Agriculture.

Canadian Potatoes for England.

The article headed "Potatoes in England," which we give beneath from the *London Daily News*, shows us what a market there is in England for potatoes from this country. There have been some shipments from the Maritime Provinces to the Old Couutry, and they have paid well. The humid temperature of Britain has a tendency to produce the potato disease from which the drier climate of Canada fortunately makes us almost wholly exempt. Farmers need not be told that a good potato crop pays better than most other crops, if there be a good demand for the produce. The loss from the partial disease of potatoes in England is estimated this year at $50 per acre, on 1,384,000 acres, a total loss of nearly $75,000,000.

A correspondent writing to the *London Daily News* says that the consumption of potatoes in England is so great that in the course of the last three years that country has imported something like 600,000 tons, representing a total value of nearly £2,600,000, the weekly consumption of London alone being equivalent to 5,000 tons. Every country of Europe contributes more or less to the supply, but the largest quantities are imported from France, and the reports from there are the reverse of encouraging. It is estimated by a very competent authority that the potato crop will be a very bad one, and that the yield will not exceed 60,000,000 sacks (three bushels each), while the consumption in France averages about 75,000,000 bags. It follows, therefore, that if this estimate proves correct, the French will have to import instead of export. The districts in which the potatoes are grown are the Vosges and the country about Cherbourg, and it is in those districts that the rainfall has been particularly heavy. Another correspondent in reply says that the larger quantity of potatoes imported into England is from Germany. For a few weeks about June, England gets potatoes from Cherbourg; but as soon as they ripen in England, trade with France ceases, and then large quantities are brought into England from Germany between the months of August and the following May. According to the board of trade returns, the imports of potatoes into the United Kingdom amounted last year to 8,751,174 cwt., against 7,969,136 cwt. in 1877, and 6,031,341 cwt. in 1876. In the first six months of this year they were only 3,039,823 cwt., against 6,311,993 in 1878, and 2,906,587 cwt. in 1877. The countries whence England received those supplies are not designated.

Application of Lime to the Plowed Clover Sod.

The *N. Y. Times* in an article on fall fallowing, having referred to the chemical action of lime as a fertilizer, points out the advantages of applying it to the plowed clover sod:

It might be pertinently mentioned here that these facts go to prove the wisdom of the practice, popular in some well-farmed districts, of applying lime to the plowed clover-sod in proparation for the corn. The decomposition of the clover stems, leaves, and roots, is hastened by the lime, and an abundance of plant-food is furnished by the nitrification which goes on. It is interesting to fine an instance of the propriety and scientific truth of an old-established custom thus proved and justified by later discoveries, brought to light In the chmist's laboratory and in the agricultural experiment stations. It is an example of well-founded principle, that known successful practical operations in the field, although founded only upon observation, are really as truly scientific as though they had originated from the chemist's investigations and the experiments of a professor. Correct practice, founded upon sufficient bases, is true science.

DESTRUCTION OF WEEVIL.—The leaves of the elder strewed among grain will effectually preserve it from the ravages of the weevil; the juice will also kill maggots. The leaves scattered over cucumbers, cabbages, and other plants subject to weevil ravages effectually shield them.

Harvesting the Root Crop.

Of the several varieties of roots grown on the farm for winter feeding there is none that bear so great an intensity of cold as the turnip. In England they are fed through the whole winter in the fields where they have grown; the degree of cold does not injure them. But here we have much keener cold, more intense frost, so that we need to preserve even turnips in pits or root-houses. Potatoes are generally stored in pits by this date. Mangolds should be taken up and stored this month; so should beets and carrots. Turnips during this month make considerable growth if the weather be at all propitious. They attain to greater size in cold weather, where an exposure to hard frost injures mangolds. The New York World says:

Varieties which are hard to pull can readily be lifted by running a subsoil plow with care. In gathering mangolds that are to be topped in the field some system should be observed by arranging in heaps, roots in and tops out. This precaution saves time and labor in handling. A convenient plan in gathering mangolds when the tops are not twisted off as they are pulled, is to lay them in rows, tops in and roots out, four or more rows being put in one. If two hands are working together, which is the most expeditious way, make two of these rows, leaving a small passage-way between them, the roots being on the inside. The topper in this case, with a large heavy knife, cuts off the leaves to his right and left as he goes, being careful not to cut the root itself, as mangolds if cut are liable to decay when stored.

Roots designed for market are best left awhile until the earth on them is dry, that it may fall off when loading, but those designed for home consumption receive advantage from it, as it prevents their wilting. A cool, moist cellar will serve as a storing place. Let the heaps be three or four feet in depth and covered with earth. Mangolds designed to feed after spring opens can be preserved in a pit; one dug three or four feet in depth in gravelly soil, where there is no danger from standing water, is preferable. Two modes of covering are practiced—one where the earth is thrown directly on the roots, the other where they are first covered with stalks or other dry litter before placing the earth. Whichever course is pursued, it is advised to use at first barely enough covering to suffice, adding more as the cold weather increases.

