

Miscellaneous.

How can Farming be made more Attractive?

The following are some of the scraps and bits, drawn at various times from the discussions of the Wapping (Mass.) Farmers' Club:

1. By less hard work. Farmers often undertake more than they can do well, and consequently work too early and too late.

2. By more system. The farmers should have a time to begin and stop labor. They should put more mind and machinery into their work. They should theorize as well as practice, and let both go together. Farming is healthy, moral and respectable; in the long run it may be made profitable. The farmers should keep good stock and out of debt. The farm is the best place to begin and end life, and hence so many in the cities and professional life covet a rural home.

3. By taking care of health. Farmers have a healthy variety of exercise, but too often neglect cleanliness, omit bathing, eat irregularly and hurriedly, sleep in ill-ventilated apartments, and expose themselves to cold. Nine-tenths of the human diseases arise from colds or intemperance. Frequent bathing is profitable, so is fresh air, deliberation at the dinner table and rest after a meal.

4. By adorning the home. Nothing is lost by a pleasant home. Books, papers, pictures, music and reading should all be brought to bear upon the indoor family entertainment, and neatness, comfort, order, shrubbery, flowers and fruit should harmonize all without. Home should be a sanctuary so happy and holy that children will love it, women delight in it, manhood crave it, and old age enjoy it. There would be less desertions of old homesteads if pains were taken to make them agreeable. Ease, order, health and beauty are compatible with farm life and were ordained to go with it.

Agricultural Papers.

The farmer's newspaper is, in our country, almost the sole guide of the farmer's labour. It has thus far performed the part of college and teacher. It constitutes a large portion of the literature of that profession which all men love, and upon which all men depend, directly, or indirectly for their subsistence. There is, in its pages, a common ground, where all conflict ends, a platform upon which all can stand, a creed which all can believe; and who does not know the reward and praise and satisfaction with which the unhappy voyager across the stormy surface of a partisan press, finds repose in these columns, which remind him of the calm and steady and luxuriant promises of nature—of growing crops, and of animals devoted to the "service of man?" and more, who does not know that whatever progress has been made in agriculture has received its stimulus and direction from these same columns. By suggestion, by investigation, by records of experiments, by statements of successes, has the agricultural mind been stimulated and informed. When larger and more ambitious designs accomplish in a more imposing manner what the agricultural editor is quietly doing every week, we shall be sure that something positive is done in the way of agricultural education.—Dr. Loring.

Farming in the County of Peel.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—In this neighborhood our motto has been,—"large grain crops and small stock." On 100 acres our average crops have been 18 acres fall wheat, 6 spring wheat, 6 oats, 6 barley, 6 peas, and 1 acre in potatoes and other roots. We would have 18 acres summer fallow, and the remainder of the land in meadow and pasture. We would manure our summer fallow and plough them three times in the season. If the Canadian thistles were numerous we would run the cultivator over them two or three times, or give them a fourth ploughing, which we thought to be of far more worth than anything we could do with the cultivator. The average quantity of fall wheat seed per acre, two bushels; average yield thirty bushels. This we found paid us very well. But latterly, for some unaccountable cause or causes, there has been an apparent falling in our fall crops, so that now we do well if we get 18 bushels per acre, and that a very poor sample. This your readers will at once see is

not remuneration for the labor, and consequently I have been induced to adopt another plan of farming. Last fall I had only 11 sheep. This number I increased to 50. I have fed them on pea-straw, hay, and turnips during the winter, and they are in good condition to go on the pasture. Our crops for this season shall be as follows: 7 acres fall wheat, 10 oats, 10 peas, 6 spring wheat, 6 barley, $\frac{1}{2}$ acre potatoes. We will have 15 acres meadow and 15 acres pasture land. The field I should have had in summer fallow is last year's pasture—it contains 10 acres. This I will let remain in pasture until the 1st of July; I will then break it up, give it a good manuring, ploughing and harrowing, and sow part in turnips and part in vetches. The idea is to render the land fit for a grain crop next spring, and to obtain pasture for the stock late in the fall. The peas we will cut a little on the green side. We think by this means to obtain a cheap and wholesome food for the stock of sheep which by next winter may be increased to one hundred. Any advice respecting this plan would not only be gladly received by me but also by my neighbours. J. W. W.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—The above letter has been accidentally mislaid, so that it is too late to tender counsel for the present season. Our correspondent is working in the right direction, and we shall be glad to know his experience hereafter.

Plan of Root-House.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—In No. 11, CANADA FARMER, "W. W." wishes to know how to build a good root-house. I will, as briefly as possible, describe mine, in which I have for several years kept all kinds of roots with great success: It is 60 feet long, 15 feet wide. The earth (sand) is excavated to the depth of 3 feet. The wall of stone is then built 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet high. The joists laid across rest 6 inches on each wall, which is built all round them, and one foot above. The earth is banked up to the wall, and a loose floor laid down, covered with saw-dust. A shop 6 feet high is built over all,—no frame, simply scantling, with cellar beams to keep all together. This is extremely useful for all kinds of implements or tools. By removing the saw-dust and loose plank, the root-house can be filled from above. Beneath the wall is so built as to allow of two doors in the centre, with a small four-light window of 8 by 10 glass, under which is kept the root-cutting machine. The house is divided into four bins by putting a row of scantling post in the centre, under each joist, to keep them stiff; boards are nailed to them. I have four chimneys, one for each bin, one end, 8 by 8 inches, opening this the floor to the ceiling of the root-house; the other end, 2 by 2 inches, opening just under the roof of the shop. These chimneys I consider the great secret of root-keeping. The draft is great and unceasing, relieving the cellar of all foul air. For the benefit of "W. W.," I may add that I have had at one end 2,000 bushels of turnips, with 1,000 bushels of carrots, besides potatoes and beets at the other end, and not lost a half bushel by decay in the whole cellar. I am now, 21st of June, feeding good sound carrots to my horses. H. P. C. H.

