

Lathyrus Sylvestris.

In our advertising columns will be found the advertisement of Mr. F. E. Clotten, of London, England, who is Prof. Wagner's sole agent for the sale of seed. As this plant is a comparative stranger in this country, a few words about it may interest our readers. This plant, which belongs to the natural order, *Leguminosae*, is a native of Hungary, where it grows in immense quantities in a wild state, but owing to an excess of Tannic and Gentic Acid, is totally unfit for feeding to animals. Prof. Wagner, the originator of the improved *Lathyrus Sylvestris*, noticing the luxuriance with which this at that time poisonous weed flourished, commenced some thirty years ago to cultivate it, in the hope by so doing of eliminating the poisonous matter. This he claims to have succeeded in doing, and he now offers seed of his improved *Lathyrus Sylvestris* to the public. The advantages claimed for this plant are as follows:—

It grows most luxuriantly, producing, it is claimed, no less than 18 to 20 tons of green fodder to the acre in four cuttings.

Its feeding qualities are very great, it being claimed for it that it is four times as valuable as corn (fodder) in its nutritive qualities.

It requires no further cultivation after the first year, and will last for fifty years.

It possesses to an extraordinary extent the power, conceded to all *leguminosae*, of absorbing the free nitrogen of the atmosphere, and then yielding it by its roots to enrich the soil.

That there is a great deal of truth in these assertions is proved by the experiments conducted at Woburn Farm by the Royal Agricultural Society of England, and also by the reports of leading agriculturists throughout the world, and we would like to see a fair test made in Canada of the *Lathyrus Sylvestris*, for should it prove to be what it is represented, it will undoubtedly be a great boon to the stock-raisers of any country. Owing to the fact that the supply of seed of the improved plant is still very limited, the price is very high, being \$10.00 per lb. Orders sent direct to Mr. Clotten, or in the meantime to the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*, will be attended to at once. Remittances for amount must be made with order. Mr. Clotten will be pleased to give any information to parties wishing it.

Warring with the Credit System.

There are, undoubtedly, times in the history of some farmers, especially in a new country such as Manitoba, where a mortgage incurred for the purchase of land proves a very great stimulus to effort and enables them to secure a standing not otherwise possible in so short a time. However, the credit system as it exists generally is most unfortunate and wasteful, and should, as far as possible, be discredited and got rid of. The condition of the farmer, whether prosperous or otherwise, very speedily makes itself felt upon the whole business life of the country. It is not to be wondered at, then, that a journal enjoying the standing in mercantile circles of *The Commercial*, of Winnipeg, should devote a good deal of space to the question of the farmer's business relations. Referring to the views of our correspondent, "Invicta," in favor of making a sharp distinction between cash and credit business in favor of the former customer, the *Commercial* computes that as much as every ten per cent. should be added by the merchant to the cash price, to cover interest and cost of book-keeping, and a further addition to cover losses from bad accounts. In conclusion *The Commercial* adds:—

"The writer in the *Farmer's Advocate* referred to speaks of the organization known as Patrons of Industry as a means of placing business upon a cash basis. The writer, judging from his remarks, is evidently not a Patron himself, but he commends the efforts of this order in the direction of encouraging cash business. So far as the Patrons are concerned, all we have to say is, that if they are going in for cash business, and if it is their aim to educate the farmers to do business on a cash basis, then we welcome them. They may cause some temporary inconvenience to merchant at certain points, but if they succeed in

reducing business to a comparatively cash basis they will accomplish a great good for Canada. The *Commercial* is with them heartily in this respect at least. We have always held that the free credit system is an injury to the farmers as well as to the merchants, and we are glad to see that some of them are getting their eyes opened to this fact. Farmers who buy for cash should not be obliged to pay credit prices, neither should credit customers be allowed to buy at cash prices. If merchants would reduce their business to this system, doing cash business on a cash basis, and credit business on a credit basis, we do not think they would have much to fear from the order of Patrons of Industry."

The Provincial Fat Stock Show.

The question of holding a Provincial Fat Stock Show has been under consideration for some time by the Ontario Agriculture and Arts Association, the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association, the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association and the Fat Stock Club of Guelph. Representatives of each of these bodies met in Toronto on the 7th of April and decided upon holding a Provincial show in the city of Guelph some time about the middle of December next. The terms agreed to were as follows:—

"That the Agriculture and Arts Association agree to hold a fat stock show in Guelph, in December next, in connection with the Fat Stock Club, the Sheep Breeders' Association and the Swine Breeders' Association; upon this basis the local Fat Stock Club and the city of Guelph to provide all the accommodation necessary to hold a creditable show; the Sheep Breeders' Association to provide \$300 or more towards the prizes, the Swine Breeders' Association \$300 or more, and the Agriculture and Arts Association \$1,000; that three representatives from the Fat Stock Club, five from the Agriculture and Arts Society, and two from each of the Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations be the Committee of Management, the Agriculture and Arts Association to pay all expenses, with the exception of the Sheep and Swine Breeders' committee expenses, and to collect all receipts. In case all the prizes in the sheep and swine departments are not paid out the proper proportion of such unpaid prizes be paid back to the two different associations."

