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JOS. H. HACKING,
Editor and Proprietor

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FRIDAY MORNING, AUG. 13, 1875.

## The Crops—The Merchant and The Farmer.

Judging from present appearances, our farmers are now reaping a bountiful harvest. Indeed, the only thing we have to fear just now is that the weather may possibly to some extent interfere with the crop being safely housed, and the slight injury that may be caused to the grain by its sprouting in the fields. The whole community may, however, be fairly congratulated on the almost certainty of there being gathered in one of the finest crops that have been known for many years, and that the prices for the staple products will be much higher than during the past year or two. The last three years particularly have, from various causes, yielded our farmers very poor returns for their toil, but present appearances favor the hope that, this season, they are to be amply repaid for all their labor and expense.

And while we join with the farmers in rejoicing over the prospects of an abundant harvest and good prices, we would wish to remind them that there is another class of men who have been watching the progress of the crops this year with more than their usual anxiety, and who, previous to the June rains, were deeply concerned because of the alarming drouth that then prevailed for some weeks, but who are now rejoicing with quite as much earnestness as the tiller of the soil himself. We allude to the store keepers, or mercantile class. These men are keen observers, and knew full well that the salvation of the country depended on the crop that should be harvested this year, and felt a deep solicitude on account of it.

Many of our farmers are, perhaps, not aware that we are passing through a crisis in our history, and the hardest year on business men the country has experienced the past thirty years; but it is nevertheless a fact, and our merchants are struggling manfully to avert what might be a great calamity, effecting alike merchant, farmer and mechanic. The causes are various. In the first place, there was considerable stagnation in trade in February last, which still prevails throughout the country to a greater or less extent, arising from sympathy with the recent great panic in the United States, during which hundreds of the best banking and mercantile houses on the other side succumbed to the general depression. This depression extended to Canada in February last, only, we are happy to say, with much less severity—thanks in a great measure to the exertions of the merchants. But, had the crops turned out bad and prices low this year, we would have had to endure all the misery and loss consequent upon a great financial panic similar to what our neighbors across the line are to-day suffering from. Then, to make the case worse, in February and March our banks, to the great embarrassment of our mercantile men, commenced a line of action without precedent at such a time and under similar circumstances, and not warranted to the extent carried by them. They at that time took away to New York several millions of dollars in gold, out of which they were realizing large profits in speculations there, and, to keep this up, they had to cut off entirely, or reduce the line of discounts or accommodation which their customers were depending upon, and had a right to expect, and which they should have extended to their customers throughout the country. So great was the drain in this way, that merchants who had made their calculations on ten thousand dollars accommodation from the banks, could hardly procure half that amount, and those who counted on five thousand were told they could only have two thousand, while those who counted on less sums than five thousand could not procure a cent. This of course greatly embarrassed our merchants. Just imagine a man, who had counted on receiving from the banks four thousand dollars to meet bills maturing in a few days, and which must be paid, being told that he could not have a dollar, and it will give a fair idea of what our business men are enduring this summer. This vast amount of money withdrawn from the country, and from circulation, should have been passing over the counters of our merchants; but, having been withdrawn, they were just so much short. The banks, of course, deny that they were speculating with their gold in New York, but to deny it is nonsense on their part; the facts are too patent for contradiction. There are also several other causes which contribute to this state of affairs, but space will not permit of enumerating them at present.

We would here wish to impress on our farmers and others the fact that our retail merchants and mechanics are now suffering from the above causes, and we believe it is the duty of every patriotic and honest man to see to it that his account at the store or shop is settled at the earliest moment. These men require the money and must have it. We know that, in many instances, they are carrying some of their customers over two years, while they only get four months' credit from the wholesale dealer, and pay heavy interest for every day exceeding that time. This is most trying on our business men, and many of them are not in a position to stand the strain much longer. We would earnestly urge upon the farmers to thrash early and sell at the good prices now obtainable, and not to wait until the merchant is compelled to send dunning letters. Whether your account be one dollar or a hundred, settle it at once, and thus assist in relieving the difficulties with which every business man has to contend, and be sure he will remember the man who does so. By this means you will help to avert what might otherwise turn out to be a great financial calamity in the country.

## Is Salt of any Value as a Fertilizer.

Several years ago Mr. Lawes submitted a paper to the Royal Agricultural Society of England, in which he detailed a number of carefully conducted experiments with salt, which showed conclusively, that a general top-dressing of salt asserted no effect at all, either by increasing the growth of straw or augmenting the crop of grain. A commission of eminent chemists, designated by the French Government, reported that it had no value at all as a fertilizer. It is possible that salt may be of some value as a fertilizer in this province, which is so far remote from the sea that there can be no saline particles in the air, and it would be well if some carefully conducted experiments were made on different soils and in different parts of the country. For such experiments to have any practical value it will not be sufficient to scatter it broad-cast over the whole of a field either of grain or grass, and then report that the crop was benefited by it, but the salt must be used on part of the field only, and the quantity used per acre carefully noted, and also the yield of grain and straw, or of hay, as the case may be, correctly ascertained.

