

Rural Canadian and Farm Journal,

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

THE CANADIAN FARMER AND GRANGE RECORD.

Vol. VIII., No. 10.
Vol. IV., No. 10.—New Series.

Toronto, October, 1885.

\$1.00 per annum in advance.

RURAL NOTES.

If sheep are salted on tar it will protect them against the fly which lays the egg that makes the maggot in the head. This is a simple remedy, and cheap as it is simple.

In many parts of Ontario this year apples are so scarce that they will hardly supply the home market. In Connecticut, on the other hand, they are so plentiful that farmers can hardly give them away.

If hens are to be kept with a view to profit in winter they should be duly cared for. Comfortable quarters with a southern exposure, and a generous supply of wholesome food are among the prime requisites.

THE seeding of fall wheat has been a little later than usual this year, owing to the rains of early September. But the land was generally in good condition for working, and the young plant looks healthy and vigorous.

A MIXTURE of lime in clay soils has the effect of making them porous and friable; hence by such treatment they are made more workable, and are better fitted for nourishing the life of plants. Clays that harden into solid lumps after a shower of rain are little better than rocks, in so far as the food of plants is concerned.

It is better and easier to improve good land than to bring up poor land, and the farmer who acts on this belief is sure to find the fruit of his labours growing more profitable from year to year. Twenty bushels of wheat per acre is thought to be a good yield; but with a little more manure and a little better tillage year after year the same land may soon be made to yield thirty bushels to the acre.

ONE of the peculiar features of the fall shows is the boom in Holsteins. Three years ago there was hardly one animal of this famous dairy breed in the Province; now there are numbers of large herds, and the opinion is held by many that they will prove to be hardly less valuable for the slaughter-house than for the dairy. The objection to Ayrshires and Jerseys is that their beef qualities are almost nil.

It is believed that the clover seed midge is an importation from European countries, where it is found to infest the large red or cow clover. Great havoc has been caused by it during the last two or three years, and now it extends pretty much all over Ontario. Almost the only good crops of seed clover obtained are from fields which have been pastured until the first or second week of June, and then allowed to grow for a seed crop.

THE fall season has not been very favourable for the maturing of grapes. The crop gave good promise during the summer months; vines were well loaded, the grapes grew finely, and vines and fruit were alike healthy. But the frequent rains of August and September prolonged the growing season, and there is much reason to fear that damage will be done by frost before the fruit is sufficiently matured. In any case, the grapes

are not likely to be of such good quality as they would be had they ripened earlier in the season.

A YEAR of depression is by no means the worst year for a farmer who wants to provide himself with labour-saving implements of good make and quality. In a period of inflation the demand is active, and manufacturers are tempted to put inferior machines on the market. Standard goods will sell any time, but especially at a time when the buyer is not over-anxious, and will stop to consider if he is likely to get his money's worth before making a bargain.

It is generally admitted that for horses and milch cows there is no root grown on the farm of equal value with the carrot. It is healthy and nutritive; keeps the digestive organs in good order; increases the flow of milk and imparts to butter a rich golden colour. Besides, there is perhaps no other root that will yield so much to the acre, and be the season dry or wet the carrot crop seldom fails. The turnip is comparatively a surface ground root, and in a dry season it is certain to suffer.

It is often stated, as illustrating the great vitality of wheat, that grains found in the wrappings of Egyptian mummies have germinated quite readily when planted, and the variety known as Egyptian wheat is reputed to have had its modern origin in that way. But the best botanists of Europe, including the Director of the Royal Gardens at Kew, in England, aver that there is not one authenticated case on record of such wheat growing, even when placed in the most favourable conditions.

THE *Farm Journal* gives a word of excellent advice in terms following. Every farmer should have a stencil plate with his name and residence cut in it, so that he may plainly mark all bags, blankets, robes and boxes with it; also a brand with which he can burn his name into the handles of hoes, shovels and tools. Then if he is blessed with a borrowing neighbour the sight of the name may remind the borrower to return the tool before he has worn it out. At least there will be less danger of his thinking he owns it because he has had it so long that he has forgotten how he came by it.

SOME soils are more likely to receive injury than benefit from fall ploughing, especially such soils as run together when exposed to rain and frost. But clay soils are almost worthless for spring crops unless they are turned up in the fall of the year, and the frost is given a chance to thoroughly pulverize them. Then, too, fall ploughing is one of the best means of destroying the larvæ of insects which burrow in the ground to pass the winter so that they may awake to newness of life in the first warm days of spring. To reach these it is often desirable to plough land that otherwise might be worked as well in spring time.

Writing on the subject of roots, an exchange very naively says that the strongest objection made to their cultivation is the fact that farmers have never tried them. It proceeds to say that the labour of cultivating, harvesting and storing is generally over-estimated, and the stereotyped farmer keeps

on with his hay and corn. Let those who own small farms, and want to make the most of them, try roots, even if it be no more than a quarter of an acre. The great thing is to make a beginning, and to see with one's own eyes the enormous quantity of food the soil will yield in roots. Prepare the ground thoroughly this fall, and manure as heavily as for the largest corn crop.

THERE are many forms of treatment recommended for roup in fowls, but perhaps the best is to kill and cover up the bird affected with it. In the fall of the year late hatched chicks are very subject to this disease, especially where they are exposed to dampness, cold winds, foul quarters and poor feed. Prevention is better than cure, and a removal of the conditions which produce it is the best kind of prevention. See that the hen-house is made warm, clean and dry; that draughts are avoided, that the inside of the house is occasionally washed with a strong solution of chloride of lime, and that plenty of good food is given. With such treatment roup is not likely to prove troublesome, and the hens will come safely through the moulting season.

WE sometimes hear it said that it is a mistake to pasture meadow land too much in the fall of the year; that it is better to have the meadows go into winter quarters with a deep and luxuriant aftermath. There is, no doubt a possible danger of grazing too closely, especially if the winter season should prove to be an open one. But, on the other hand, a tangle of grass and clover heads is sure to invite colonies of field mice, and these are likely to do as much injury to the crop as a biting frost. And again, a mass of dead grass on the meadow field will be found to interfere very considerably with the play of the mower, and this is often more than an aggravation to the farmer at a very busy season of the year. On the whole, we think close grazing is to be preferred, and if care is taken to spread the droppings of animals the meadow land will be all the better for it.

MINERAL phosphates are growing in favour every year, and the mines of South Carolina are being worked with great energy to supply manufacturers with the raw material. The phosphate beds in that State were discovered in 1868, their extent being about seventy miles in length by thirty in breadth. The quantity taken out this year will probably be half-a-million tons, which is much larger than for any previous year. In our own Province we also have beds of large extent, and the ore is much richer than the South Carolina ore. The latter yields only fifty to sixty per cent., whereas ours yields seventy-five to ninety per cent. The Ontario ore, too, is very easily mined, and along the Rideau Canal it may be shipped to market with great facility. It is to be hoped that owners of the mines will show sufficient energy to develop them, and take full advantage of their opportunities. In South Carolina the State levies a tax of one dollar a ton on all that is shipped, thus making the mines an important source of revenue; in Ontario the miners enjoy perfect freedom of trade, and in this respect, as well as in the superior quality of the mineral, they have great advantages over their Carolina rivals.