

The management of the Meteorological Service of the Dominion have furnished the Department of Agriculture and Statistics of Manitoba with fifty gauges for measuring rain and snow fall. It is proposed to distribute these throughout the Province to voluntary observers who will be willing to take daily observations and to send a record of them at the end of each month. They will be supplied with blank forms and stamped envelopes for this purpose and will receive the publications of the Meteorological Service and also the publications of this Department. In order to render the observations of the greatest possible value the sites for the location of the instruments will be distributed as much as possible, so that there may be a record of every district, and of the peculiarities of local showers.

THE St. Croix *Courier* in noticing the St. Croix Agricultural Society's exhibition and cattle show, held in St. Stephen, New Brunswick, on the 17th October, express a doubt whether our Agricultural Societies are productive of the good which was anticipated at their formation. As far as regards the shows held by them, the *Courier* is justified in being somewhat sceptical on this point. Among the farmers who are members of Societies, there is generally wanting the spirit of generous rivalry, competition, and a desire for improvement; and they do not aim to show progressive improvement at their successive shows. It says, "the same cattle are exhibited from year to year. We gaze upon them and recognize the countenances of old acquaintances. They return the expression, and seem to say, 'there is that reporter with his note book again!' For years and years this has been the case, and it sometimes seems to us as these mute members of the animal kingdom would never die. Some of them must already have taken premiums to the extent of twice their value." Allowing for a little caricature this is true of not a few of our Societies shows.

THE COLLIE AS A SPORTSMAN'S DOG.—There has been much complaint among sportsmen and game-keepers in reference to the hardness of the mouth of the retriever. I have very much pleasure, through your widely read paper, to offer a remedy for this long and grievous complaint. I have been experimenting on the collie as to his capabilities as a sportsman's dog. I find him capable in every way, and a superior worker to the retriever, with a beautiful soft mouth. To sportsmen and game-keepers I would recommend the collie, rough-coated (black and tan), as a superior dog in every way to the retriever, and by adopting the collie instead of the retriever they will

have no more grumbling about hard mouths. The collie retrieves splendidly on both land and water. I had very little difficulty in training collie to his new calling. I do not think it cost more than half of the time that I would have required when training a retriever. The collie's usefulness to sportsmen is of much value.—*Forest and Stream*.

The potato trade is in a very unsatisfactory condition. Receipts from New York State, Maine and the Provinces are all more or less affected by the rot, and it is almost impossible to get a sound lot. The Maine arrivals are decidedly bad. Most of the cars shrink at least 50 per cent—that is, half the car load thrown away—and then what remains have to be sold at a very low price. The price for strictly sound potatoes is 70 to 75 cents per bushel, but sales range all the way from 25 to 50 cents per lots as they arrive.—*Trade Circular*.

DR. FRANKLIN B. HOUGH, Chief of the Forestry Division in the U. S. Department of Agriculture has published a work on American Forestry, [The Elements of Forestry, &c., by Franklin B. Hough, Ph. D. Cincinnati: R. Clarke & Co., 1882,] which is truthfully and modestly described in the preface as an endeavour to present in a concise form a "general outline of the subject of Forestry in its most ample relations, without attempting to be exhaustive in anything." It is very comprehensive in scope, nicely got up, cheap (\$2), and will prove a useful book to everyone who has anything to do with planting or forest conservation. The chapters embrace: (1) Definitions, (2) Soils, Slope and aspect, (3) Climate, (4) Reproduction from Seed, (5) Modes of Propagation, (6) Planting, (7) Structure and Growth, (8) General Views of Forest Values, &c., (9) Timber Rights in U. S., (10) European Plans of Management, (11) Ornamental Planting, (12) Hedges, Screens and Shelter Belts, (13) Cutting and Seasoning, (14) Fuel, (15) Forest Fires, (16) Other Injuries, (17) Insects, (18) Process for increasing durability or improving quality, (19) Resinous Products, &c., (20) Pulp Paper, (21) Tanning Materials, (22) Descriptions of Species, (23) Conifers, (24) Planting in Kansas and Nebraska.

The following extract will show Dr. Hough's mode of treating his subject:—"As a general rule, all trees growing in an open space have a tendency to spread out laterally, and not to grow as high as where they are surrounded by other trees. This tendency to branch from next the ground is greater in a dry climate and in places exposed to strong winds. It is therefore a common practice among skilled

foresters to plant the trees much nearer together than they could stand when mature, and thin them out when they become larger. It is an excellent practice in the planting of valuable kinds, that we wish to have grow straight and high, to place them in alternate places in the rows, with other trees of more rapid growth, but, it may be, of less value. The latter may be taken out when their shelter or protection are no longer needed, and when the kinds we wish to preserve have grown so as to soon shade the whole of the ground. The oak is found to thrive exceedingly well when young, when thus surrounded by pines. The willow and the cotton wood are excellent nurseries for other trees, such as the walnut and the ash. In alternate rows of willows and walnuts, the latter were found at four years' growth, at Lincoln, Nebraska, to be from three to five feet high and very thrifty, while in full exposure to the sun they were but eighteen inches high and very scrubby."

221 towns in Germany are now connected by a subterranean telegraph system, the length of cables buried being five and a half millions of kilometres.

ONTARIO is sending heavy draft horses to Manitoba, and carriage horses to New York.

## Advertisements.

Resolution of Provincial Board of Agriculture,  
3rd March, 1882.

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