

Correspondence.

SUGGESTED ITEMS.—NO. 4.

You copy an article from the Green Co., Wisconsin, *Republican*, drawing the attention of farmers to the last clause, it being not very flattering to them. Every tree is known by its fruit, and I suppose townspeople look at a farmer, when he comes to town to do business, as a dry fellow because he is intent on getting through his business to get home again to the place of love and happiness, and away from the tight-fisted, narrow-souled counter hoppers; they see his large hand spread out with honest work, and think he can't have any amusement; they see honesty imprinted on his face, on every feature, and because he cannot talk as fast as them, he is not social. But let our city friends come home with the farmer. As they draw near the farm they see young colts capering through the fields, lambs playing, green glades and grassy dells, where herds are grazing, where the breath of heaven is pure and free, sending life and health through every vein. Compare this to the theatre with its pestilential breath both for soul and body. I do not speak of the farmer's home at all; there is no use in comparing it. Everything about a farm and rural life gives health, wealth and happiness. HORACE.

Rockton, April 16, 1872.

[We must apologize to "Horace." Our printer should have inserted his communication earlier. We regret to have to leave out part of his letter, as it is now too late for the valuable suggestions given. We hope it will not discourage Mr. H. from writing again, as we will do our utmost to satisfy our valued correspondent.]

M'CARLING WHEAT.

SIR.—The McCarling Wheat I received from you has done very well. I only tried 14 lbs., and the yield was 7 bushels, all sown this year. HENRY NOTT.

Princeton, May 28th, 1872.

DEAR SIR,—Some time since a company of seed merchants, in one of the neighboring cities in Ontario, favored me with their seed catalogue and price list for the year 1872. It was a very extensive and neatly executed volume, with many illustrations, and I felt pleased to be the recipient of their kind favor. But of course they expected something in return; they expected that by publishing their seeds they would get them sold at remunerative prices. Amongst other things, they advertised to sell a certain kind of potatoes at certain prices, viz.:—per peck, \$1; per bush., \$3. According to their own terms, I sent them one dollar, and ordered one peck of the potatoes, to be sent per express. Of course you will say they sent them on receipt of the price. Oh yes! in about ten or twelve days after, I received a package containing three potatoes, also a laconic note, which read thus:—"DEAR SIR,—We send 2 lbs. Bovina potatoes; our stock to sell by measure was exhausted fully six weeks ago. We hope they will meet your approval. Yours, &c., ——— & Co." Now, sir, do you think that any seed merchants would be justified in pursuing such a course as this? It is well-known that there are 60 pounds in a bushel of potatoes, and of course there should be fifteen pounds in a peck. These seed merchants offered, or advertised to sell, a bushel for \$3.00, and at the rate they charged me they would cost \$30.00 per bushel. Now, if they can gloss this transaction over so as to make it appear just and honest dealing after receiving my money in advance, to cut me short thirteen pounds in a peck of potatoes, they must have an odd method of dealing with customers at a distance, and, contrary to their hope expressed, it does not meet with my approval. If, as they stated, their stock was exhausted, they might have condescended to communicate the same to me before sending me two-fifteenths of what I paid them for, and that poor, miserable, lame ex-

cuse for so doing. There would have been some show of honest dealing if they had written to me and stated the case as it was, and asked me what I would have instead of the potatoes for my \$1, or if I would take 2 lbs. of potatoes instead of 15 pounds for the same money. You have often cautioned the public, through the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*, to beware of humbugs, and to send all orders for seeds through the Agricultural Emporium. Failing in this, I overstepped the bounds of prudence, and paid too dear for my whistle. By inserting the above you will greatly oblige the victim. A SUBSCRIBER.

Maidstone, May 6, 1872.

[The writer of the above communication is, as he says, a subscriber; and as our rule is to give insertion to communications from subscribers to the *ADVOCATE* who give us their real names, we publish it. We hope he is under some misapprehension as to the true state of the matter he complains of. If the potatoes were sent by mail, the expense of sending them would be no little item in such an account. We cannot think that a respectable firm would act unfairly.]

KIND WORDS.

SIR,—I have taken your paper the last four years, and like it very much; it is welcomed by all the family as a friend. I have been trying to get my neighbors to take it, but, sir, I happen to live in a neighborhood where they know so much about everything in general, and agriculture in particular, they don't want to know any more. Sir I asked one man if he would not like to take the *ADVOCATE*; he told me that he knew more about farming than all the fine writers put together; that he was brought up in England, where they did farming in style. Now, Sir, I consider this same man one of the worst farmers I ever saw. I wish, sir, you could see his farm, and if you did not think as I do about it, I would admit that I was mistaken. JOHN MANNING.

West McGillivray, June, 1872.

P. S.—I send you a subscription list of six new subscribers, with the cash enclosed. J. M.

MACHINE OIL.

