepticism as regards the profitability of raising flax. The price given, \$12 to \$14 per ton, is not considered sufficient, especially as the whole of the produce, straw, roots and seed, are wholly taken from the soil, which is believed to be greatly exhausted by a crop of flax, particularly when the seed is allowed to ripen. Undoubtedly a heavy crop of flax extracts from the soil a large amount of plant food, so does a large crop of wheat or any other grain; the principal difference being that the straw of the latter, in some form or other, is mostly returned to the soil; whereas flax culture makes a clean sweep, and leaves nothing behind. With regard to the continuation of the latter, almost everything must depend upon the price which the farmer can obtain for the raw material and his facilities for cultivating and harvesting the crop. The manufacturers should give as liberal a price for a good quality of flax as he can possibly afford, in order to encourage the farmers to grow and carefully harvest it. Some farmers have told me that the seed alone was worth as much as they got for the entire article. Last season, too, was particularly unfavourable and expensive for harvesting the ordinary cereal crops, and those who grew flax had additional difficulties to encounter, both from the state of the weather, and the impossibility of getting adequate and suitable labour. However, last year was in a great degree exceptional, and it is much to be desired on every account that a fair trial, which must involve several years and much care and perseverance, should be given to the raising of this necessary article as one of our farm crops.

In consequence of the inclemency of the weather the meeting in the township of Innisfil was not held; but I had the pleasure of spending an agreeable hour with several farmers at the residence of Mr. Davidson, of Leroy, and also of calling on others in different parts of the township. Innisfil, like West Gwillimbury and Tecumseh, possesses much excellent land, well adapted to agricultural purposes generally, and the state of cultivation is, in many places, highly creditable. I saw throughout this district many excellent samples of both winter and spring wheat, which was a good and profitable yield last season, and much better harvested than was the case in most sections of the Province. I called on Mr. Barclay, who grew the Canada Company's prize wheat at the last Provincial Exhibition, a barrel of which has been sent with other grains collected by the Board of Agriculture, to the great World's Show at Paris.

The meeting at Barrie was pretty well attended, considering the stormy state of the weather. It took