It seems simply absurd to suppose that a top-dressing of salt, unless very heavy, can have any effect in destroying either grubs or wire-worms. Suppose 300 lbs. of salt applied to an acre; that quantity contains 4,860 ounces, whilst there are 4,840 square yards in an acre, so that there would be less than an ounce of salt for every piece of ground nine feet square, or about as much salt as sprinkled on a beefsteak when cooking.

The favorable result of applying salt to Indian corn or beans in the hill is owing to the salt being applied at planting time, and is explained on the theory that the salt being dissolved and taken up in the sap, renders the stalk of the corn or beans distasteful to the grub. I have read an account of the experiment being tried by an American farmer on part of a forty-acre field of Indian corn, with very favorable results. I have for the last two years tried it myself on beans by scattering the salt along the drills as soon as the beans were covered, and certainly I had fewer beans destroyed by the grub than in the former years when I used no salt. Nevertheless, I do not consider the result sufficiently satisfactory to form a precedent for others to follow. I intend to repeat the experiment this year with more exactness as the grubs are more numerous some years than others. By weighing the quantity of salt used and applying it to only part of the crop, I hope to be able to make a more correct report at a future time. I have applied salt with a very good effect to onions that were being destroyed by the onion maggot, but it must be applied very thick and more than once during the season. I have seen bring from a beef barrel applied when onions had obtained half their growth, but although the ravages of the maggot checked, yet the tops of the onions were injured so as to interfere with full development of the bulbs; so I prefer to use the dry salt, and if the weather should prove dry, give a good watering immediately afterwards, so as to dissolve the salt.

Salt may be beneficially applied to plants of the cabbage tribe, and also to celery, but these are marine plants originally. I have never taken the trouble to raise asparagus, as the soil of my garden is too heavy for that vegetable, but a lady who formerly resided in Owen Sound and who prided herself on her garden, assured me that when she raised asparagus she used to apply a dressing of salt three inches thick, but that garden was originally a quicksand, so that, when fruit trees were first planted there a quantity of shavings had to be placed in the holes dug for the trees before they were set out.

I would recommend this subject to the attention of your readers, and hope some of them will be induced to experiment with salt and report the result.—*Farmers Advocate.*

## How to have Good Milkers.

No matter what breed of cows you have, something is necessary to reach the highest success of raising milkers. And can farmers ever expect to raise good stock from cows to which, for the purpose of making the milkers, they have been in the habit of using any kind of a bull they could pick up.

It's a great thing to have good blood; whether it be in Ayrshire, Jersey, or shorthorn grades, but apart from this important advantage, the course of treatment in raising a milker is somewhat different from that in raising a beef animal or animal for labor.

The calf should be well fed and petted while young. Well fed to produce a rapid growth, so as to enable the heifer to come in early; petted to make her gentle and fond of the presence of her keepers. Fondling helps to creat a quiet disposition, so important in a dairy cow, and this education must begin when young.

For a milker, we would have the heifer come in when two years old, and if she has been well kept, so as to have attained a good size, she is then old enough to become a cow. She will give more milk for coming in early. It forms the habit of giving milk, and the habit you know, is a sort of second nature. An old bull is better. We use too many young bulls. A three or four year old is far better than a yearling, and many prefer a five or six year old than any other. After the heifer comes in, let her be fed regularly. Clover is preferable to all others for stall feed. A little oatmeal induces a large flow. Indian meal is rather fattening. In bad weather give her a clean, airy stall.

A cow newly come in should not drink cold water in cold weather; but moderately warm slop. Calves intended for raising should be taken from the cow within a few days, and they will be less liable to suck when old. Feed them first with new milk for a time, then skim milk, then sour milk, taking care that all the changes are gradual by adding only a portion at first, and gradually a little meal.

Calves well fed and taken care of with a quart or two of meal daily in winter, will be double the size at two years that they would have attained by common treatment.

Heifers thus treated may come in at two years old, and will be better than neglected animals at three, and one year of feeding saved.

Heifers dried up too early for calving will often run dry in after years, therefore be always careful to milk closely the first year until within six weeks before calving.

Hearty eaters are desirable for cows, and they may usually be selected while calves. A dainty calf will likely be a dainty cow.

Heifers should be accustomed to be freely handled before calving and drawing their teats.

They will not then be so difficult to milk. Begin gradually, and be careful not to startle them.

