

pondent for his answers to Marshfield. All we desire is to see the truth brought to light for the interests of the farming community as a whole, not for any class. But we must circumscribe the question and not permit it to get beyond its original scope. Our correspondent has made a mistake in dragging the beefing properties into the issue, for nobody denies that our natives can be improved in their beefing properties by the use of thoroughbred sires of any of the beefing breeds. We must also reject the general purpose cow. Our native cow is a milk or nothing. But this is far from being the main point at issue. We should be pleased to have criticism from other writers, but the arguments must be confined to the following points:—1.—Without any reference to the inferiority or superiority of our native cow, is the taxing of our native bull justifiable on principle? The question originated from a proposition as to the propriety of taxing the bull, but as the intention must have been to annihilate our native cattle the cow cannot be left out of the issue. 2.—If the principle of the proposed tax is wrong, can it be justified on grounds of expediency? This question must include our whole system of municipal taxation. "Industry, enterprise and thrift," are no doubt taxed, but is it done so on grounds of principle or expediency? Is it the best system we can devise? Would a tax on "indolence" fill the bill? But the main question here is, Would the attempt to build up a native herd of milkers be enterprise or folly? 3.—Without reference to the principle or the expediency of the tax, is there sufficient evidence to doom the native cow on grounds of inferiority—not as a milk cow, but on the whole, and as being also less suited to our average condition?

SIR.—The annual meeting of the Ameliasburg Agricultural Society was held on Jan. 8, 1885. The annual report showed receipts, \$776.42; prizes and expenses, \$727.90; leaving a balance on hand of \$48.52. Prizes were paid amounting to \$442.25, nearly \$40 more this year than in 1883, and \$134 was paid for the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. Amount received for membership \$209, and \$305 was taken at the gate. The report showed also the amount of \$100 paid for buildings and fitting up of grounds. The society has cause to feel proud of their grounds, as they will compare favorably with any other Township Society in the Province. It has nearly ten acres, enclosed on three sides with a seven foot board fence, the other side being open to or facing on Robin Lake, one of the beautiful bodies of water as there is in Ontario, being over 100 feet above Bay of Quinte, with water clear, pure and easy of access. This makes a great addition to and an advantage the society has over many other societies. The following officers were elected for 1885:—W. E. DeLong, President; H. Welbanks, 1st Vice-President; John Nightengale, 2nd Vice-President; Edward Roblin, Secretary-Treasurer; John G. Peck, C. Orsborne, W. G. St. Ford, R. R. Ross, N. A. Peterson, C. Giles, A. J. F. M. D., G. H. Sprung and Wm. DeLong, Directors; and John A. Howell and J. G. Johnston, Auditors. Jacob R. Wood, the retiring President, was recommended to the County Society as a Director for 1885. The fall show will be held as formerly on the second Saturday in October.

SIR.—The "Cost of Raising Wheat" is the heading of an article in the January number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. I am not now a farmer, but I have been one, and take great interest in all farm topics. The ADVOCATE is a new comer to our house, and I can assure you is a welcome guest, its pages are read with deep interest, and its sentiments thoroughly endorsed. Our verdict is that every farmer in Canada at least should take the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. The object I have in replying at all to the article alluded to is that I fear the figures arrived at as a gain or profit on ten acres of wheat from a yield of thirty bushels per acre are too meagre, that it will act as a strong argument for farmer's sons that are at all inclined to leave the parental roof for the allurements of city life. It is not my intention to go into a detailed statement of debtor and creditor, only in a general way to set forth a fact or two that I think will meet with the views of every practical farmer. First, thirty bushels of wheat to the acre is an excellent average, and at 75 cents a bushel is equivalent to an average of 22½ bushels at \$1. Now I hold that any farmer of economical principles and judicious management that can make a showing so good as this from his wheat crop, with an equal showing from his other products, is not only making a good living, but is on the sure road to success, and his declining years will be those of comfort and ease. The cost of producing wheat is very hard to fix, conditions of farmers are so different. A merchant can readily arrive at the cost of his stock of goods, and from this show his gain or loss. Your first charge is \$3 a day. This, I hold, is incorrect; a farmer who would pay \$3 a day, which is high, for his neighbor's team, would find it a true expense, but the same work performed by himself and own team would not cost him \$3 a day by any means. All he would be entitled to charge would be his own living at cost price, horse feed at cost price, and interest on the value of horses and implements for the time they were employed in doing their part of the work. The charge for manure, too, is excessive; 75 cents would be a big price if he were to purchase in the city for cash. His own manure is a profit, save the hauling and drawing, and 25 cents ought to cover the last two if the distances were not too great. The other items of work that are done by the farmer himself and charged on the basis as if

