

HOME AND FARM.

This department of THE CRITIC is devoted exclusively to the interests of the Farmers in the Maritime Provinces. Contributions upon Agricultural topics, or that in any way relate to Farm life, are cordially invited. Newsy notes of Farmers gatherings or Grange meetings will be promptly inserted. Farmers' wives and daughters should make this department in THE CRITIC a medium for the exchange of ideas on such matters as more directly affect them.

We extract the following from the August Report of the Secretary of Agriculture:—

"HAY.—Not only agriculturists, but all who are interested in the welfare of the Province, have looked forward with more than wonted interest to the indications of our hay crop this year. Grass is our great field crop, upon which our dairy and beef-producing industries mainly depend, and the quantity of hay secured determines at once the number of cattle that can be wintered, and the surplus of hay for market. About six hundred thousand tons are annually made and housed in the barns. Last year the crop was reduced by about 20 per cent., but there was in the spring of 1886 enough old hay left in the barns from the previous winter to make up the deficiency. The case is quite different this year. The surplus hay was all used up during our late and prolonged spring season, and the comparative smallness of the crop with which we are now threatened cannot be contemplated without some concern. In the August Report of 1886 it was observed:—'The state of the crop in the principal hay-producing counties of the Province is sufficient to foreshadow the probability of higher prices for hay than have obtained for some time; owners of live stock will do well to make such provision for winter keep as circumstances suggest, in order to eke out the scant supply of hay.' This warning may well be repeated now, and emphasized by the reminder that the old hay has gone, and there is no present prospect of a vigorous growth of pastures and aftermath as there was at this time last year.

POTATOES.—The Root Crop principally reported upon is the Potato, roots grown from small seeds, such as turnips, mangels, parsnips, and carrots, not being far enough advanced to afford the means of judging of ultimate results. The dry, warm season has been very favorable for the potato, and will, no doubt, ensure a good quality of dry, mealy potatoes, as well as, at least, an average quantity."

Grain crops are reported to be, on the whole, satisfactory on good soils, though the prolonged drought has stunted the straw.

Dairy produce will be curtailed, partly from the same cause, and partly from the neglect of improvement of pasture lands, of which the Secretary complains.

The heavy orchard crop of 1886 will not be reported this year, but prices are likely to be higher. The crop promises to be poor in the States, and American merchants are already looking to Nova Scotia for their winter supplies, but the analysis of the crops of Annapolis and Kings County shows them to be remarkably under average.

The following seems a practical suggestion, easy to carry out.—"On any rich piece of ground fork in some fresh manure, pour soap-suds over it, and lay an old barn door upon the surface. In a short time the earth beneath will be full of earth worms, which will congregate under the cool protection of the covering. Call the hens, turn up the earth, and let them scratch. At night trample the earth down, replace the covering, and the mass of earth-worms may be repeated three or four times a week. If the earth is kept slightly damp so much the better."

Kind usage will do more than the whip to get work out of horses.

An old fashioned simple device is always advisable in outdoor walking in hot weather. Wear a cabbage leaf or something else green under the hat to prevent sunstroke.

About the most uncleanly thing we know of for a farmer to do is, after coming in from work at night and unharnessing his horses, to pick up a pail and go to milking before washing his hands.—Exchange.

The greatest enemy a plant can have is another plant of the same kind growing by its side, as both feed on the same material. Remove the weaker plants and leave the stronger. One good plant will yield more than two plants under unfavorable conditions.

John Brooks, of Princeton, Mass., has a small herd of dehorned Jerseys, all pedigree stock. The horns were removed from the calves when they were from four to eight weeks old, by cutting around them and then lifting from the skull. The operation is not as painful as castration. He says:—"There have been only good results from this practice. The cattle are far more gentle. They herd together better, and they will not use so much feed, for they take it peacefully, and do not have to pull hay out and trample it under foot. Dehorning pays me well."—New England Farmer.

"Do not let your wife be over-worked," says an agricultural exchange, and the advice is as far reaching as it is pithy.

The little kingdom of Bavaria, scarcely larger than Massachusetts, has twenty-six agricultural colleges, besides more than 200 agricultural associations. Wurttemberg, still smaller in area, has sixteen colleges and seventy-six associations. Baden, with a population of only a million, has fourteen

agricultural colleges, besides four schools for gardening and forestry. Saxony, with its dense population of two million, compacted into a space hardly larger than two American counties, has four higher and twenty agricultural schools, besides a veterinary college and a department of agriculture with twenty professors at the university of Leipsic. In connection with this it is stated that the average crop per acre in Germany is steadily growing more.