In milking cows, divide the time as nearly as possible between morning and evening, especially at the time of early grass, that the udder may not suffer.

Persons who milk should keep their nails cut short; animals are sometimes hurt with sharp nails, and are unjustly charged with restlessness.

To determine which cows are best for keeping, try their milk separately, and weigh their butter—for sometimes a cow may give much milk and little butter; and *vice versa.*—*Colman's Rural World.*

TALMAGE ON BEECHER.—Each of these eminent Brooklyn divines edits a newspaper, and in making reference to the recent trial, Talmage remarks that "the trial will do some good, as it will teach all ministers, and married men too, to be extremely economical in kissing and writing love-letters to other men's wives."

A champion of the light weights.—A dishonest shopkeeper.

THAT WONDERFUL MAN
JOHN HOGG,
Has pleasure in letting the good people of Acton and the Counties of Halton and Wellington know that he has just returned from the
BRITISH AND FOREIGN MARKETS
Where he has made large purchases of
STAPLE AND FANCY DRY GOODS,
Which will be along during this month, further notice of which will be given.
WONDERFUL ATTRACTIONS WILL BE OFFERED!
And that Wonderful Man's standing motto "Small Profits and Quick Sales" will be the watchword, which means
DEATH TO LONG PRICES AND LONG PROFITS!
An early inspection from old friends and customers is respectfully solicited.
JOHN HOGG,
August 7, 1875. Alma Block, Upper Wyndham Street, Guelph.

SECORD BROS.,
MONTREAL HOUSE,
ACTON.
In Hardware our stocks are full; our prices cannot be undersold.
In Crockery and Glassware we hold large stocks, and at prices below the market. Granite sets from three dollars.
In Groceries, we have one of the largest and choicest stocks west of Toronto.
Our stock of Teas is not equalled, and ranging from 15 cents to 90 cents per pound.
10 lbs best White Crushed or Granulated Sugar for $1.
11 lbs best Bright Refined Sugar for $1
12 lbs best Medium Sugar for $1
13 lbs Dark Moscow Sugar for $1.
Turnip Seeds and Harvest Tools, &c., in Great Variety.

The Greatest Sale of the Season
IS NOW GOING ON
AT THE GOLDEN LION, GUELPH.
Determined to clear off the balance of Summer Stock, tremendous bargains will be given, such as no other house in Guelph can afford to give.
OBSERVE THE PRICES OF A FEW OF THE LINES REDUCED.
Rich Printed Lawns and Muslins, 7½c., worth 12½c.
Those beautiful Celestial Lusteretts Dress Goods to be rushed off at 12½c., former price 25c.
10 dozen Ladies' Silk Square ties, 25c., real price $1.
Lace Shawls, 75c., worth $2.
One dollar Parasols for 50c.
Millinery, Mantles, Grenadines, Black and Colored Silks at half price at the Great Guelph Dry Goods Store, the Lion.
J. D. WILLIAMSON.
GUELPH, July 16, 1875.

GRAND CLEARING SALE
OF
Staple and Fancy Dry Goods
AT THE FASHIONABLE WEST END.
The inhabitants of the Village of Acton and surrounding country are invited to attend the Grand Clearing Sale of
Staple and Fancy Dry Goods
Now Going on at the
FASHIONABLE WEST END
Dress, Mantle and Millinery Establishment,
UPPER WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH.
Immense Crowds every day. Astonishing Bargains to be had. Come and See.
A. O. BUCHAM,
Fashionable West End Dress, Mantle and Millinery Establishment.
Guelph, July 1, 1875.

ALL KINDS OF
JOB PRINTING
PROMPTLY EXECUTED
AT
THE FREE PRESS OFFICE

GREAT CLEARING SALE
OF
MEN AND BOYS' CLOTHING
NOW GOING ON AT THE
ELEPHANT CLOTHING STORE,
NO. 31 WYNDHAM STREET, GUELPH.
TREMENDOUS BARGAINS
Will be given during this Sale, having reduced every article to
Cost and Under,
As we are anxious to clear it right out. Call and examine stock, as we consider it a pleasure to show goods.
WM. RUTHERFORD & CO.
Guelph, July 16, 1875.

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## RUFUS RAWLIN'S RIDE.

BY EUGENE J. HALL.

Thro Goshen Holler, where hemlocks grow,
Where the ripplin' rills with a rush and flow
Are over the rude rocks fallin';
Where fox an' bear an' catamount hide,
A circuit preacher once used to ride,
An' his name was Rufus Rawlin.

He was set in his ways, an' what was strange,
If you argued with him he wouldn't change;
You couldn't git nothin' thro him.
Solemn an' slow in style was he;
Slender an' dim as a tamarack tree,
An' allus ready to disagree
With everybody that knew him.

