

THE SUBJECT OF THE NEEDED REFORM in the method of selling live stock was treated upon editorially in the last number of the CANADA FARMER; and now we are pleased to observe, that eminently practical body of men, the Elmira, N. Y., Farmers' Club, has taken up the same question. A committee appointed to consider the matter has recommended a plan for semi-annual sales, to be held on the State fair grounds, near Elmira, under the supervision of a committee to be appointed by the club. They recommend that parties wishing stock sold at the sale shall be required to enter the same with the Secretary of the committee at an early day, that it may be included in the advertisement, giving kind and number of each lot, together with age, and, if thoroughbred, pedigree in full or reference to number and volume in proper herd book. For the purpose of defraying the necessary expenses of the sale (not including time of members of the committee), there shall be charged for the entry of each head of cattle fifty cents; for each hog, twenty-five cents; for sow and pigs, to be sold together, fifty cents; for each sheep, twenty-five cents. For the same purpose there shall be a charge of one per cent upon all sales, to be paid by the purchaser before the animal shall be delivered. To protect both buyer and seller, each owner shall be present at the sale and state in writing or orally at the time whatever he has to say concerning the animal offered, and his terms of payment. Each owner shall be allowed one reserve bid, which shall be stated by him or for him, and it shall be the standing bid. If not sold, the same percentage on his bid will be payable by him as would be charged to an actual buyer. No in-bidding will be permitted. We shall look with interest for further reports of the success of the scheme.

FAST WALKING HORSES are looking up in the market, the world over. The London *Field* in an article upon the forthcoming American Centennial says.—We sympathize with their determination to give prizes for fast-walking horses. Many of the best judges of horseflesh that these islands have produced were of opinion that if a horse could walk well, he could do all things well. When Teddington, Aphrodite, Breba, The Ban, and Confessor were all yearlings together at Leybourne Grange, Sir Joseph Hawley's stud groom, Tweed, told his master that Teddington would prove "the pick of the basket," as he could outwalk all the others. Fobert, the trainer of the Flying-Dutchman and Van Tromp, was always a great believer in fast-walking racehorses. Every hunting man who has had occasion to jog home at night for twenty miles upon the back of a tired hunter, is aware what a blessing it is to bestride a good walker and sprightly trotter, instead of an animal "who kicks a sixpence before him at every step." Nothing is better known than that proficiency in certain gaits is not less hereditary in horses than are distinctive types of features in human families. Touchstone and Orlando, the grandsire and sire of Teddington, were themselves famous walkers, and if the prizes for walking distributed at Philadelphia tend to draw the attention of English breeders to the development of excellence in this gait, the Centennial will not be held in vain. Be this, however, as it may, a vast majority of the British people watch the recurrence of the hundredth anniversary of American Independence with cordial interest and satisfaction; nor can it be doubted that the contingent of visitors sent next year by England to Philadelphia will far surpass the aggregate contributed by all other civilized nations.

INDICATIONS ARE OMINOUS that English farmers are not going to "stand it" much longer. The representative farmer in Parliament, Mr. C. S. Reid, has resigned his seat in the Cabinet rather than face his constituents after the manner in which Government has cheated them with the Land Tenure Bill. His course has been widely approved and a testimonial is in preparation for him. In North Britain, the widely known George Hope, of Bordenlands, late Fentonbarns, has been asked to stand for East Aberdeenshire. Of him the London *Farmer* says.—Mr Hope is a man of sterling character, a man whose opinions vary not, and they are decidedly set in that direction which must in time secure the farmers a different species of land tenure, a better security for capital than they now have, and a freedom from restraints in stupid leases as to the kinds of crops to grow in one perpetual round and round-about system, after the fashion of a gin-horse in a brick whinsey. Mr. Hope had the sympathies of most of the

unfettered farm-renters in East Lothian; when he stood against Lord Elcho, he had the respect of all who opposed him. He was a prize essayist against the Corn-laws when other farmers thought that abolition would be their ruin. He was more prescient than they. Those who bitterly condemned his views then have lived to acknowledge he was right. Mr. Hope, as a tenant, never could be called an extreme man. He ever expressed his views moderately when he was merely a tenant. Now that he is a landlord, it is presumable he will not become less judicious, though we are quite sure he will be to the uttermost as staunch in the advocacy of the farmers' interests in Parliament as ever he has been in Essays, in Farmers' Clubs, and Chambers of Agriculture. Search Scot'nd through, as a real farmers' friend and no sham, Aberdeenshire could not have made a better choice.

WE SEE IT STATED that from Tennessee, a State which will soon be appropriately called the "The Mother of Agricultural Swindles," a gentleman is sending out a bogus wild goose plum. A New York Herald correspondent says that the "gentleman has by circulars and other means disposed of a large number of his so-called 'Wild Goose plums,' and while he sent out some of the true variety, he sent out many more that were spurious. His reply to why he did this is that he had more of the one than the other. The genuine wild goose plum is a good sized, oblong, bright scarlet plum, ripening in this State from the middle to the latter part of July, a regular and abundant bearer, is not injuriously affected by the curculio, and in my opinion (let it be worth what it may) is of great merit and value. The other (which, as far as I have been able to learn, is much more extensively planted) is a small, round fruit, ripening considerably later, and entirely worthless. The tree is also of more open and spreading growth, very thorny (the other is not), suckers badly and has a decidedly wild appearance. In fact I have been unable to discover any difference in tree or fruit from the wild Chickasaw plums found in the swamps of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The leaf of the true variety is also quite different, being soft, less pointed and glossy, and of more substance. In a word, they are entirely distinct varieties, more so than Imperial Gage and Green Gage, although undoubtedly one is a seedling of the other, with the Gooses as well as the Gages."