The supreme felicity of a complete agricultural education is that, unlike the others, it unites in one and the same person the thinker, the talker or writer, and the worker. Thus the farmer becomes a whole man in place of being only half a man—a theorist or a blind plodder. And our agricultural literature in consequence emerges from the morass of crudities and the forest of contradictions, and claims a place abreast of the other recognized literatures of the time. This of itself would furnish a standing refutation of the slander that manual labor and close thinking cannot live in constant relationship, and the work which costs the sweat of the brow is incompatible with the work which involves the activity of the brain.—New England Farmer.

Farm and Home, (Springfield, Mass.) has been asking its Canadian readers for their opinions on annexation, and honestly publishes the results, tabulated as follows:—

For Annexation.		Against Annexation.	
Ontario.....	132	Ontario.....	70
Quebec.....	18	Quebec.....	10
Nova Scotia.....	60	Nova Scotia.....	62
	210		700

We shall shortly have a few words to say on the curious proportion shown from Ontario.

OUR COSY CORNER.

FRUIT SHORT CAKE.—One pint of flour, measured before sifting; one teaspoonful of cream of tartar, half a tea spoonful of soda, one-fourth of a tea spoonful of salt, two table spoonfuls of sugar, four of butter, one tea-cupful of milk. Mix the other dry ingredients with the flour, and rub through a sieve. Rub the butter into the mixture, and add the milk. Butter two tin squash pie plates, spread the mixture in them, and bake in a quick oven for eighteen or twenty minutes. Mash one quart of strawberries with three-fourths of a cupful of sugar, or take an equivalent amount of pitted cherries, sliced peaches, shredded pineapple, or sliced oranges, sprinkle the same amount of sugar over the fruit, and let it stand a short time. When the cakes are taken from the oven, split and butter them and put half of the fruit and sugar in each. Serve immediately.—Miss Parlow.

BROILED TOMATOES.—Cut ripe tomatoes in halves, and sprinkle the outside with salt, pepper, and cracker or fine bread-crumbs. Place in a double boiler and broil ten minutes over a clear fire, keeping the outside next the fire. Slip carefully on a dish, put a bit of butter on each piece, and place in the oven for ten minutes. Garnish with parsley, and serve.

The fashion of wearing loose sleeves is a delightful liberty to many people, and they are especially becoming and elegant for ladies with itchy arms and also for those whose arms are of more than average length. The broad or narrow cuffs are often of velvet, no matter whether the dress fabric be light muslin or thick wool goods, and these accessories add character and picturesqueness as well as practicality to most sleeves.

The full Bishop sleeve gathered at the top and bottom has a close wrappings which makes a lining unnecessary if the dress is for warm weather use, but permits it if required. The broad cuff has the appearance of an under-sleeve.

Open-wristed, half close-fitting coat sleeves will be added to dress already in use, and this opportunity for the display of pretty linings, or perhaps, the wearing of lace or mull under-sleeves that are closed about the wrists or are left open to display the arms, will not escape women with artistic tastes.

An old-fashioned towel rack can be so arranged as to serve the purpose of a work basket and a screen, and prove very convenient to a person who is confined to a chair. A writer in the Domestic Monthly describes the arrangement as follows:—"An old-fashioned towel-horse is needed; one with two rails at the top and two lower down. The space between the top rails is filled in by cardboard, forming a long, narrow box, sewed with coarse linen thread and covered with cretonne, then fitted into the rails and fastened to them. This holds thread, needles, scissors, and all the working implements. A lid is made to this box, sewed to one side and fastened down with ribbon ties on the other. Between the two lower rails are suspended a wide, shallow bag of cretonne, reaching almost to the floor. Over the whole falls a curtain of cretonne, suspended by brass curtain-rings from one of the upper rails. On the other side is a piece of Bolton sheeting or a Fayal crash, fastened to the upper and lower rails to keep it firm, and painted with a bold design of grasses, flowers, rushes, etc., forming an ornamental screen, with a band of velvet across the top to hide the rail and give it a finished appearance. If preferred, the screen side can be embroidered with suitable materials. Here on one side we have a pretty screen always a welcome ornament, and on the other everything that a needlewoman desires. Bows of ribbon are tied on the four corners. If the towel-horse is old and worn it should first be painted.

A CARD

To all who are suffering from the errors and indiscretions of youth, nervous weakness, early decay, loss of manhood, etc., I will send a recipe that will cure you, FREE OF CHARGE. This great remedy was discovered by a missionary in South America. Send a self-addressed envelope to the Rev. JOSEPH T. ISMAN, Station D, New York City.