cash were paid, I hold are wrong. A farmer selling his hay (which he never should do off the farm) at \$10 a ton, could not charge it as feed account at a cost of \$10. All he would be entitled to charge would be the cost of producing the said hay. The rent account or \$40 in some cases might be correct. To an owner whose land was worth \$600 an acre the charge should only be the interest on \$600 at six per cent., for ten acres \$36, and if land were cheaper a less charge would follow. Our city is crowded with young men, and as noted by a reputable journal, "If the same energy were put forth on the farm by young men as is required here to eke out a livelihood, the result would be homes well supplied with the comforts of life." True, some of our cleverest men come from the rural districts, but many would be far more clever on the old homestead. All cannot live at home, we admit, but far greater results might be arrived at were our farms better worked. The fertility of our soil by proper and judicious management is only beginning to be known, and if our farmers' sons will remain at home and take the place their fathers have so nobly filled in establishing a comfortable fireside for them, instead of leaving them in their old age to toil, and depend on hired help, a golden future would be theirs compared with the strain of a busy city life.

PARKDALE, W. C. J.
[We are pleased with the criticism of our correspondent. If every farmer took so much interest in such matters, he would not make a slave of himself by engaging in unprofitable branches of farming. If a few more retired farmers—farmers of leisure and intelligence—would follow the steps of our able correspondent they would be the means of awaking a deeper interest in their calling. Our object in making out the statements showing the profits on the ten acre field was not to induce boys to stay on the farm, but to show the absurdity of the statement that a good crop with a low price was as satisfactory to the farmer as a poor crop with a high price, and any actual figures which the farmer may use will prove the same thing. The standard of 22½ bushels per acre, at a dollar a bushel, may be a pretty high average, but not for land which will rent for \$4 an acre, and this is not too high a standard to aim at. If we had debited the field with lower figures the profits would have been far too great—much greater than any farmer makes—so that the total debits must come from one source or another. Every farmer can think of many little items which are not mentioned on the debit side of the account, such as risks, breakages, travelling expenses, leakages of various sorts, etc., to which no fixed amount can be set. We doubt that the average farmer makes 9½ per cent. on his investment, taking one year with another, much less 37 per cent., as shown by the statements. Manure at 75 cents a ton is scarcely one-fourth of the value of that produced under the highest possibilities. We don't object to the farmer charging the cost of production instead of market prices, so long as he is able to ascertain this cost, and then knows exactly what the balance represents; but we fear that the enormous balance to his credit would soon make him think himself much wealthier than the reality. If he debits one thing at market price, he must debit everything; and by using the market prices he ascertains his profits over and above those obtained as a laborer.]

SIR.—Would you kindly inform me if there are any insurance companies for live stock against death by disease?
PARIS, ONT.
J. G.
[There are no such insurance companies in Canada.]

SIR.—Would you or some of your numerous readers kindly inform me through the columns of your paper, whether the oleander plant is poisonous or not? I have been told that it is, and ought not to be kept where children can get at it, that the leaf being chewed would cause fatal effects.
GORMLEY, H. P. S.

[The oleander is exceedingly poisonous, and the leaves or flowers should not be chewed by children or adults either. Care should also be taken that leaves are not left on the grass where stock is feeding.]

SIR.—I intend seeding down my fall wheat by sowing the grass seed (timothy and clover) on the snow in March. Would it injure the grass seed shoots to harrow and roll the wheat as soon as the ground gets firm enough to bear up a team in the spring? 2.—How many revolutions should each of the following pieces of machinery make while a team makes one round on the horse-power: the cylinder of a threshing machine, a chopper, and a circular saw?
RIPLEY, W. B.

[1.—The best results have been obtained by sowing on the snow, but the "catch" depends a good deal upon the season. Harrowing would injure many of the tender grass shoots, but would benefit the wheat, if the land has a tendency to bake. If the top soil is loose, rolling without harrowing would be sufficient. Please let us know the result of your experiment. 2.—This question cannot be answered without knowing the length of the horse-power arms and the size of the wheels and pulleys.]

SIR.—1st—I have a horse twelve years old that got a slight hurt in his stifle joint; last spring there came a lump or swelling about the size of a hen's egg in front of his leg opposite the stifle. He did not favour it any until late in the fall when he hurt it again by a heavy draw. About five weeks ago he got his fore foot over the manger; in getting it back he threw himself, hurting it afresh; if he lifts it a little higher than common, he can hardly get it to the ground. It hurts him either to raise it up high, backwards or forwards. 2nd.—He also hurt the fore leg at the same time in getting it back. It seems to be on the inside of the arm running up to the shoulder. When he first hurt it he lost all power in that leg, so that when he stepped would fall on his knee. He is some better on the fore leg, but if he makes a false step he doubles over on fetlock and knee; he seems weak in that leg; I am unable to do anything with him. 3rd.—I have another horse that appeared stiff in his hind leg this morning. On examination there was a swelling on the inside about the centre of the thigh; when rubbing it he would raise it high up, and see it to hurt him much; it is swelled some more this evening. A SUBSCRIBER.