TENNESSEE, AS A STATE, is getting a bad name as the home of agricultural swindles or "wonders," as the wise call them. Having exhausted the plum and pea business, a wondrous wheat has been discovered, and is now being advertised extensively by means of post cards, we presume because no reputable journal cares to advertise it. The wheat is stated to be a spring wheat, and to have had "its origin in Africa. The grain is small, plump and heavy, and weighs 70 pounds to the measured bushel. Its growth is quite different from all other grades of wheat. You plant in rows 3½ to 4 feet apart, two stalks every 12 inches in the row. Cultivate well to insure a large, fine yield. The first crop will be ready to harvest about the 1st of Sept., and another crop ready to harvest two or three weeks later. The heads are large, often yielding 3 bushels of clean wheat, and each stock contains quite a number of heads. One hundred grains of the seed is sufficient for any farmer to plant in order to obtain an abundance of seed the following year. One pint will plant an acre. It is of a very hardy nature, and not liable to rust; it is easily threshed on our common threshers; and the quality of bread made is like that from the best white wheat." All of which we simply decline to believe.

ABOUT "BIG ROOTS," a friend writes to us:—"I observe some notices of 'big roots' in the CANADA FARMER, and something very much like bragging about them. I also notice in the December number that Dr. Voelcker says 'big roots' are a big humbug. Is that your opinion?" No; that is not our opinion. In England where everybody knows that roots can be grown successfully, it cannot be much of an object to grow enormous roots merely to show how large they can be raised. But in Canada and the United States there is a wide-spread opinion, especially among lazy farmers, that "Roots will not pay;" that they "can't be grown here," and such. Now, the fact that big roots can be grown here of a size that will compare, without

need of their being ashamed of themselves, with the English monstrosities, proves that roots can be grown here and that they can be grown to pay. Wherefore, and for other reasons, we do not believe "big roots" to be a humbug.

RAILROADS WITH RAILS OF HARD WOOD instead of iron are in successful operation on several parts of the continent. An account about one in Quebec went round the press a short time ago. Now it is stated that the Granges of a county in Iowa have combined and built a branch railroad through their own land and laid it temporarily with maple rails which are to do duty until the road has earned its own iron. In Pennsylvania, too, wooden rails have been tried and found successful. Seven hundred feet were laid on a curve on the Muncy Creek railroad in that state, and to the surprise of all, it has been found to answer the purpose much better than was anticipated. The rails are of sugar maple, 7 by 4 inches, and about 12 feet in length. The ties are laid down in the ordinary way, notched, and the rails "let into them" about four inches. They are then keyed firmly with wooden wedges driven on the sides, which makes the track very solid and firm. The locomotive and heavy cars have been passed over this experimental track at different rates of speed, and it has been found to work admirably, and gives every assurance of success. The cost of laying wooden rails manufactured out of this hard material, that becomes almost as solid as bone when seasoned, is \$450 per mile, while iron costs \$4,000. No iron spikes are required, as the rails are secured by wooden wedges, and the cost of track-laying is about the same as putting down iron. It may be seen that a railroad is within the reach of the poorest community.

JAMES VICK'S catalogues for 1876 are to hand, and are equal to their predecessors in general get-up and character of contents, and that is saying a good deal. Mr. Vick's address is Rochester, N. Y. Twenty-five cents can scarcely be invested better, by intending purchasers of seeds, etc., than by sending it to him in payment for his "Floral Guide" and catalogues.

D. M. FERRY & Co., of Detroit, issue a splendid catalogue of vegetable and flower seeds, for which we recommend intending buyers to send. The firm is one of the best known of American seed houses, and is one deserving of its reputation.

WE HAVE RECEIVED the 9th Annual Report of the Northwestern Dairyman's Association, from Mr. G. E. Morrow, of Chicago, Secretary. It contains practical papers and statistics of the greatest value to persons connected with the dairy interests.

THE CANADIAN ALMANAC for 1876, Copp, Clark & Co., Toronto, is a publication without which it would be difficult for a Canadian business man to exist. It is crammed with information relating to the Dominion.

Correspondence.

THE PRICE OF CANARY SEED.—In our last issue, in answer to a correspondent, we stated that canary seed could be bought in Toronto at from 8 to 10 cents per pound retail. It is some time since we had occasion to buy canary seed, and we did not know, as is really the case, that the price of the article is now about double those figures. The rise results from the almost total failure of the crop last season, and from the fact that the price had been so low in former years as to render the crop unremunerative.

BEES.—R. T. R.—The words "leave the bottom open," page 191, last volume, were intended to be "have a bottom opening." The *American Bee Journal* is published at Des Moines, Iowa, and together with such works as those of Quinby, Kidder, Langstroth, will no doubt be sufficient for a beginner.

THREE HORSE EQUALIZER.—In the November No. of the CANADA FARMER you have given a design showing a good mode of attaching the lines for driving three horses abreast. Would you be good enough to give a design of whiffletrees for drawing with three horses abreast?

W. WEST.

The April number of the last volume contained a good design which anybody can carry out for a three-horse equalizer. Probably we will give other sketches shortly