How to get Rid of Rats.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—For some years I was considerably annoyed with rats. I tried various "vermin-poison," traps, &c., with very little success, until I thought of a mode which we adopted for destroying dogs that used to hunt our rabbit warren in the old country. So I got a quantity of broken bottles and window-glass, and with a hammer and an old anvil triturated it pretty fine—(a stone would do to pound the glass on)—I then sifted the coarse part out, and mixed a cupful of the fine with a cupful of flour, and another of oatmeal, and scenting it with a few drops of essence of aniseed to attract them, I placed it on boards in the cellar, &c. They eat it up so fast that one of the family observed, that "instead of poisoning it must be fattening them;" but a few days told a different story. The last mess served for them remains untouched yet, though put down last fall, and no appearance of rat or mouse, living or dead, since. Neither have we noticed any smell, or blue-bottle (meat) flies, as there would have been had they died on the premises. It was a happy riddance, and as there may be some others who would like to get delivered from the abominable nuisance, they may have the privilege of trying it, as I don't intend patenting it. The mixture must be kept from children, dogs, and other silly animals, as it would kill them as well as the rats. Perth, C. W., June 13, 1864. J. R.

Rules for Measuring Hay and Wheat.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR—In the eighth number of THE CANADA FARMER a correspondent asks, "How is hay in the bag or stack measured?" Also, how to measure "wheat in a granary." For hay, multiply the length, breadth, and height into each other; if it is well settled, five hundred and twelve cubic feet will make a ton. For wheat, multiply the length, breadth, and depth of inches into each other, divide by twenty two hundred and eighteen inches and the quotient will be the number of bushels. R. H. S.

Hibbert, May 16, 1864.

EDITORS should be able to live cheaply. For they very often get bored (board) for nothing.

A dog in Boston has been named Quota, because he never seems to be full.

The San Francisco Sanitary Fair is to have a cheese which will weigh 3,500 pounds.

COST OF CULTIVATING LAND BY STEAM.—A Mr. Smith, of Woolston, England, has published an account of the cost of cultivating land by steam for eight years, in which he says that the cost of preparing land for roots was, with steam, \$2 88; with horses, \$10 03; for barley two years, \$2 16 with steam against \$5 05 by horse-power: four years for wheat, \$50 20 by steam against the same for horse-power, and foots up a total for a number of other articles, which shows a gain of 200 per cent. in favor of steam. The writer says also that besides the economy of the plan he had much better crops.

TO MEASURE AN ACRE.—We find the following going the rounds. It may be useful to some of our readers. "Land, 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ square yards make one square rod: 40 square rods make one square rod; 4 square rods 1 acre; 640 acres, 1 square mile; 4,800 square yards, or 160 rods, make 1 acre. In measuring an acre by yards, the usual practice is to trace off 70 yards in length and 70 yards in width. This is a rough way, may be considered near enough for practical purposes; but as 70 yards either way make 4,900 square yards, it exceeds one acre by 60 yards. To determine an accurate acre it may be measured 70 yards in length by 69 1-7 yards in width. The same result may be arrived at by measuring 220 feet in length; and 108 feet in width, or by measuring 73 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards in length by 66 yards in breadth."

GUNNY BAGS.—The inquiry is often made, "What is a gunny bag?" The *London Mechanic's Magazine*, tells us all about it: It is a bag made from the coarse spun fibres of a plant which grows in India, of which there are many varieties. On the Coromandel coast this plant is called *goni*, and "gunny" is a corruption of this name. The cultivation of the *chuti*, *jute*, or "gunny" has been carried on for centuries in Bengal, and gives employment to tens of thousands of inhabitants. It is said that three hundred thousand tons of *jute* are grown in India, of which one hundred thousand tons are exported as gunny bags, besides one hundred thousand tons in a raw state. The gunny bag is used for sugar, coffee, spices, cotton, drugs; indeed almost every article which we pack in dry casks and boxes, is, in the East, packed in gunny bags. It is also made into mats, carpets, ropes, paper, and various other articles.

HIGH FARMING.—I have just been reading an account of a Fen farm, situated in one of the dreariest commons in England, and which, from producing nothing but furze and ling, has been made to yield crops of 40 bushels of wheat, 45 bushels of barley and 1,200 bushels of mangold wurzels per acre! The farm contains 500 acres. "On this small, light sandy farm," says the editor of the *Agricultural Gazette*, "a herd of 50 to 70 cows is milked for the London market, a dry flock of Hampshire sheep, varying from 200 to 400 head, is fed, and hogs ranging in number from 1,000 to 2,000 have been fattened annually up to the average weight of 10 to 20 scores apiece." In addition to this from 16 to 18 farm horses are kept, and the labour bill amounts to over \$5,000 a year. Of course large quantities of oilcake and grain are purchased for the cows, sheep and pigs, and it is the enormous quantity of rich manure so obtained that has made the farm so highly productive. This is "High Farming," but it is not "fancy" farming. It is a rented farm, and the occupier does nothing for mere show and parade. He carries on the farm simply for profit.—*Genesee Farmer*.