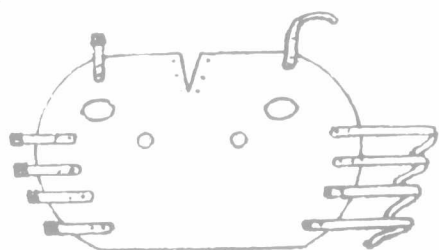


A Hood for the Bull.

A bull which has at any time shown the least tendency to viciousness should never more be trusted, but should be so managed and handled as to certainly prevent him from doing injury to his attendant or any other person. Indeed, it is wise to take such precautions in the case of every bull, for in not a few instances a bull considered gentle and safe, has suddenly, owing to fright or abuse, or innate ugliness or stubbornness, become vicious and dangerous. The bull calf should be accustomed to being haltered and controlled when but a few months of age, and have a ring in his nose at one year old. Kindness and firmness should be observed in handling him, abuse avoided, and a strong staff of tough wood, safely attached to the ring, used when leading him out for any purpose. In the case of a bull that has developed a vicious disposition, even the staff is not a sufficient safeguard for the attendant, as the animal may at any moment get his head or horn under the staff and break it or wrench it from the hand of the man, and attack him, with serious consequences. In such a case, even dehorning will not work a permanent cure, as, when the wound is healed, the bull is liable to be as vicious as ever, and nearly as capable of doing damage. For safety in handling the dangerous bull, the most effective and least troublesome device is a blindfolding hood, such as that recently described



A Hood for the Bull.

by a Kentucky correspondent in Home and Farm, who says: "A bull's hood is made of good harness leather; in width it is twenty-eight inches; in depth eighteen inches; the ear-holes are three inches in diameter, and the horn two and a half inches; these are five inches apart, measuring to the center, and eight between the horns. The edges should be smooth, that there be no abrasion of the skin about ear or horn from an uncomfortable fit. If too large, a gore a few inches in depth can be taken out, and then laced. Or a better way is to cut and bevel opposite edges, and lap over to a snug fit and rivet. Four oil-tanned hame strings are riveted one side, and four short double pieces, with a loop, on the opposite side. The hood is laced under the jaw, and securely tied."

The same or a similar contrivance is also effective in subduing a nervous cow, heifer or steer which has become excited and crazed while being led, driven or shipped. The writer recalls a case of a Jersey heifer which, on arrival at her destination, could not be safely approached in the freight car to untie her halter-shank, until a sack was thrown over her head and tied below her

jaws, when, tied behind a wagon, she followed gently, and she developed into a very quiet and satisfactory cow.

Sheep in New Zealand.

The report of the annual sheep census, issued by the New Zealand Department of Agriculture, for the year ending April 30th, 1909, shows a total of 23,480,707 head in the hands of farmers and ranchmen, an increase over the number reported on April 30th, 1908, of 1,655,136, and an increase over the number returned in April, 1899, of 4,132,201. The total number of owners of the 23,480,707 head returned April 30th, 1909, is 21,858, or an average of 1,075 to each owner, 78 of whom are reported as having 20,000 and over, and 227 as owning 10,000 to 20,000.

The mother of Challenger, the steer that won grand championship honors at Chicago in 1903 for the Nebraska Agricultural College, was said to be a great milk cow.

THE FARM

Buckwheat to Subdue Sow Thistle.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Though I am retired from practical farming, and left "The Farmer's Advocate" with my son on the farm, I am, nevertheless, as much interested in the success of agriculture generally, and its direct remuneration to the individual farmer, as ever.

The death of my youngest brother, some years ago a prominent farmer in the County of York, though retired for a few years in the Village of Stouffville, caused me to go down to my almost native place, at least the place of my boyhood days, whence I had been absent for nearly twenty years.

Boarding the afternoon train at Dorchester, with my daughter, we whirled away eastward. The effect of almost three months' continuous drouth was quite visible on each side of the railway more or less all the way down to Hamilton. Everything appears diminutive from the moving train, but the stooks in the average fields were liliputian to the stooks of what we might call a comparatively light crop. A wagon load seemed to clear a large part of a field. I did not observe an average crop on the run from Dorchester to Hamilton.

