

nected with the farm, the duty of an agricultural journalist. We do not know any work on the practice of farming in the colony such as he wishes to obtain. Our great aim has been to make our journal supply such a want by giving plain practical articles on topics interesting and useful to the farmer, whether from the old country or to the manner born. Would Mr. R. aid us in the good work by writing to the ADVOCATE some of his experience in farming?—Ed.]

#### Canadian Plows.

SIR,—Allow me to call your attention to the following facts. While reapers, mowers, threshing machines, seed drills and cultivators have been largely imported from Ontario, and hold their own with the same articles imported from the United States, plows imported from Ontario have been complete failures; the best that has been brought in is not worth more than the price of old iron. I am certain the Ontario manufacturer is capable of making as good a plow as the American, and only requires his attention to be called to the matter. The fact is, this Province requires quite a different kind of plow from that used in Ontario. The American plows work well, both breaking and cross-plowing, but would, I think, be a little improved by being made a little heavier and stronger. I have been much annoyed by seeing thousands of dollars every year going to the States that ought to go to Ontario.

Will you kindly answer the following queries: Can bees be sent from Ontario; if so, how, and at what cost? Can the eggs of domestic fowls be sent here; if so, how, and at what cost, if properly packed, and what probability of hatching after their coming?

We have had a very fine winter. There has been more steady cold weather than usual, but scarcely any storms. We have had 12 to 15 inches of snow, just enough to make good sleighing. The snow was all about gone on the 1st of April, and some commenced to sow. Sowing is now progressing rapidly (April 14.)

Winnipeg, April 14th, 1875.

#### About Fences and Cattle.

SIR,—The following article I copied from an American agricultural paper, and I think it worthy of republishing in the ADVOCATE. I would remind our Provincial Legislature in every issue of your paper of the necessity of putting a stop to cattle running at large.

Scott, May 10th, 1875.

Fencing has become one of the most important considerations demanding the attention of farmers; and it is wonderful that they should so long submit to the want of proper legislation in their respective provinces, which would relieve them from this most expensive and unnecessary burden. An impression, almost as old as our country itself, seems to exist, that public roads are public property, and the grass which grows upon them is the common property of all the inhabitants, upon which their cattle may be turned to pasture. This is a great mistake, and one which requires immediate correction, if for no other reason than that it is a very expensive one to farmers. Public roads are, to be sure, public property, but only for special purposes. While the public have the right to pass and repass over them, they have no other right than this, which the law gives them, and no more substantial claim to pasture their cattle upon the road than—upon the other side of the fence in their neighbor's field. The law allows the public to use the land occupied by the road to travel over, and whenever they cease, either by operation of law or otherwise, to use it for that purpose, it again becomes the property of the owner of the farm through which it passes. He has the fee simple right. It is unjust that he who owns no land, or, owning it, prefers to use that of his neighbors, should be indulged in so manifest a wrong. It is the duty of the Legislatures of all the thickly settled parts of the provinces to protect the agricultural interests of the country by providing that cattle shall not run at large, but that every man shall be compelled to take care of and feed his own stock, instead of turning it loose upon the highway to depredate upon the possessions of his neighbor. Money expended in fencing against these depredations of strange cattle is sometimes disbursed so gradually that the farmer does not actually realize how great is the loss.

#### The Colorado Potato Bug.

SIR,—As preventative is better than cure, I will give you my plan for treating the potato bug, which has proved effectual for the past two years. In the first place, have the ground you intend planting at as great a distance as possible from where potatoes have been grown the year previous. Select some variety that matures rapidly, such as the Early Rose, and plant them as late in June as you dare venture, so they will be nearly ripe before the first frost (which varies according to locality); but they should not be planted earlier than the 12th of June. Before the potatoes have shown themselves above the ground, the bugs have deposited their first batch of eggs, and the second generation not being as enterprising as the first, remain in one place, and the late planted potatoes escape. The late ones will also receive the advantage of the rains in the latter part of the summer, and consequently grow larger than those that ripen earlier.

Could you or some of your subscribers give any practical remedy for the apple-tree borer?

Canifton, April, 1875.

[In giving the above from a subscriber (J. B.) we do not recommend it. We have his authority, but no practical proof of it ourselves. It requires further trial and in different localities, before it can be accepted as a safe guard against our destructive Colorado enemy. It is at least worth a trial.—Ed.]

#### Warning.

SIR,—We had a traveller here last fall selling patents for a wonderful harrow—a harrow that would cultivate potatoes and dig them, and not a potato would remain in the ground. He sold a great many harrows, but he has not delivered them yet. He says he came for the Phoenix Foundry, London. I enclose you a pattern of the harrow, which works with clevis at joints.

Ross, April 23rd, 1875.

[We have enquired at the Foundry, and find that no such harrow is made there.—Ed.]