One night he saddled his sorrel mare,
And started over to Ripton, where
He'd promis'd to git some preachin'.
Away he cantered over the hill,
Past the school house at Caper's Mill;
The moon was down and the night was still;
Save the squad o' a night-hawk screechin'.

At last he came to a dark ravine—
A feelin' kind o' queer, an' a mean
Sensation steakin' o'er him.
Old Sorrel began to travel slow,
Then gin a snort and refused to go;
The parson clacked, an' he hollered "Whoa!"
An' wondered what was afore him.

Then all o' a sudden he seemed to hear
A gurglin groan, so very near
That scattered his senses nearly;
"Go OME! Go 'OME!"—it loudly cried;
"Go 'ome!" re-echoed the mountain side;
"Go ome!" away in the distance died.
An' he wished he was home sincerely.

An' then afore his terrified sight,
A light gleamed out in the starless night
That seemed to beat all creation.
Then thru the bushes a figger stole,
With eyes o' fire an' lips o' coal,
That tingled the parson's righteous soul,
An' filled him with consternation.

He lost his sermon, an' dropped his book;
His hair riz up and his saddle shook
Like a saw-mill under motion.
Never a single word he said,
But, suddenly turnin' old Sorrel's head,
Away an' out o' the woods he sped,
An' put for the land o' Goshen.

Into the streets o' Goshen town,
The terrified parson cum ridin' down,
In a fearful sort o' a flutter;
Swift as a strong September gale,
With his cloak a-streamin' like Sorrel's tail,
With his eyes wide open an' his visage pale,
An' whiter than winter butter.

He told the neighbors that he had seen
A fiend o' fire in Huff's Ravine
That had driven him back to Goshen.
He told of its deep an' dreadful groans,
Of its doleful cries and dismal moans,
Of its flamin' eyes an' rattlin' bones;
An' it got up a great commotion.

An' stranger, it is manty a day
Since Rufus Rawlin was laid away
In the grave-yard over yonder;
I was a boy in those glad hours,
As full o' fun as the spring with the showers;
'Twas me an' a son o' Jacob Powers
That got up all that wonder.

We took a punkin o' common size,
An' cuttin' some hole for the mouth an' eyes,
We gin it the right expression;
Then hollered it out till its shell was thin,
An' puttin' a tallow dip within,
It looked as ugly an' as mean as sin—
'Twould a' scared a whole procession.

The night was dark as ever was seen,
An' nothin' was heerd in Huff's Ravine
But the sound o' the water flowin';
The parson come, in his quiet way,
A-smokin' his old brown pipe o' clay,
A-thinkin' o' what he was goin' to say,
When he got to whare he was goin'.

An' the fiend he saw, an' the rattlin' bones
Were a punkin, a gourd, an' some gravel stones;
That gin all o' that glory.
Yet, never agin up the mountain side,
In the night would Rufus Rawlin ride;
An' many a time I've laughed till I cried
To hear him tell the story.

—*Lakeside Monthly.*

## Large Sized Newspapers.

The St. Louis "Globe" says of large newspapers: The immense newspapers known as "blanket sheets" are out of date—as antiquated as silver shoe-buckles and witch burning in New England. For years they have been falling into disfavor; but just after the war, when greenbacks were plenty and shoddy shows were in order, they flourished for a term. Their race was soon run, however, when the country fairly settled down to business. While whole columns full of startling headlines of terrible battles and great victories were eagerly bought and read, by anxious people all over the country, the huge hand-bills newspaper was in demand. But now, live men cannot afford to waste hours poring over whole columns of conjectures and suppositions and personal arguments to find an idea or a bit of news that might be condensed into a few lines. It is a loss of time and patience.

Newspapers are like turnips—the smaller they are the more substance there is in them, as a general thing, and the people have found this out. Hence those newspapers which have the most information in the fewest words have become the most popular and the most successful. In the days when the people of America received by slow going stages newspapers a week old and expected to receive no more for a week or a month, according to the condition of roads and the rapidity of sailing ships, they could afford to sit down and wade through a blanket sheet, merely for pastime. But that has gone by. When you go to a man for information you want it at once, without any prolix or preamble or unnecessary addition, and the same is the case with newspapers.

There is a prescription in use in England for the cure of drunkenness, by which thousands are said to have been assisted in recovering themselves. It is as follows: Sulphate of iron, five grains; peppermint water, 11 drahms; spirit of nutmeg, one drahm; twice a day. This preparation acts as a stimulant and tonic, and partially supplies the place of the accustomed liquor, and prevents that absolute physical and moral prostration that follows a sudden breaking from the use of stimulating drinks.