From Hamilton to Toronto, a change in the aspect of the fields, lawns, on each side of the railway, pastures, a green freshness indicated that copious showers had blessed this part of the country. From Scarboro Junction to Stouffville, through the Townships of Scarborough and Markham, even up to the ridges of Whitechurch, there appeared to be a bountiful crop of oats and peas. Most of the oat fields were still in stook, and in a few cases late fields were being cut. Barley, of course, was harvested and in the barn. The third cutting of alfalfa or lucerne was in order on a few farms, and appeared to be a fair crop. On almost every farm I observed a field of clover in full

bloom, giving evidence of an excellent yield of seed.

This journey was through one of the wealthiest districts in the county, rich in soil, and all the concomitants of an up-to-date farm equipment. But, notwithstanding all these indications of progress, I was astonished to see, all the way from Scarborough to Stouffville, even up to the ridges of Whitechurch, large fields of buckwheat, white, in full blossom, which away towards the horizon, in the bright sunshine, appeared like a sheet of water.

When I lived in the County of York, from 1835 to 1866, very little buckwheat was grown. An acre, or less, was occasionally raised by a few of the Dutch families for their bees and for buckwheat cakes; but among the farmers generally it was not considered a profitable crop, as the straw was considered useless for fodder. On making inquiry from my friends on this great change in cropping, I was informed that it was an excellent ally in keeping a check on the perennial sow thistle. I had observed, all the way north to Stouffville, in the oat fields, a white down on the stooks, quite visible from the railway. I knew that, years ago, in the townships named, the farms were almost literally rid of thistles, and the query with me was, through neglect had this pest come back? When I reached the neighborhood of my boyhood days, I learned this was the down of the farmers' dreaded foe, the perennial sow thistle. On simply pulling the sheaves apart in the stook, the seed would fly away, even on a calm day, the seed being almost infinitesimal in size, is carried a great distance, and is so insidious that it may have gained a hold on the farm before observed by the farmer. I was informed that it was quite common throughout the County of York. They had got rid of the Canada thistle by diligence and almost indomitable perseverance, but now a pest far more aggressive is likely to stay.

I was informed by a number of the farmers that they had no thought of getting rid of it, as they had previously got clear of the thistle. To keep it down, to curtail its growth, appeared to be the desideratum. And now here is where the buckwheat becomes a factor in checking the multiplication of this vile weed. By disking, cultivating and harrowing when the land is dry, previous to sowing the buckwheat in June, it is smothered. It is prevented from seeding, then fall-plowed, preventing any seed that may have germinated sending out lateral rootstocks. Following this treatment, corn, mangels and turnips, or any crop that may prevent the seeding and growth of rootstocks. It is prevented from seeding in alfalfa, being cut off at least three times during summer. I do not think it is an impossibility to eradicate this weed, but if only a farmer here and there in a township or neighborhood uses drastic means to subdue it, the result will assuredly ruin the farm and bankrupt the farmer.

A beautiful-looking farm, to appearance, was pointed out to me, that could be bought for \$3,000. A large field had been sown with oats. I am safe to say there was not more than the seed sown on the ten acres. It put me in mind of a garment so ragged that the thing required was lost sight of, and patched with a multiplicity of rags, all shapes and sizes. I never witnessed a more deplorable sight than that field.

