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RURAL NOTES.

A "FARMER" writes: It is a singular fact that such mild weather as we have had of late has encouraged the frogs to make their voices to be heard as if the spring had been approaching instead of winter. I never noticed this before during a period of twenty-five years' residence in the country.

It is likely that there will be a good average production of pork for home consumption this year, notwithstanding the large sale of store hogs. The "new generation," of which no account appears to have been taken in the spring, is being got ready for the market, and by the end of the year the lovers of pork may get their fill of it.

Our readers are respectfully asked to help in extending the circulation of the RURAL CANADIAN. Ask your neighbours to take it for the coming year. Anyone taking your advice will thank you for the hint, as the information gleaned from its pages will many times repay the small cost of subscription. Single subscriptions, \$1; in clubs of five or over, 75 cents each. Push the canvass now: balance of year free to new subscribers.

FARMERS are just now busily at work gathering their crops of carrots and mangolds. As these roots go deep into the soil, it is found to be no easy matter to lift them, the ground being unusually hard and dry for this season of the year. For the next two or three weeks the turnip fields will be the centre of operations, and should the present weather continue, a large crop of roots will be housed in fine condition. There is a good time coming for the live stock.

In some sections of Ontario farmers only finished the seeding of fall wheat last week. The late harvest delayed a commencement by fully two weeks, and owing to the absence of rain, the ground was hard to work. Stubble and pea-ground could scarcely be ploughed at all, and unfortunately a very large proportion of this kind of tillage prevails in the country. We want more summer-fallowing, cultivating, and underdraining to make the growing of fall wheat profitable.

The Belleville *Intelligencer* very properly says: "Is it not about time that people began to treat the predictions of the so-called weather prophets with the contempt which they deserve? By such means only can the public save themselves from being bored by the prognostications of men who are no wiser than their fellows as to the future. Take, for instance, Mr. Vennor's prediction for October. He prophesied a very severe month of rain, hail and snow, and as everybody knows Oc-

tober has been the finest month of the year. By all means let the weather prophets subside."

SOME farmers, remarks the *Hamilton Times*, are keeping back their potatoes, expecting better prices. They were never further mistaken. The New York and Boston markets are glutted, the crops throughout the country are enormous, and there will be no demand in the States this year for Canadian potatoes. When contractors undertake to supply the esculents for the year's requirements of the London Fire Brigade at 48 cents a bushel, high prices in this locality, at all events, cannot be expected.

THE delightful autumn weather this year has been most favourable for the ripening of corn, buckwheat, and other late crops. Owing to the cold and wet weather of June, corn on all low and undrained grounds got a very late start, and even as late as the first of August farmers had little hopes of an average crop. But throughout August and September it grew well and ripened evenly, and indeed there are but few districts in Ontario where frost did any injury to vegetation before the middle of October. There will be a good supply of corn in farmers' hands for fattening cattle and hogs, especially in the corn-growing districts.

THERE is a great slackness in the movement of wheat. Prices are so low that few farmers sell, saving those who are compelled to do so by circumstances. Nor is there any probability of the market improving for some time, for, what very rarely happens, good harvests have been reaped this year the world over. If farmers can manage to hold on until the supplies on hand run low, there is a chance for a rise, or they may hold on in anticipation of a poor crop next year. It is quite likely, indeed, that half the surplus product of wheat in Ontario will be found in farmers' hands next spring. Although a large breadth has been sown this fall, the crop is far from being a promising one.

In what is familiarly known as the barley-growing section of Ontario—north and a little west of the Bay of Quinte—that grain was harvested this year in fine condition. It is not as plump as in some former years, in consequence of a local drouth in June and July, but the colour is generally all that the brewers of pale ales could desire. In many other districts, however, and especially throughout the western peninsula, the great bulk of the grain was discoloured by rains at the harvesting season, and the price being low very little is going to market. The probability is, indeed, that farmers will feed it to their cattle. This will pay them far better than to sell it for 40c. or 50c. per bushel. It is just as good for feeding purposes as grain of the brightest colour, and

in the items of manure, beef farmers will find that they are handsomely rewarded by consuming the barley at home.

NEATNESS in farming is an important matter. The planting of trees, keeping fields free from weeds, painting buildings, and keeping fences in good repair, add very materially to the value of farm property. In a recent drive through a portion of York County, we had an opportunity of seeing various kinds of farming—largely, we are pleased to say, of the right kind. Still there is room for improvement. When shall we be able to say that every farm is well tilled, fences carefully kept up, and buildings nicely painted? One farm visited during our drive—that belonging to Mr. Wm. Rennie, seedsman, of this city, deserves special mention. It is in many respects a "model farm." Trees have been planted along the roadside and up the avenue to the dwelling-house, no weeds are allowed to multiply; and everywhere there is evidence of thrift, experience and intelligent, well-directed efforts. The result is pleasing to the onlooker, as well as profitable to the owner. Neatness and skill in farming pays.

THE seventh annual dairy show at Islington, London, was very successful. The object of the British Dairy Farmers' Association is to improve the dairy stock and to encourage a larger and more general production of butter, cheese and eggs. The rearing of poultry, geese, ducks, turkeys, and pigeons is also one of the aims of the association. It is extremely probable that the British farmer will turn his attention more and more from the production of cereals to dairy farming. The high prices which prevail in America are already injuring exports to England, and there has recently been a considerable decrease in the exports of meat and cheese. It has often been stated that England cannot compete with other countries in the production of cheap poultry, but certain experiments, which have been made of late, prove this assumption to be incorrect. For instance, at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, large numbers of ducklings have been reared, and have proved highly remunerative. The importance of this show cannot be overrated. Three million gallons of milk are daily produced in Great Britain for human consumption. Of this quantity two-thirds are converted into cheese and butter. Attention to the methods of producing and manufacturing is, therefore, a matter of prime importance, and dairy utensils of all sorts formed an interesting portion of the display. As an inducement to the general public to visit the show, there were contests of cheese and butter making, also a milkmaid contest. The advocates of goat breeding were well represented, and seventy-four animals fought for the prizes. The show was in every way a success.