APPLETON, ONT.
[No. 1.—We would recommend you to blister the stifle joint about once every two weeks with a cantharidine blister; apply a little lard to the part blistered the third day after each blistering. No. 2.—There is a rupture of the muscles on the inside of the fore leg. Apply the following lotion to the point of the shoulder and around the inside of the fore arm and under the breast three times a day: Hydro chloride of ammonia, two ounces; a tincture, two ounces; alcohol, one pint; tincture arnica four ounces. Keep the animal in a loose box stall, and have him to feed in a high manger. No. 3.—Your other horse has Lymphangitis, that is, an inflammation of the lymphatic glands, situated on the inside of the leg. It is a very painful disease, and if neglected often leaves a thickened leg, sometimes called green leg, or weed leg. If taken in time it is easily got well. Give a dose of purgative medicine; Barbadoes aloes, seven drachms, as a drench; have the leg thoroughly bathed with hot water three times a day, and give it a dressing with the following liniment after each bathing: Spirits ammonia, four drachms; turpentine, one ounce; oil oreganum, four drachms; laudanum, two ounces; alcohol, eight ounces. Give every night and morning in bran mash, saltpetre one drachm. If the horse is in high condition bleed him.]

SIR.—When my son called on you a few days ago to pay my subscription for the ADVOCATE, he asked you to vouch for the subject of the cost of the manufacture of cheese. The present cost of making for milk delivered at the factory is from \$1.15 to \$1.25 per cwt., and when milk is drawn by the factory company from \$1.35 to \$2 per cwt. We have made cheese at home in a small way for several years, and with information gleaned from practical cheese makers, and that the actual cost of material to manufacture 100 lbs. of cheese to be about 30c., which includes boxing. One thousand pounds of milk will on an average make 100 lbs. of cheese, and requires 1½ ounces of soda at \$2.50 per gallon; ½ of a rennet at 12c.; ¼ lb. salt at \$1.80 per sack of 250 lbs.; bandaging at 5c. per yard, and one yard a d a quarter will bandage three 6 lb. cheeses, and boxing 18c. per hundred. Another matter which requires reform is the way in which cheese is sold. Buyers are often worth nothing and depend on the banks to advance the necessary funds, which, if the market falls, they will not do, and factory men and patrons are often disappointed by buyers refusing to fulfil their contracts. I have known cheese to lie in a factory for months and have to be resold at a loss in price and weight. A man will not sell a farm or other valuable property without security, but factory salesmen will sell from \$2.00 to \$3.00 worth of cheese without any security whatever but the buyer's word, which is often broken when it suits his convenience. Now, as you are the "farmer's advocate," look into these matters, and invite correspondence upon them, and you may materially aid your patrons. SUBSCRIBER.

INVERSOX, ONT.
[We are much obliged to our correspondent for his remarks, but before expressing our opinions we should like to hear from other authorities on the subject.]

SIR.—I have a two-year-old steer that has a lump on his jaw about the size of a hen's egg, and is growing very fast. What would you advise me to do with it? or what is it?
TEESWATER, ONT.
J. W.

[Your steer has a disease of the jawbone called Osteo Sarcoma. We would not advise treatment; the best way while he can eat is to try and get him fattened for the butcher.]

SIR.—We have been using superphosphate for the last two years. In 1883 there were a few barrels used with very good results. Last summer there was quite a large quantity of it used, and the result was very poor. Is it wise to make a free use of it? We have a freestone formation. What are the results where it has been in general use for a length of time?
J. G.

[Superphosphate always produces profitable results when used at the right time and in the right place. This fertilizer is used to supply phosphoric acid to the crop, but if the soil is deficient in other constituents of plant food, the superphosphate cannot be profitably used. For details read our editorial articles on "How to Save the Manure." The article relating to superphosphate appears in this issue.]

SIR.—1st—Shoes on a just a little most noted. What are the strain do y native cow able thorou calf last w through be stable. Sh by a sure s about ever not in calf? What would think she i LUSANUS

[1.—Use for the fet milk comb she is not medicine, three weeks calf again; ovary, ind quicker you

SIR.—So nursery, an sian Mulbe price, and represent that of any vocata off when he were What is yo ROCKTON

[We advi the travell agents for heard of a Trees that been talk double tha and given, subscriber charged \$1 perhaps tw

SIR.—W barley at 4 a ton for fe SUNNYBON

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SIR.—I s vocate a le county, N which the ing, a very ADVOCATE. long since I found a lets of che around m cussed at ban), but while wor present by was no su ticularly c produced a thorough set at rest. cusion for conclusion it may for VICTORIA

SIR.—Th aga Agric Moore, P President, Treasurer, urers' Rep keepers' a society, in ship to giv honey, and per season yards of d ductiveness 2nd prize honey, wa exhibition MELROSE