



Vol. III. No. 8.

Toronto, August, 1884.

\$1 per annum, in advance.

### RURAL NOTES.

The peach crop in Delaware is an abundant one this season, there being estimated fully ten millions of baskets on the trees.

If horses are working hard on the reaping machine let them drink a little at a time and often. It will be better for them than to drink heartily three times a day.

An Iowa man says that the dogs of that State eat enough annually to feed 100,000 working-men; and that they cost the State, counting in damage done to sheep, a total of \$9,000,000.

An intelligent and observant man says he has proven the case so often that he wants no more evidence to convince him that scab in potatoes is caused by wire-worms. What we want now is an effective and safe remedy, can any of our readers furnish it?

Red ants may be easily trapped with lard for bait. Spread it on a plate, and place a few bits of wood so that the ants may easily climb to it. When it is well covered, dip it into hot water or turn it over a fire. Repeat the operation a few times and the ants will cease to trouble you.

It is found in practice that beans are not a good crop to precede wheat. The chief reason of this probably is that they rob the soil of its phosphate and nitrogen, the food which the wheat plant requires. The bean field of this summer should be given a rest until next spring.

The officers of the Industrial and Provincial Exhibitions are making energetic efforts for the success of the coming show. The Toronto one will doubtless surpass all previous shows held in the Province, but Ottawa is too far away from the best farming districts to allow of the Provincial Society eclipsing its record this year.

The great mistake in the feeding of young calves is to give too much, as by overloading the digestive organs exhaustive diarrhoea is produced. Three quarts a day is sufficient for a calf up to a month old, and this may be gradually increased to four or five quarts at the end of the second month, with the addition of a little hay or grass.

We are in receipt of the initial number of the *Canadian Dairyman*, published at Montreal, by the Canadian Dairyman Co.; monthly, 50 cts. per annum. This new candidate for public favour makes a neat appearance, and promises to be a very useful periodical, while the low price at which it is issued places it within the reach of every one.

A writer in the *Boston Cultivator* says he has this year tried a plan for restoring shrivelled turnips and preserving them for summer eating. He buried a basketful in his garden, and when taken up they were found to be as firm and rigid as when gathered last fall. Even their fresh and natural colour was restored. Beets and carrots are said to give similar results under the same treatment. The plan is certainly worth knowing.

The ranch-men of Wyoming, are making a strong effort in England just now for obtaining the privilege of shipping live cattle into that country by way of Canada—direct American imports being prohibited for fear of introducing any one of its several plagues affecting cattle in the Middle, Southern and Western States. If Wyoming only proceeded to annex herself to the Dominion, her ranch-men would find an easy way out of their difficulty.

The finer the soil is made the more readily the tender plant takes root and finds nourishment. For this reason it is desirable to have the land intended for fall wheat thoroughly summer-fallowed,—not merely ploughed once, but repeatedly harrowed and cultivated, so that when the seeding season arrives it will be found mellow, free from weeds, and in good heart for the grain to take root and grow. If we are sparing of labour, seed or manure, we shall reap as we sow.

If we look at the grass on the roadsides we may learn a useful lesson in the growing of grass crops. We shall find several varieties growing together, one maturing early and the others later all through the season. It is by mixing several kinds, and so following the example of nature, that success in cultivating pastures is obtained. Mixed grasses, perfect preparation of the soil, liberal seeding, and sowing without any robber crop to destroy it, will give the best of grass fields.

Fruit growers are beginning to attach considerable importance to the planting of pine trees in orchards. It is a good wind-break, it throws off a large amount of caloric in cold weather, and its odor drives off many of the destructive insects which prey on apples and apple trees. Such, at least, are the merits claimed for the pine tree among the trees of the orchard, and at all events the subject is deserving of closer study. The plan is a good one for appearance sake, if for no other.

It is well known to farmers, as it should be, that under an arrangement made with the railway companies of Ontario by the meteorological office, weather signals are now carried to all

parts of the Province by the morning trains,—the only exception being on lines controlled by the Canadian Pacific Railway. In the harvest season especially, this arrangement is a valuable one, for it is a great boon to farmers at such a time to know what the weather for the next twelve hours is likely to be. Of course it is only those who are contiguous to railways who are likely to be benefitted by it, but with so many lines traversing the Province in all directions "Old Probabilities" cannot fail to convey information to a very large number of people.

It is useless in enriching orchard ground to pile the manure around the trunks of the trees. The feeding roots, are about as far from the trunk as the extremities of the branches, hence the bulk of the manure intended for the tree should be spread in the line of the outer branches. "If you have money to fool away," says Prof. Beal, "seed down your young orchard to clover and timothy, or sow a crop of wheat or oats. If you want trees to thrive, cultivate well till they are seven or ten years old. Spread ashes, manure or salt broadcast. Stop cultivating in August, weeds or no weeds. This allows the trees to ripen for winter." The condition of the tree is known by its leaves, its fruit and the wood it makes in a season. If the leaves are pale, the fruit small and poor, and the growth on bearing trees less than a foot a year, the tree needs both manure and cultivation.

MARKET gardeners, who are usually the first to introduce any new system of cultivation, are generally following the plan of level culture for celery, earthing up once for all at the latter part of the season. The trench and the level system have been the subject of careful experiment at the New York agricultural experiment station, and the results are so nearly equal that the advantage of the trench cultivation is regarded as altogether too little for the increased labour involved. Averaging our results obtained in seventeen samples in which the varieties from the two rows are separately noted, the director reports: "We find that, omitting fractions, plants grown under level culture averaged 177 pounds per hundred plants, while those under trench culture averaged 178 pounds per hundred plants. The length of the bleached stems was rather greater and the suckers were rather more numerous upon the plants grown in the trenches; but, on the other hand, the bases of the stems were more often split and deformed than occurred in the plants grown upon the level." With such results from the simpler method we may naturally look for a much more general cultivation of this excellent and popular salad plant.