SIR,—I herewith send a receipt that may, perhaps, be of value to some of your readers: An excellent machine oil can be made by taking one-third hog's lard and two-thirds coal oil, and mixing them together. It does not gum like many oils I have purchased, and is good for sawing machines, or, indeed any other machinery. By changing the proportions, it can be made thicker or thinner to suit the requirements. I have used this oil for some time, and found it superior to any other. I do not think this is known or used by others. I desire no patent on it. Anyone can make it. THOS. FORFAR.

Waterdown, June 20, 1872.

We are always thankful to any of our subscribers who may furnish us with information that will be of service to the country. We think this receipt will be worth 10 times the price of the paper to many of our subscribers.

IMPORTATION OF HOGS.

To Wm. Weld, Esq.

DEAR SIR,—At your request I have made some enquiries as to the quantity of hogs imported into Canada from the Western States during a few years past, and the effect that such import has had on the Canadian farmer. First, I have to observe that the quantity is not large, I may say, almost insignificant, and the effect may be generally described by the same language. I have no statistics for Toronto and Hamilton, but the quantity introduced to these cities will not very materially from London. The following represents what has been done here since July 1st, 1869, which has been supplied to me by the courtesy of Mr. Cameron, of the customs:—

Season of 1869.....	3854 hogs.
" " 1870.....	none
" " 1871.....	1938 hogs.
" " 1872.....	1497 hogs.

Total in four seasons.....7,289.

Now when you take into account that during the same period probably over 100,000 hogs have come into this market from Canadian

sources, you will see how very insignificant the above figures appear.

Well it may be replied, what about the future? May not the number be largely augmented? Notice the following considerations, and then form your own judgement. 1st, why were these imported at all? Not, I reply, that they were better, or cheaper, but avowedly to bring down the Canadian market. Did it do so? Not at all, at all events not to any perceptible degree, and the parties who tried the experiment are not likely to repeat it. 2nd, my certain knowledge it resulted in nothing but disappointment and great loss. The importers, as a matter of fact, could have done better here, both in quality and price. 3rd, except in extraordinary seasons it will never pay, and even then. 3rd, supposing that there is a large margin in favour of the importer, it would be far better for him either to buy the product in the western markets, or pack there himself.

This arises from the fact that while he has a heavy freight to pay to bring his live hogs to London, he can save this by packing out west, as the through freight to English markets is much about the same from Chicago as from London, though the distance be much greater. Thanks to railway competition for this.

I don't know that I need add anything further than that it might be desirable to require any Canadian packers to put on the American product, an American brand, as it is a fact beyond dispute that our Canadian meat is superior to what western is, or can be, and this applies especially to our London meat, which takes by far the highest position in the market. There is, however, much to be said and done on the general question of breeding, raising, fattening, killing and curing of hogs and hogs' product, that demands the attention, the prompt and earnest attention and action of Canadian farmers. Let Canadian farmers not trouble themselves about outside protection. Through you, to the farmers, I would say, with all the emphasis at my command, *farmers protect yourselves*. If you desire it, I will take up this general subject, into which I cannot now enter, and in meantime, I am yours respectfully, JOHN JEPSON.

London, May 30th, 1872.

We thank Mr. Jepson for his kindness in furnishing us with the information and his opinion, as no one in this city is better posted in regard to the business. We may differ with him in some respects.

The facts are these:—Canadian pork is worth from 50c. to \$2 per 100 more than the American pork in the European markets.

It appears to us that the Americans being desirous of obtaining an advanced price on their pork, commenced the dodge of importing it here in a live state, slaughtering it, and sending it out as Canadian pork. This, if allowed to continue, would increase, and act injuriously towards Canadian productions. One dollar per hundred would amount to a large sum if the quantity of pork we raise is taken into consideration, and too much for the Canadian farmers to lose to suit the Americans.

The principal importation into this city was made during the summer of 1869, and we then wrote against it. The parties who first commenced the operation ceased the following year, but from what we have privately heard, we fear that it is contemplated to extend this American importation to a greater extent. We believe, if it is allowed to continue, that it will injure the price of Canadian pork both in Canada and in Europe.

We would repeat that it is necessary to guard against what is undeniably an inferior article from being passed into the markets of Britain as a Canadian production. It would lower the standard our Canadian pork has so justly attained.

CATERPILLARS AND FRUIT.

To the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate.

SIR,—In taking a drive last week I saw an unusual number of caterpillars' nests forming in the fruit trees. I thought I would just say how they can be easily exterminated. Take a light pole sufficiently long to enable you to reach the highest branches; drive two shingle nails through near the end at right angles; let the head and point be out half an inch; close to them wind rags to make a swab; dip

the swab in strong lye; put the point of the pole in the nest, turning it two or three times; the nails will catch the web, fetching it all away; the lye will kill the worm instantly without injury to the tree.