Besides the space provided for the exhibition of live stock, Mr. John I. Hobson, the representative of the Guelph Fat Stock Club, promised that ample accommodation would be provided for an exhibition of poultry, and Mr. Henry Wade was instructed to communicate with the officials of the Ontario Poultry Association and request that their association co-operate with the above-mentioned associations in offering prizes for poultry. Mr. F. W. Hodson, of the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*, was requested to correspond with the seedsmen and dairy supply men and request that they also co-operate and prepare a prize list for seed grain and dairy goods.

There has been several very good Provincial fat stock shows held in Ontario, but this promises to be far the best ever held in any part of Canada. The prize list will be issued at an early date when we will publish the greater part of it, which will be a guide to the other provinces. There should be a first-rate winter show held in every province, and we trust that the example set by Ontario will be followed by Manitoba and other places. Some of the leading seedsmen have been approached and have promised their hearty co-operation in this matter.

Year's Test of Massena, 16 Years Old.

If, while testing a cow for a year, I take her to the exhibition for the whole month of September and resume test on return, is it not fair to take her *actual* yield of milk and butter for August, the month before she left, and for October, the month after she returned, and take the average of those two months for September, the month she was away?

I do not think the most prejudiced person in the world could find fault with this mode. I am as much opposed to guess work as anyone, but there is reason in all things, and when a person takes pains to churn a cow's milk separately for a year, but takes her to the fair during test, it is only right that they be allowed to make *some* estimate of what the cow would have done had she not been absent that month, provided always that the month of absence is distinctly labelled "estimated", and then your readers can add it on to the cow's actual churning or leave it off, just as seems best to them.

On this basis I give the test of the most wonderful cow of her age I have ever known. March 1st, 1891, Massena dropped a bull calf, she being then 15 years old, and her test began 7 days afterwards, viz.:—

	Milk. lbs.	Butter. lbs. oz.
March 7th to Sept. 6th (inclusive), just 6 months, the cow <i>actual</i> <i>ly yielded</i>	5,413½	416 10
Sept. 7 to Oct. 6, (estimated).....	751½	61 4¾
Oct. 7 to Nov. 6, inc. (actual).....	829	54 8
Nov. 7 to Dec. 6, inc. (actual).....	590½	51 15
Dec. 7 to Jan. 6, inc. (actual).....	505½	43 1¼
Jan. 7 to Feb. 6, inc. (actual).....	333	21 4½
Feb. 7 to 15, 9 days (actual).....	67½	5 5

Total for 11 months and 9 days, 8,290½ 654 0¾

From Feb. 15th her milk was thrown out till the morning of the 28th Feb., when she dropped a nice heifer calf, sired by her own son, Massena's Son, that had such a glorious success at our exhibitions last fall, winning first over all Canada, Toronto, 1891; sweepstakes, Toronto, 1891; headed first prize herd, Toronto, 1891; second prize at Ottawa, 1891; headed first prize herd, Ottawa, 1891; headed special gold medal herd, Ottawa, 1891; first at Montreal, 1891; sweepstakes, Montreal, 1891; headed first prize herd, Montreal, 1891. His grandson, Massena's Combination, took first as bull calf at Toronto, 1891; second as bull calf at Montreal, 1891; first as bull calf at Ottawa, 1891. His g. daughter, Massena's Maggie, took third prize as three-year-old, Montreal, 1891; second prize as three-year-old, Ottawa, 1891. First prize *everywhere*, as well as sweepstakes at Montreal, being taken by my three-year-old g. daughter of Stoke Pogis 5th, Jetsam's May—14½ lbs. a week at two years.

To return to Massena's test, it was made

DURING HER SIXTEENTH YEAR.

She had dropped two mature calves within the year. She had travelled over 1,100 miles by rail within the year and stood three weeks on fair grounds. She had been in *no way* forced, as being far too valuable, and for nearly two months before calving she had no grain whatever.

During the 19 weeks previous to calving she averaged over 9½ lbs. butter a week for the whole period. Until the last 7 weeks, when she was only eating thin bran, it took but 11½ lbs. of her milk to make 1 lb. of butter.

What cow of her age can beat the record? If she is alive and well, I think she could surprise the world yet at Chicago, and she has never been one hour sick in her life. It is almost needless to add that Massena was in my prize herd everywhere we exhibited.

MRS. E. M. JONES,
Brockville, Ont., Can., Mch. 2, 1892.