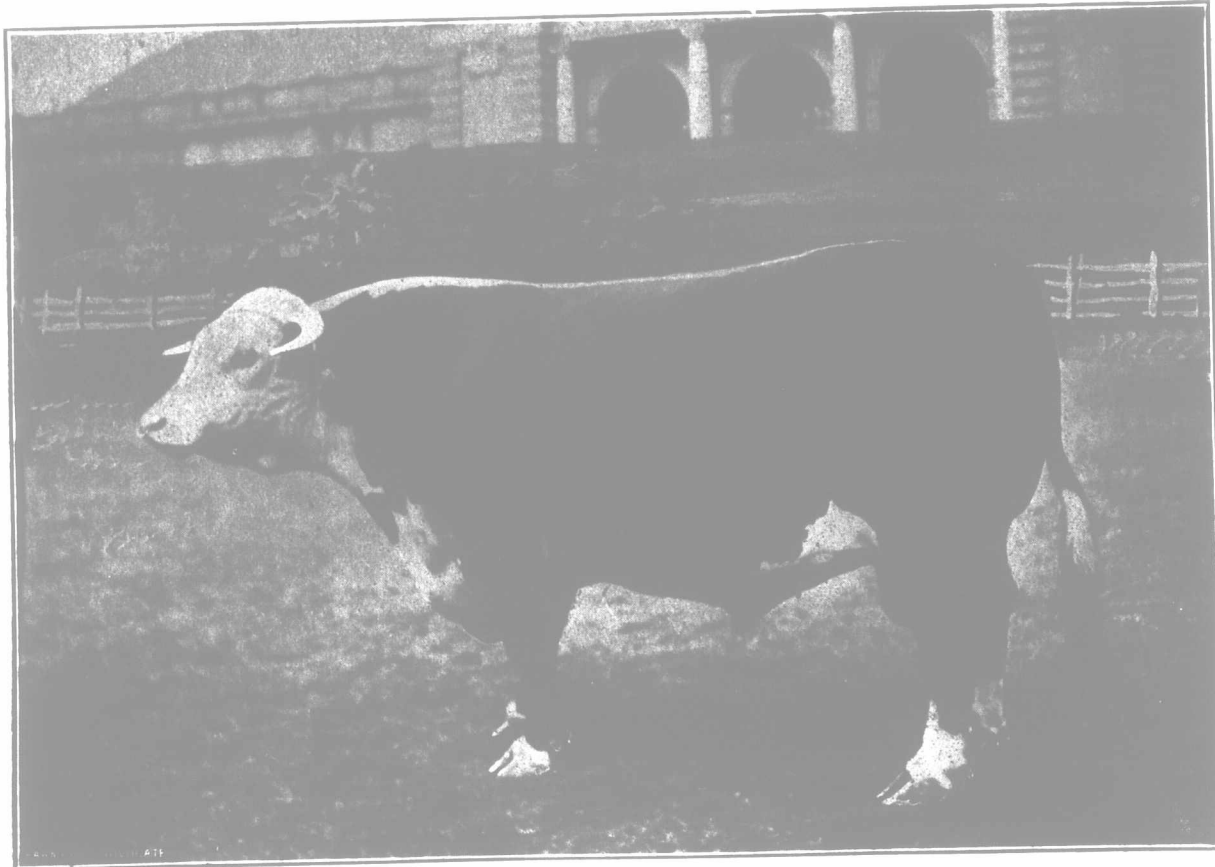
I was told, just a few days ago, that this fiend of the farm had been found on several farms in the neighborhood of Gladstone. Now is the time for the Gladstone (Middlesex Co., Ont.) farmers to beware, and immediately adopt some system of cropping that will prevent the seeding of this most pernicious of all weeds. No weed is better provided by nature with the means of spreading abroad its seeds by the wind, and its rootstocks in one year will produce in the rich loam of Dorchester. It is no roadside weed, but delights in soil where its roots have free course, and run they will if not stopped, in perpetuum.

OCTOGENARIAN.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

The World's Wheat Supply.

In a broad way, says a Chicago exchange, the world's wheat crops are in the main so distributed this year as to make the weight of the surplus fall on those best able to handle it. An exception to this is Canada, whose only hope for a market lies in the failure of the Argentine to be a strong shipper early in 1910. The Canadian surplus this year apparently about offsets the expected shortage in Argentina, based on recent reports of lessened acreage and ravages by insects and drouth. Australia and India are reasonably assured of as large crops as last year, in so far as the outcome can now be judged. Meanwhile, Russia is giving the only exhibition of a large crop that is ever accepted by the world's grain trade—heavy actual shipments. Since July 1st, Russia is about 20,000,000 bushels ahead of the corresponding period last year. The surplus over last year raised in the United States—50,000,000 bushels—bids fair to create a heavy situation before the end of the crop year, unless crop disaster should appear in France or Australia.



Imrover -1563-

Senior and grand champion Hereford bull, and head of first prize herd, Toronto and London, 1909. Bred and exhibited by W. H. Hurst, The Maples, Ont.