Yours, &c., JOSEPH PIERSON.

Hillin Co., Prince Edward, May 28, 1872.

The last two valuable communications were received after our June number went to press, and as they are of importance, we issued a Supplement, as a Committee on Agriculture was sitting at Ottawa.

TEN YEARS IN BEE-KEEPING.

SIR,—To instruct new beginners in managing bees, my experience, perhaps, might be of some service, having been accustomed to bees all my life. In the old way of managing in box hives and hollow trees, taken from the woods, mysterious things would take place sometimes among the bees, which could not be accounted for. I recollect, many years ago, nearly all the bees in the country died in the winter, and no cause could be found, while those in the forests sent off swarms which stocked those having no bees. About twenty years ago, a swarm came under my management, which doubled itself yearly without any difficulty, and a late swarm or two to take up, Beekeeping was very pleasant in those days, especially in swarming time, when the horn would blow, and all hands would drop work, to rattle tin pans and cow bells, but those days have passed. Ten years ago it was my lot to be presented with a late swarm of bees, the hive being made during the time bees would hang on a tree; this stock contained about ten inches square of comb and bees; they were removed about sixty miles, by inverting the hive and enclosing the bees, leaving openings for air. It being March, the travelling was rough; on being opened they were fed with sticks of candy, and brought through safely; the hive being small, it swarmed in due time; a good hive was ready for them, planned inside and out. I doubled my stock every year, and got surplus honey enough to supply the wants of an ordinary family. The only difficulty I found was the sleek closing up the openings, and occasionally a queenless stock; to remedy this, better hives were required; frame hives were thought to be needless, and improved beehives were studied up; a slanting bottom board, with openings to admit air, was adopted; but an opening in the bottom of the hive was found to be against comb-building in cool weather. The introduction of Italian bees made frame hives a necessity; but patent hives are to be avoided. This caused ingenious minds to study the requirements of bees and their operations. Many devices were tried, and many points gained; but, to build a hive adapted to the bees and convenient to operate, is not the work of a day. But the time having arrived, and the plans being matured, the work commenced, and a hive was completed, with the point not yet dry, and the bees introduced, which proved a success. But it was without a name; why not have a name and a patent for the hive? Surely no man would attempt to send out an improvement without protection; it is true, some obtain patents, and add their own improvements afterwards. This the public must judge; thorough understanding of the article in question is the only criterion to go by. Panamizing has been the great test on bee-hives; many hives work very well in the shop where they are built, but take them at actual work, year after year, in all conditions, it is then you will find a bee-hive is not always a live fit for use. To go back to the first Italian queen-cell introduced in the draw-frame makes me shudder with fear for my young queen. If she should be killed, what a loss! But good fortune crowns our first efforts; the scale turns, and, alas! the deed is done, and our queen is gone after many weeks' anxiety. But try again; practice makes perfect. The queen-cell was introduced, and hatched under all conditions, and the hives removed to apiaries, where the Italian drones were kept for the purpose of meeting on their bridal tour. To satisfy curiosity, a queen was imported from New York, bred from queens direct from Italy; she arrived by express on the 17th of June, 1871, in good order and good charges, several companies having the honor of handling her, and fifteen per cent duty added to the first cost, making my queen one to be respected. I placed her over a stock intended to be divided when she might get scented, and on Monday, the 19th, preparations for the work being made, putting on veil and mitts, after smoking lightly, four frames were taken with young bees adhering, allowing

old ones to go on were added, making my hive, which purpose, the queen among the young drop of honey a day, I had the eggs deposited in three weeks the appearance, of the transparent, several cards of comb in ing stock, and larvae to pass the queen-cells. I past winter has remembered. fit to go into winter the only ones that ones must die months, and nearly every must go down.

PLEASANT RIDGE.

We are indebted to the Pleasant Ridge factory account the Pleasant

SIR,—The Pleasant Ridge Saturday evening House, President, Oct.

After the meeting were read and discussed the question "Pay?" A saying that following was cleaning the soil. Where labor hoed crops, and purpose, and every year, from summer idle for a year the increased lay. The men knew always and generally Mr. R. A. land would tillage, but not ing. Some keeping clean, but he had all had been plough wheat usual the land is clean.

Mr. S. F. soils require blue grass ever becomes sand it grows plowing. No couch grass or enriched nothing for the grove following clean the land is winter-kills. winter beat ered with summer fall became too 5 bushels per alongside, 1 bushels per 100.

Mr. C. I. summer fall effective weeds and often missed it was choked summer by full the land crops. If blue grass, well on clover. Mr. T. M. unless the ing under very good killed weeds. By exposing sun, air and plant life, soil, are making following much wheat is to ed up too fine. Mr. T. M. lowing on that the soil crop. The hoed crop difference, good crop