In an article designed to combat the spirit of mere "money-grubbing" which tends to make so many soulless and heartless in these days, the N. Y. *Tribune* gives the following advice to its readers. Take a part of each day, week, and year, to remember that you, too, are a man and not a mere money-maker. Study more language or science. Leave the farm or shop occasionally. Broaden your mind by friction with men. Go to the cities, to California, to Europe. Of course it will cost money. Dress, eat and furnish your house more simply; your sons and daughters will be better men and women for such simplicity. Bequeath to them high thoughts and noble living in lieu of money. Do not struggle to give your children a fortune, or to push them into a higher circle of society than your own. Give them the best education you can, but give yourself one also.

How many farmers know how many pounds of pork they have made from a bushel of corn? But few. How many farmers can tell what the cost has been to them, in raising any number of acres of wheat, corn, oats or other crops? We venture to say there is not one in ten that can tell to a nicety. This should not be. Farmers should conduct their farming operations on purely business principles, keep an account of all the farm doings in dollars and cents, like a merchant or other business men, and at the end of the year strike a balance, and carry the balance, if any, to capital stock. Every farmer should know how he stands with the world—his world *i.e.*, his farm—at the commencement of each year.—Farm Journal.

The Superintendent of Agriculture, Vermont, says that, in five years after he fixed his stables so as to save his liquid manure, he had doubled the products of his farm. The greatest waste of agriculture to-day is this waste of the liquid excrement of cattle.

SORREL IN PASTURES.—A correspondent wishes to be informed of the best mode of getting rid of sorrel in pasture land. We have, in a former number, referred to the extermination of sorrel. Of getting rid of it in pasture land, the following from the antipodes is a simple, inexpensive method:

If you wish to avoid ploughing up and laying down the pasture afresh, sow white clover upon it, but at once stock it heavily with sheep for a week or two, until the clover is brairding, when the stock should, of course, be removed for a time. If lime were readily procurable a dressing would be attended with useful results.

Perhaps some of our Canadians might try it and report on it.

The killing of sheep by useless curs, the property of men who haven't industry enough to raise money to buy a lamb, nor the sense to raise one if they had, is every once and a while mentioned by our country exchanges. We saw it reported a few days ago that eighty head had been so killed on one farm in a single night. If they had been stolen by thieving bipeds instead of killed by a gang of murderous canines, the whole country would have been aroused to hunt them down, but the dear dogs get off scot free. We are indisposed to recommend to mercy any dog that will kill a sheep, let him belong to whom he may. Shoot him at sight.—Journal of Agriculture.

ARTICHOKES.—A correspondent of an agricultural journal has been writing about his experience with the artichoke. After a thorough test, he is of the opinion that he can eradicate five crops of Canada thistles more easily than one of artichokes. Put them once into the ground, and rest assured they will eventually become the oldest inhabitant. He recommends them to be grown by every dyspeptic individual, as 20 feet square of them will give him all the work he wants in trying to root them out. Farmers should avoid them as they would the plague.

A sheep-grower says:—"It is folly to keep old sheep. They should be turned off to the butcher in their prime. It does not take half the amount to fatten them. When they get old and thin, in order to put them in the condition for slaughter, the whole structure must be rebuilt. Four sets of lambs are all any ewe should bear. This will bring her to five years, and this is the age when, with a little extra care, she will round up to a full carcass. Exceptions may be made when the breed is scarce, and the blood is more desirable than anything else.

A correspondent writes the Germantown Telegraph as follows:—Apple, peach and quince trees may be saved from borers by removing the grass around the buts, and applying coal-dust around them. I have tried it for two years. A neighbor tried it before I did. Boiling lye will also save a peach tree. A neighbor had three with the yellows in a dying condition, who applied lye around two of them, which were restored; the other died.

There is trouble about American smoked and corned meats, and also with canned meats, in Switzerland; so says the United States Consul there. In a communication to the Department of State he says that part of a shipment of meat, which arrived at that city about a month ago via Havre from the United States, was condemned, after official inspection, as unfit for human food.

For a most valuable remedy for heaves, which is said to be a sure cure, take forty sumach buds, one pound of resin, one pint of ginger, half a pound of mustard, one pint of unslaked lime, one pound of Epsom salts, four ounces of gum guiacum, six ounces of cream tartar. Mix thoroughly and divide into thirty powders, and give one every morning in their feed before watering.—[Conn. Farmer.

Oxen as beasts of draft are in some places better than horses. They require different treatment from horses, and especially in the spring, when warm weather opens. Sufficient time should be given for them to feed, and being slow of motion they should be driven accordingly. In working small farms oxen will be found more economical than horses, and a pair may be useful on a large farm.

A gooseberry plant makes almost double growth if set out in the fall. The growth in spring is very early; but if not planted till spring its growing is slow and greatly retarded.