#### Orchard Grass—Manure.

SIR,—I wrote to you the beginning of this year asking one or two questions interesting to me as a farmer, and I am sorry you had not the courtesy to take any notice of them. I should not have bothered you, had you not mentioned our columns were open to queries. When at home the *Mark Lane* always was good enough to afford me any information. I have bought 600 acres in this back township and am clearing it by degrees, intending to make a sheep farm of it, and I must say, I have picked up a good deal of valuable information from your paper which I have taken for the last three years. I sowed some Clawson wheat and Scott wheat I received from you last fall. The former is killed out by the late frosts far worse than the latter. I am going to try the Orchard Grass shortly, in England it succeeds very well. What is my best course to pursue with a large heap of manure outside my stable, which has been collected through the winter. I thought of drawing it away and piling it in a high heap somewhere to be ready for the fall, but the land hardly requires it, as I have only had one crop off, and it is seeded down.

Apsley April 26th 75.

We regret Mr. Wright's disappointment from his queries not having been answered. Whether his letter came to hand or not, or whether having been received, it escaped our notice in the great number of letters of our daily receipts we are unable to say. Any seeming neglect we would assure our subscribers would certainly be undesigned.

The Orchard Grass is but lately introduced into this country. Believing it is of great advantage to the farmer's here as it has been in the Home country, we imported some seed this season.

The heap of manure is no more in the farmer's way than, would be a good credit in the Bank of England. If it be not needed for the next season crops (roots or cereals) let it be used for top dressing. Land cannot be too highly manured. Well prepared manure will nourish the young grass plants. The fields will produce more grass, and whether in grass or afterwards in tillage, will be sure to pay for manure and labor.

#### A Subject for Orchard Owners.

SIR,—The thought occurred to me some years since, that if there were places for the blue bird to build in, provided in our orchards, they would live there and relieve the orchard of many of the caterpillars that are so annoying. I therefore took 4 pieces of board about 10 inches long, 1 three inches wide, two 4 inches wide, and one 5 inches wide, nailed them together, then slant off one end to form a pitch for a roof, then cut a hole in the high side for the bird to go in, then stuff a bit of shingle about half way down, then nail on a bit of shingle for a roof, then get a pole about 10 feet long, sharpen the end and punch it into the ground about two feet, then put the other end into your bird house about half way up and nail it fast and set it up.

I tried the experiment a few years since and had not got the house up an hour when a blue bird took possession, and you would wonder to see how pleased it was to find such a nice place; it raised two nests of young birds that summer.

I watched them for about three parts of an hour one noon spell, and they made 22 trips from the apple trees to their nest with worms for their young ones, in that time it was very gratifying to see how diligently they searched among the leaves for food for their young ones.

I have put up others since, and I find them very useful, as they save many apples from being destroyed by worms, and if they done nothing but furnish us with music, they pay well for the trouble they cost us. Some persons might think that one house with several apartments will do a lot of them, but they are apt to quarrel, one pair in one place, but keep their houses a rod or two apart.

Last fall two old birds with about ten young ones or what they had raised last summer, came and had a look at their old nest before going south.

It will be necessary to nail on a bit of board in front of the hole for a sitting-board.

Sarnia, March 16th, 1875.

WILLIAM HOSKINS.

We give insertion to Mr. Hoskins' communication with great pleasure. We are always pleased to aid in any way the encouragement and protection of our friends the birds. From infancy we have looked upon them as delightful companions, and we have been taught by experience that they are among the farmer's best friends. We would be much pleased to find that many act on Mr. H's suggestions, and provide a home for the little songsters while at the time engaging their valuable services in the protection of their fruit. Encouraging birds to nestle about our houses and gardens is one of the means to make a cheerful happy home.

#### Garden Hedges.

One of the many difficulties that a gardener has to contend against is to screen his grounds from the cutting wintry blasts. A keen January north-easter coming across a large expanse of open country on to a plantation of conifers and shrubs, will not only cause them to present a miserable appearance, but often so injure them that they will look as if they had passed through a severe fire. When grounds are placed in this position, there is nothing better than to stem the blast by a thick plantation of Scotch and Spruce Fir.

But when the position is open without being exposed, hedges will be found to be sufficient to stem the cold winds. The gardener should be careful to have hedges in keeping with his grounds. There is nothing more unsightly than a common Hawthorn hedge near a garden hedge, for, although a great deal of sentiment is written about the "shade of the thorny bush," it is decidedly more in keeping with the farmer's field than the gardener's domain. It is very frequent that in large grounds hedges have to be made to hide an unsightly patch of ground or a part of a vegetable garden. Then, if the position is not too much exposed, there is nothing more suitable than the *Cedrus deodara*. This, planted in some good fat loam, at convenient distances apart, will not fail to give satisfaction. For the first year or two they can be allowed to grow freely, and then when they have begun to close toward each other, there outside branches should be carefully pruned so as to allow them to grow upwards and expand into a thick and shapely hedge. The only other juniper that really makes good hedges is *J. virginica*, commonly called the "red cedar."—*Gardener's Magazine*.

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